

## GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 29

### Question 1

- a) Although the Bible uses the idea of foundation in varying ways and particularly in relationship to Christ, nevertheless the foundation in this passage consists of the words of Jesus.
- b) What are His listeners going to do with what they have heard?
- c) Let us also notice that this passage is not just about hearing, but about doing. What we have here is the theme of obedience that has cropped up in previous studies.
- d) The picture painted for us here concerns the difference between obedience to God's word and disobedience.
- e) It has been said that *"the greatest need of many Christians is not to know more, but to obey what they already know"*: **James 1:22**.

### Question 2

- a) The idea of 'life's storms' is a familiar concept which people today can still relate to.
- b) In **John 6:66-69** people who willingly followed Jesus were caught out when they realised that it wasn't expected to be a trouble free, cost free existence.
- c) If we believe the words of Isaiah 40:8 that: *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand for ever"*, then it gives us something solid to base our life and thinking on whatever else might change around.
- d) Examples of these analogies of rain, flood and winds might include: doubts; trials; temptation; bereavement and persecution.

### Question 3

- a) If we picture these houses there is probably at first glance not much to differentiate between them.
- b) The difference is the foundation on which they are built and it is when the storms come that this difference becomes much more obvious.
- c) Those building their lives relying on their own wisdom and ability then find the battering of the storm to be overwhelming.
- d) Those building and resting on God's word find strength against all the elements.

### Question 4

- a) It is often in the storms that we find out just how strong the foundations of our faith are.
- b) It is true that the house built on the rock was battered; perhaps even bits blew off. But it did not fall.
- c) The Psalmist writes about storing up God's word (**Psalm 119:11**); and then of recalling it in **Psalm 77:9-13**.
- d) The writer in **Lamentations 3:21-24** expresses the moment that he calls to mind what he knows God to be.
- e) We need to constantly be measuring our lives against the word of God. His promises don't ebb and flow; but we do.

### Question 5

- a) When Jesus began his Sermon in chapter 5 his congregation were only a small band of disciples. By the time He concludes His teaching we find that a large crowd has gathered.
- b) This is all new teaching to them and they are astonished. Not only did this contrast with the dry teaching of the religious leaders, but the speaker himself spoke with an authority that they had never known before.
- c) It is interesting that any study of who Jesus really is includes a focus on the theme of authority and where it came from: e.g. In the second session of Christianity Explored titled 'who is Jesus?' the focus is on His authority teaching; over sickness; over nature; over death; and to forgive sins.

### Question 6

**Encourage your group members to share honestly those things they have found helpful, challenging, or even difficult to stomach during this series.**  
**Also ask the group for any examples of how their views have been challenged or changed as a result of studying the Sermon on the Mount.**