

## GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 17

### QUESTION 1

**Be careful here. There ARE different ways of understanding this among Bible scholars. The meaning I suggest seems to fit in with the context of the passage, but the group might suggest ideas that are nevertheless well supported.**

- a) Some commentators take this verse to refer to the time between the Ascension and the Second Coming. Others that it refers to the gap between His death and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
- b) However, I suggest that here Jesus is referring to His death and then His return in resurrection three days later.
- c) Hence the reference in verse 20 of the world rejoicing while they weep, and then that weeping being turned to joy (see **John 20:20** *“When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord”*).
- d) In the previous verses Jesus has been setting out the ministry of the Holy Spirit that would come after He returned to the Father. However, before that would come the immediate crisis of the cross. It is to this that Jesus now turns His attention.

## QUESTION 2

- a) Jesus doesn't directly answer their question. Rather He addresses their need.
- b) There will be sorrow while the 'world' (represented by the religious leaders who wanted to kill Jesus) rejoices.
- c) That weeping will turn to joy.
- d) The assurance is that they will pass through sorrow to joy. There will be resurrection and life.

## QUESTION 3

- a) In child bearing, the very thing that produces that 'sorrow' or 'pain', becomes the source of the woman's joy. That pain is short compared with the joy to follow.
- b) Jesus doesn't avoid the fact that it is the cross that brings sorrow for the disciples. But equally, it is the cross that ultimately bring them joy.
- c) That joy of the resulting salvation, brought through the cross, can never be taken away.

## QUESTION 4

- a) As we go through the Christian life there is pain as we journey to glory.
- b) Paul makes reference to this in **Philippians 3:10-11** in respect of his own life. And also through his desire to see others conformed to the likeness of Christ (see **Galatians 4:19**).
- c) Sorrow does come. But that sorrow will be turned to joy when we see Him again.
- d) As in childbirth; the pain is quickly forgotten and replaced with joy. So in the light of Christ's presence in glory.
- e) **Romans 8:18** "sufferings of this present time... not worth comparing with the glory that is to be ..."

## QUESTION 5

- a) The meaning here of 'asking nothing' is that of asking a question. In other words, Jesus is saying: "Once I am risen from the dead, you will no longer need to ask questions".
- b) The confusion of verses 17-18 will be gone and they will understand.

## QUESTION 6

- a) The thought here has passed from asking questions of Jesus, to asking for something from the Father in His name.
- b) This is in anticipation of the completed work of Jesus on the cross.
- c) There is more stress here on Jesus mediating role and on the joy that comes from that answered prayer.
- d) Jesus is showing that through His death and resurrection the barrier is removed for access to the Father. And it is through the Son. Until now they had offered their prayers directly to the Father
- e) *"All Christian prayer should be offered through Jesus' name. The addition of 'in Jesus name' is not some pedantic formality. It witnesses to the only basis of all intercession, namely the earthly sacrifice and heavenly intercession of Jesus, by which alone to all eternity we may draw near to 'the throne of the heavenly grace'"* (Bruce Milne).