

## GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 7

### Question 1

- a) The Law and the Prophets set out the righteous requirements of a Holy God on His people.
- b) Knowing that the people could not fulfill those requirements reveals that the Law and the teaching of the Prophets were, in the words of Paul in Gal 3:24, intended to point us to Christ (see also **Luke 24:44**).
- c) The Law is fulfilled in Christ in that only He could perfectly keep it.
- d) This He did by being born under the Law and then keeping it on our behalf so that we could be redeemed from in (**Gal 4:4-5**).

### Question 2

- a) What God required in the Old Testament could not be brushed under the carpet simply because it could not be met by the people.
- b) Neither could God's requirement for a holy people no longer apply simply by virtue of Jesus' coming to earth.
- c) In Galatians 3:13 we read that "*Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us*". He therefore fulfilled the Old Testament requirements, ceremonies, purification laws and curses for law violation.
- d) That is why these are no longer required.
- e) The result is that God's righteous requirements still stand; but Jesus has given a way through which that righteousness in the sight of God can be gained.

### Question 3

**The answers to this question are not meant to be complex; so whilst allowing discussion make sure you state clear definitions before going on to the next question.**

- a) *“Until heaven and earth pass away”* simply refers to the end of time.
- b) It is obvious that at that juncture they will no longer be need. However, the point that Jesus is stressing is that in earthly terms the law is there forever.
- c) *“Until all is accomplished”* shows us that Jesus is clear that His life and ministry is not in opposition to the Old Testament; but brings it to fruition.
- d) The requirement to keep the Law stands firm; the way through which it is kept has changed and is found in Jesus.

### Question 4

**The answer to this question will probably have been touched on already but it is worth restating and developing.**

- a) The word ‘therefore’ at the beginning of verse 19 suggests that Jesus is applying the point made in the previous verse to a real life situation.
- b) The emphasis is that the Law remains binding and that God does not relax His requirements because Jesus has come into the world.
- c) It just means that those righteous requirements can now be met in us; but not by our own merits: **Romans 8:3-5**.

### Question 5

- a) In the Law, God reveals His standards for holy living. To the common people, the scribes and Pharisees were the holiest people around.
- b) What Jesus says would have hit home. If the scribes and Pharisees had not attained the necessary righteousness in order to enter the kingdom of heaven; then what hope was there for anyone else?
- c) That righteousness could only be found in Christ.

### Question 6

**Encourage the group to share what they have learnt. The following is an example of the sort of point that might come out:**

*By separating out the Law (which still stands) and the ‘ordinances’ (which in Jesus are done away with) it is easier to understand those punishments which to us seem draconian (e.g. in Numbers 15:32-36 when someone is stoned for collecting sticks on the Sabbath). We deserve punishment for sin but because Jesus perfectly kept the Law we are presented to God righteous in Him and are saved from such judgement.*