

QUESTION 5

- a) This reflects the biblical truth that blessing (true happiness) flows from obedience. As it has been said *“The theory of being a servant isn't worth very much. But the practice of being a servant pleases God and fulfils our calling”* (Guzik).
- b) There is joy and happiness in obeying Christ. If we believe that His way is best then we will know fulfilment in it.
- c) To be blessed is to know God's favour. The blessed one may be poor and even mourning (see the beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12). Blessing is that inner condition that comes about despite circumstances.

QUESTION 6

Examples:

- a) Be willing to take on menial tasks in order to serve others.
- b) Not see ourselves as being above others.
- c) Look for opportunities to serve rather than wait to be asked.
- d) Consider what Jesus did and seek to be humble.

“If there is a position in the church where the worker will have to toil hard and get no thanks for it, take it, and be pleased with it. If you can perform a service, which few will ever seek to do themselves, or appreciate when performed by others, yet occupy it with holy delight. Covet humble work, and when you get it be content to continue in it. There is no great rush after the lowest places, you will rob no one by seeking them.” (Spurgeon)

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 2

QUESTION 1

- a) These titles of Jesus in verse 13 are going to make what Jesus says next in verse 14 all the more powerful.
- b) It is one thing to believe, but this belief must become action.
- c) ‘Lord’ would have a very important significance to the disciples after the resurrection. The declaration: ‘Jesus is Lord’ was widely thought to be the earliest confession of faith in the Christian Church.
- d) It was the name above every name (Philippians 2:9).
- e) It was the Greek word for ‘Yahweh’ in the Old Testament; the self-revealed name of God to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3.
- f) It is significant that the disciples acknowledge the deity of Jesus; the very one who is washing their dirty feet. He is the one who they are learning from as their Teacher. Will they put their belief into action?

QUESTION 2

- a) Jesus shows how low He is willing to stoop to show His love. It was sacrificial.
- b) If the Lord and Master was willing to stoop that low then surely His disciples should be willing to follow.
- c) This is the attitude that must be a mark of His followers.

QUESTION 3

- a) We need to be clear that this is an 'example' (Greek word for 'like as'). Jesus is not introducing something that should be continued in the church in a literal sense.
- b) What is that example? It is humility and servanthood.
- c) What Jesus does is both practical and sacrificial.
- d) We can often be consumed with status. We would no doubt be willing to wash Jesus' feet. However the instruction is to "*wash one another's feet*"!
- e) Jesus is showing that "*this self-giving humility should characterise their service for him*" (Andrew Paterson).

QUESTION 4

- a) The disciples seemed to have a fixation on who was the greatest: e.g. **Luke 9:46-48; Luke 22:24-27; Mark 10:35-37**. They had failed to understand what it meant to be a servant.
- b) Remember Jesus' declaration in **Mark 10:42-45** "*And Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many'"*
- c) "*To refuse to follow Jesus' example of humble service is to pridefully elevate oneself above Him*" (John MacArthur).
- d) In other words; the servant should never see any task the Master has performed to be beneath him.
- e) Humility was despised in the ancient world as a sign of weakness.