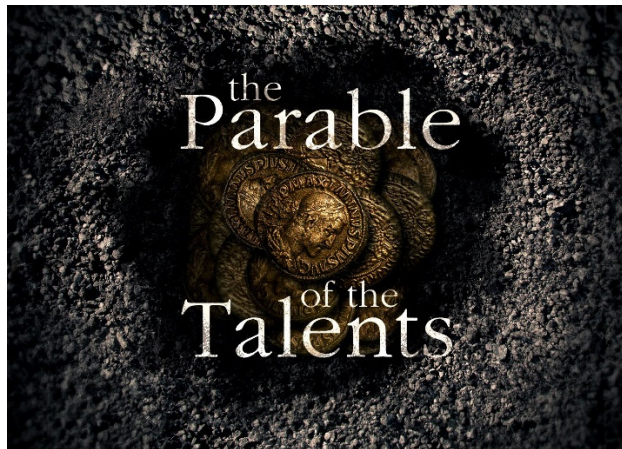




## Week 10

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website ([www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk](http://www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk)). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.



### Read Matthew 25:14-30

This is the tenth and final study in our series on The Kingdom of God. Time and time again Jesus told parables that reveal something of what the Kingdom of God is like. And we need to know what it is like so we can know how to live as Kingdom people in a world with very different values and emphases. Each parable gives us another piece of the jigsaw and week by week the picture of the Kingdom has been building. We will never have the whole picture but we have enough. This week we are thinking about the resources God has given us to live as Kingdom people and how he wants us to use them.

### Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. This parable in the NIV is entitled The Parable of the Talents but in different versions of the Bible it is given alternative titles. What title would you give this story?
2. How and why does the Master trust his money to the servants?
3. A talent in this parable is not meant to refer to a personal gift or skill. A talent was a weight in gold of about 20 to 40 kg totalling a huge sum of money equivalent to thousands and thousands of pounds. Put yourself in the place of the first and third servants. What thoughts, beliefs and feelings would you have if you were entrusted with those talents?
4. Compare the reactions of the Master to the servants. What matters to him and what does not matter?
5. As you look at the statements of the three servants. What can you infer about their relationship with their Master? How might their relationship affect their actions? Take some time to think about people you have done jobs for. What bearing did your relationship with them have on your attitude towards the job?
6. How is the Master like God and how is he not like God?
7. How does our relationship with God affect our attitude towards what we do?
8. List some of the resources God has given his people to further his Kingdom?
9. How can you faithfully handle the responsibilities God has given you?
10. Think about the way we use the word 'talent' in the English language. Each servant was entrusted with something. Every one of us has at least one talent. What 'talents' do you think God has given you?
11. Discuss the ways in which God allows you to invest the talents he has given you. Challenge yourself by keeping a journal for a week of these ways and opportunities that God gives you each day.

What does this parable teach us about what the Kingdom of God is like? Look at some of the other parables in Matthew's Gospel we have not looked at in this series such as The Parables of the Sower and the Weeds (Matthew 13:1-30,36-43), the Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:10-14), the Two Sons and the Tenants (Matthew 22:28-46). What do they contribute towards our picture of the Kingdom of God?