

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 8

QUESTION 1

- a) Jesus is speaking to disciples; not unbelievers.
- b) Obedience is not the cause of their salvation, but the result. In other words; 'how do you define someone who loves Me? Look at their obedience to My word'.
- c) Obedience flows from a heart that has been transformed by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit (see **Ephesians 2:8-10** on the relationship between grace and works).
- d) Only those who truly love Jesus can know that love of God in their lives and His revelation.
- e) This idea of 'manifesting Himself' serves as great reassurance to these disciples as they come to terms with the thought of Jesus having to leave them: "*I will love him and manifest myself to him*". This will start with the resurrection appearance to His followers and continue with the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost.

QUESTION 2

- a) There is still an expectation in the minds of His followers that Jesus would throw off the might of Rome and bring in a new political kingdom (note that this was still on their minds after the resurrection: **Acts 1:6**).
- b) Why, therefore, would He make Himself known only to some people?
- c) Jesus' own brothers were no doubt thinking along the same lines back in **John 7:4**.
- d) A key to understanding what is happening here is found in the word 'world'. With some exceptions, 'world' in the scriptures represents all that is in rebellion against God rather than the 'globe'.
- e) Therefore Jesus' disciples are not of the world (**John 17:14**). In John 3:16 God so loved the world; meaning all that was in rebellion against God.

QUESTION 3

- a) At first glance Jesus doesn't seem to answer the question.
- b) Furthermore; doesn't He almost repeat verse 21, which is almost the same idea as verse 15?
- c) Jesus returns to the same principle: 'Unless a man loves Me and shows his love by obedience, We will not manifest ourselves to that man'.
- d) Jesus will not come to those who reject Him.
- e) John MacArthur writes: *"The world will never discern Jesus Christ because the world will not love Him. The world will never discern the Father because the Father only reveals Himself to those that love the Son"*.

QUESTION 4

- a) This indicates a very close and intimate relationship. The Father and the Son dwell in a believer's heart through the Spirit (see **verse 17; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19**).
- b) It is the Holy Spirit within us; influencing us. The Holy Spirit is not limited by space. He simultaneously indwells believers all over the world.
- c) This is a challenge to the way we live. If the triune God lives in us; that should make a difference.

QUESTION 5

- a) Jesus readily associates obedience with love. They go together (see **John 14:15**).
- b) Obedience is the evidence of love. It should come naturally to the believer.
- c) The desire to be obedient is not difficult to those filled with love. How are we filled with love? Romans 5:5 tells us that *"God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us"*. That takes us back to the context in which these verses are written in John 14.
- d) This is a reminder that discipleship is not just our conversion. It is what flows out of that conversion; that new creation of **2 Corinthians 5:16-17**.
- e) On the flip side, any obedience that does not flow from the love we have for our Saviour, is nothing more than legalism (See **Luke 6:46**).
- f) We need to be careful to avoid that. It goes back to love.

QUESTION 6

Examples

- a) Focus more on the work of the cross (*"May I never lose the wonder of the cross"*).
- b) Develop a closer relationship with the Lord in our prayer life.
- c) Look for practical application in our Bible reading (ask 'what does this passage tell me about how I can better follow Jesus?')