

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 6

In order to ensure that verse 7 is seen in context it would be advisable to include the opening six verses in the reading.

QUESTION 1

- a) Jesus expands His statement that He is the way to the Father by showing them that to know Jesus is to know the Father.
- b) The disciples' misunderstanding about what is going to happen to Jesus goes back to their failure to understand who He really is.
- c) Jesus is showing the disciples His deity. He is the way to God (v6) because He is God.
- d) Therefore by seeing Him; they have also seen the Father (compare **John 1:18; Hebrews 1:3**).
- e) By saying "*from now on*"... indicates that the cross and subsequent events would reveal exactly who He is.
- f) Indeed it would only be after the death, resurrection, ascension and Pentecost that the disciples would truly understand the deity of Christ and His relationship with the Father.

QUESTION 2

- a) The disciples still did not grasp the truth of who Jesus was.
- b) Jesus is about to leave them. Philip seems to want an experience that would put a complete end to all their doubts. He wanted a visible manifestation of the Father.
- c) You can sense the sadness in Jesus' response here. They still didn't get it!
- d) They had that visible manifestation of the Father in the Son. He had consistently told them who He was (e.g. **John 10:30; 12:44-45**).

QUESTION 3

- a) We often emphasise that John's gospel sets out clearly the deity of Christ and is a response to the prevailing view at the time that Jesus was not God.
- b) However, there is another key theme that comes through in this book. It is that of the obedience and submission of Jesus to the Father's will (e.g. **4:34; 5:30; 7:16; 12:49**).
- c) These two themes seem at times to be opposing. Can we reconcile them?
- d) The answer is not that Jesus gave up His deity when He came to earth and therefore His status changed (see **Colossians 2:9**). However He was fully man and lived as perfect man here on earth in full obedience so that He could deal with our sin.
- e) Therefore, the fact that the Son took on a human nature and made Himself subservient to the Father in no way denies the deity of the Son, nor does it diminish His essential equality with the Father.

QUESTION 4

- a) The disciples are firstly to believe because of what Jesus has told them. The comment was often passed that He spoke as no one else could. Jesus' should be taken at His word (compare **verse 2**)
- b) They were to also look at what He had done (compare **John 10:37-38**).
- c) Jesus' miracles had often brought an amazed response from those who saw them. They didn't understand who was doing them but they noticed the authority with which they were done (e.g. **Mark 1:27**).
- d) Jesus' miracles were "*signposts displaying who He actually is*" (Wallace Benn).

QUESTION 5

- a) Jesus did not mean those things would be greater in terms of size or power. It is hard to imagine anyone doing greater things than we read in the gospels (e.g. the raising of Lazarus from the dead; the calming of the sea etc.)
- b) The key to the answer here is in the phrase: "*because I am going to the Father*".
- c) Following His death, resurrection and exaltation; two things would happen. Firstly the Holy Spirit would come to continue the work in the lives of the disciples. Secondly they will participate in the effect of Christ's completed work.
- d) Those greater works will therefore centre on people being brought to new life in Christ as the kingdom message spread across the globe. We only need to look at Acts 2 when 3000 are saved in one day to get a glimpse of this!
- e) Living on the other side of the cross they would be able to speak with greater clarity of about what God had revealed.
- f) Those 'greater things' therefore refer to pointing sinners to the Saviour. J. C. Ryle observed that "*There is no greater work possible than the conversion of a soul*".

QUESTION 6

- a) Jesus was promising that even after He had returned to the Father, He would continue to supply their needs. But would it be an open chequebook?
- b) The key here is asking in Jesus' name. Doing that means asking according to his will; to want what He wants. It links up with the Lord's Prayer in **Matthew 6:10**.
- c) Notice that asking in Jesus' name is mentioned twice in these verses.
- d) The measure here is that God is glorified. He would not be glorified in everything we might ask and therefore we would not want Him to grant us those things.