



## Week 3

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.

## ... Treasure



### Read Matthew 13:44-46

This is the third study in the series on The Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God (also referred to as The Kingdom of Heaven or The Kingdom of the Son of Man) was the principle theme of Jesus' teaching and of the New Testament church. When Jesus began his Ministry in Galilee, he proclaimed the Good News of God (the Gospel). 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe good news' (Mark 1:15). The Kingdom has come but we live in the 'now and not yet' of the Kingdom. So, we pray, 'Lord, your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.' We pray that, as in heaven, God's rule and reign will come and his will perfectly done in our lives and in the world today.

## Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. In the Roman Empire, everyone who lived within its boundaries was a subject of Rome, subject to its laws, taxes and authority. A section of the society were also citizens of Rome and they had certain privileges, honour and status together with the obligations and responsibilities that went with it. In order to be a citizen, you had to either be born into it or pay a sizable sum of money. The Apostle Paul was a citizen of Rome as a Jewish native of Tarsus, Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). What were the consequences of this for him and why was it so significant? Read Acts 22:22-30.
2. It is the same in the Kingdom of God. Everyone is a subject of the Kingdom of God and subjects of the authority of God. But only those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and have committed their lives to him are citizens of God's kingdom. See Philippians 3:20 and Ephesians 2:19. We are not citizens from birth (even though we must be born again to enter - John 3:3) and it cannot be bought with money. See 1 Corinthians 6:19,20; Matthew 20:28; 1 Corinthians 7:23. The price Jesus paid for us as his blood shed on the cross. See 1 Peter 1:18-21; Revelation 1:5,6; 5:9,10. Are you a citizen or just a subject of the Kingdom of God?
3. Jesus said to Pilate 'My kingdom is not of this world' (John 18:36). In what ways are we, as followers of Jesus, also not of this world? See John 17:13-19; 1 Peter 1:1, 2:11,12.
4. In what ways is the Kingdom of God like treasure hidden in a field or a pearl of great price?
5. What do you value in this world? How does it compare with the inestimable worth and value of the Kingdom of God? What is the Apostle Paul view of this? See Philippians 3:7-9.
6. Read Mark 10:17-31. How does Jesus answer the young man's question and how does he react? What is Jesus saying about wealth here? What is meant by verses 29-31
7. In both parables, the person who found the treasure sold everything they had to possess it. What have you had to give up to follow Jesus? Is following Jesus costly for you? Read Mark 10:29-31 again and be encouraged!

Pearls were greatly prized in the ancient world not only for their value but simply for their beauty. Read Ecclesiastes 3:11; Psalm 50:1,2; Psalm 27:4 and take some time to gaze/contemplate the beauty of the Lord. Then read and reflect on Isaiah 53.