

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 18

QUESTION 1

- a) Jesus acknowledges that up until now He has been speaking to them figuratively.
- b) Figuratively means ‘with veiled speech’. See an example of this concerning the resurrection in **John 2:18-22**.
- c) Consequently, during their time with Jesus the disciples had not always understood him.
- d) Jesus has all along been revealing God the Father. But once the crucifixion and resurrection have taken place things will be clearer.
- e) The revelation would be more understandable with the coming of the Holy Spirit who will make things clear to them.

QUESTION 2

- a) Jesus doesn’t want them to think that God the Father is remote and will only listen to them through a third party.
- b) The Father loves the disciples and the privileges of prayer are based on a loving relationship with the Father; as Jesus makes clear in the next verse.
- c) What we read here does not contradict other New Testament references in which Jesus is described as interceding for His people (e.g. **Rom 8:34 & 1 John 2:1**).
- d) Those references are not to do with prayer, but are concerned with our status before God. That status results from the work of Jesus on the cross where He offered himself on our behalf. He therefore presents us as righteous before the Father.
- e) It is therefore in His name and through His merits that we can pray to the Father.

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- f) *“It does not mean that the Father will be distant and removed from the disciples, so that they have to work their way up the chain of command before He will listen to their requests. Rather, it’s quite the opposite. Because they now can come to the Father in Jesus’ name, they have direct access to the Father who, as Jesus adds, loves them because they love His Son”* (Steven Cole).

QUESTION 3

- a) We have this direct access to the Father through the finished work of the Son because He loves us.
- b) It is a wonderful truth that God loves us. He showed us that by sending His Son.
- c) It seems at first glance that the Father’s love is conditional to us loving the Son. But of course we know that He sent His Son because He loved us.
- d) What Jesus is saying is that we can only truly know that love through the cross. That comes through believing that Jesus is the Son of God.

QUESTION 4

- a) There are three important things that come out of this verse:
- b) The fact that He came from the Father affirms Jesus’ deity (**John 1:1,14**). It points to Christ’s eternal glory with the Father before the world began (**John 17:5**).
- c) The reason He has come into the world is to carry out the work of redemption (**Matthew 1:21**).
- d) He leaves the world and returns to the Father to complete that work and return to the place of glory with the Father (**Hebrews 1:3-4**).

QUESTION 5

- a) Having asked poignantly in verse 31 whether they believe, Jesus now shows the inadequacy of that belief.
- b) When Jesus is arrested and tried they will be scattered and Peter will deny Jesus (**Matthew 26:31-34; Mark 14:50**).
- c) Jesus has to go to the cross alone, but He knows that His Father is with Him.

QUESTION 6

- a) Jesus has given the disciples a lot of teaching on this eventful evening. These were truths that would bring them peace. How?
- b) Firstly; when the events occur they will know that Jesus is in control.
- c) Secondly; He has warned them of persecution. This will not be unexpected. But they will have peace despite the hostility of the world; knowing that Jesus has overcome.
- d) Thirdly; they have been promised the Holy Spirit. He will come on them and work in them. He will be the guarantee of heaven.
- e) Just as Jesus in His death and resurrection will overcome the world; so will His followers: **1 John 5:4-5**.