

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 15

QUESTION 1

- a) Has Jesus forgotten that the same question was in fact asked by Simon Peter in **13:36** and then implied again by Thomas in **14:5**?
- b) There have been various explanations of this seeming anomaly.
- c) The explanation seems to be that these disciples were still self-absorbed. They were concerned about Jesus abandoning them. Therefore, they are not really listening to Jesus or understanding their own questions.
- d) This is implied in verse 6 (it is helpful to look at verses 5-6 together).
- e) They are not really asking what Jesus is doing or where He is going.
- f) The focus should be on Jesus. In doing so, they will get the answers they need and the comfort that these will bring.

QUESTION 2

- a) Jesus has been preparing the disciples for His departure and gradually teaching them about the Holy Spirit.
- b) Verse 7 is the strongest he has spoken about the relationship between his leaving them and the Spirit coming upon them.
- c) They have still not grasped that it is to their advantage that Jesus leaves them
- d) They need to stop focusing on themselves and consider what Jesus' going away will mean. This will immediately bring encouragement to them.
- e) This is more than simply His physical going back to the Father. It is to do with the means through which this is to be done. That is, through His death and Resurrection.
- f) He will then enter the glory (see **7:39**. The Spirit would not be given until Jesus was glorified).
- g) Until that happens the Holy Spirit cannot come.

QUESTION 3

- a) No-one can be saved apart from the regenerating work of the Spirit (see **3:5**).
- b) Only through the work of the Holy Spirit can fallen man understand sin, righteousness and judgement.
- c) We need the Holy Spirit to enable us to understand these things and our need of a Saviour.
- d) Note back in **14:17** that the world cannot accept the Spirit of truth. It is the Spirit of Truth that convicts the world.

QUESTION 4

CONCERNING SIN (v9)

- a) Convicting the world of guilt. This refers to exposing sin and summoning to repentance (see **3:20**).
- b) It is more a sense of convincing of the reality of sin and the need of salvation, rather than the sense of sentencing to eternal punishment in hell.
- c) The guilt which is exposed is that refusal to own up to rejection of Christ. What greater sin is there than rejecting Jesus? It is this which ultimately damns sinful mankind; and from which belief in Him saves (see **3:18** and **8:24**).

CONCERNING RIGHTEOUSNESS (v10)

- a) Jesus going to the Father means that He has died and risen again. This means that He has satisfied the righteousness of God.
- b) Their efforts at righteousness, including crucifying Jesus are shown up for what they are. Jesus is the righteous one and imparts righteousness through His work on the cross (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

- c) It is not just being convicted of our sin, but the necessity of having the perfect righteousness of Christ.
- d) *“Jesus Himself is the standard for righteousness. He never sinned and He always obeyed God. He is the only one who could die in the place of sinners, because He had no sin of His own. When the Father resurrected Jesus from the dead, He put His stamp of approval on Christ’s death. Jesus could not have returned to sit at the right hand of the Holy God if there had been even the slightest taint of sin in Him”* (Steven Cole).

CONCERNING JUDGEMENT (v11)

- a) Judgement has come. That is what the cross is about. God’s judgement on sin. Satan is judged on the cross.
- b) In the death of Jesus Christ, what looked like Satan's greatest victory, was his death blow because Jesus went into the grave but came out the other side (see **Hebrews 2:14-15**).
- c) But of course it is also the place of judgement for the unbeliever.