

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 20

QUESTION 1

- a) Jesus came to reveal the Father (*“manifested your name”* ESV).
- b) God’s name encompasses all that He is: His character, attributes and essential nature.
- c) *“Christianity is not a faith for those who are wiser than others, because by their cleverness they understand the truth. Christianity is a revelation-faith, where God has taken the initiative to reveal Himself”* (Wallace Benn).
- d) Jesus is the supreme manifestation of revelation of God (**John 1:18**).
- e) He came to give the words that the Father had given Him (cf. **John 7:16**). It follows that as they received the words of Jesus, they were receiving the words of God.

QUESTION 2

- a) These men were God’s, even before Jesus came. This thought has already come up in John’s account (e.g. **6:37**).
- b) God had planned their redemption from before time began (see **Ephesians 1:4-5**).
- c) *“Christians often think of Jesus as God’s gift to us; we rarely think of ourselves as God’s gift to Jesus”* (Don Carson).
- d) The reference at the end of verse 6 to them having ‘kept Your word’ reminds us that we are not robots. We have to respond to the call of God and obey Him.
- e) It is not always easy to see how God’s sovereign choice and our free will can coexist. But according to scripture they do. We are therefore responsible for our sin and our response to the gospel.

QUESTION 3

- a) At the end of verse 6 we see that the disciples have 'kept' God's word. They have embraced it and believed it.
- b) In verse 7 they now recognise that everything Jesus has given them does in fact comes from God.
- c) That is not to say that they have a comprehensive understanding. There is much more for them to grasp. And they are still spiritually immature. The Holy Spirit will lead them into all truth.
- d) The essential thing that we see in verse 8 is that they have come to know "in truth", or "with certainty" (NIV) that Jesus came from the Father. Indeed, that He was sent by the Father.
- e) Their faith is real! Look at their response in **John 6:66-69**.
- f) *"The disciples have grasped the essential revelation of the Father in the Son"* (Don Carson).

QUESTION 4

- a) This once more expresses Jesus' deity (see **John 10:30**).
- b) Notice also that although anyone can pray to God 'all I have is yours', only Jesus can pray 'all you have is mine'. It is that unique relationship from eternity (see **verse 5**)
- c) Here we see the essential unity between Father and Son.

QUESTION 5

- a) Saving faith brings glory to Jesus for His work on the cross (see **Ephesians 1:5-6; 11-12; 13-14**).
- b) Jesus is glorified through our obedience and trust. Also in our growth in grace and our service.
- c) The idea here is that the excellencies of His character are displayed.
- d) The Westminster Shorter Catechism tells us what man's chief purpose is for being created. *"What is the chief end of man?"* The answer is *"to glorify God, and enjoy Him forever"*.

QUESTION 6

- a) It is protection against disunity.
- b) Jesus states that although He Himself will not be in the world much longer, they will have to continue in the world with all the challenges that brings.
- c) He is implying that there will be forces which seek to destroy such unity.
- d) His prayer is that they will be 'one'. This is a continual unity as believers.
- e) That unity comes from being kept in the Father's name. It is His character that will be adequate to protect them as they are faithful to the revelation of His truth.
- f) In verse 12 we see that while He was with them, they were protected by Jesus' name.
- g) At the end of verse 11 we see the goal of that unity: *"that they may be one, even as we are one"*.
- h) It is that believers should know that same unity as enjoyed by the Godhead.
- i) Of course that could never be perfectly duplicated. *"But the unity which Jesus prays the disciples may aim at, should be a close, intimate, unbroken unity of mind, and will, and opinion, and feeling"* (J C Ryle).