

QUESTION 6

- a) It is about obedience to the Father (see **10:18**). Although equal with the Father, He chose to become man and live a life of obedience to the divine purpose (see **Phil 2:6-8**).
- b) Jesus not only chose to die because He loved us. He died because He loved the Father and wanted to do His will.
- c) That is something that it is easy to overlook. Micah prophecies that the coming of Jesus was primarily for the Father's glory (see **Mic 5:2** "*From you shall come forth for me one who is to be...*")

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

At the end of verse 31 Jesus appears to finish this encounter with the disciples when he says: "*Rise, let us go from here*". Some scholars have suggested that the 'discourses' stop here. Therefore, chapters 15 and 16 clearly come in the wrong order.

It is more likely however, that Jesus and His disciples leave the Upper Room at this point and begin walking towards the Garden of Gethsemane. The next chapter might therefore take place in a vineyard. At the beginning of chapter 17 we also see that Jesus "*lifted up His eyes to heaven*". This suggests He was already outside at this point.

Jesus walks towards the cross as He continues to prepare those disciples.

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 9

QUESTION 1

- a) The word 'but' at the beginning of verse 26 (ESV) reminds us that Jesus has to physically leave His disciples. However, they will not be left to fend for themselves.
- b) The Holy Spirit will come in "*my name*". This means 'to act in my place'.
- c) Jesus shows that what He has taught the disciples is but a portion of what they need to know.
- d) That same 'but' in verse 26 indicates that there is more to be revealed.
- e) The Holy Spirit teaches God's word. We have already seen that He is "*the Spirit of truth*" (verse 17). Later we learn that He guides into all truth (16:13); speaks what He hears; and makes known what is Christ's (16:14).
- f) Whilst most of the promises in these chapters apply to all believers, it is generally accepted that this one includes something specific for those disciples in the Upper Room.
- g) The Holy Spirit would teach them all they needed to know and remind them of what Jesus had said. This enabled the apostles (and their close associates) to set out the accurate teaching we have in the New Testament (see **2 Pet 1:20-21**; **2 Tim 3:16**).

QUESTION 2

- a) Christ's imminent work on the cross will certainly bring peace with God through forgiveness of sin and the end to hostility (see **Eph 2:14-16**).
- b) However, this verse speaks about the peace of Christ. This indicates more the daily application of that peace we now have with God.

- c) Wallace Benn writes: *“I think that the peace of Christ is the joyful certainty that we are God’s children and are safe in His hands. It is knowing we are justified and adopted into His family on the basis of what Jesus did for us. We now belong to Him and are loved by Him. He is in control of everything, therefore we need not be anxious”.*
- d) Don Carson adds: *“This peace is a personal serenity which is not based on an ability to avoid troubles, but on a faith which transcends them”.*
- e) Peace that the world can offer is subject to conditions and circumstances; e.g. health, relationships, position and wealth. But it is fleeting. The peace Jesus leaves His disciples is independent of such outward factors. It stands on the work of the cross. Note that it is *“my peace”!*
- f) It is for this reason that Jesus can go on to repeat what He has already said in verse 1: *“Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid”.* John MacArthur comments: *“There is no inconsistency between Christ’s promise and His command. The Bible teaches that Christians are responsible to appropriate God’s promises. The Holy Spirit indwells and empowers believers, but they in turn are to be filled with, and walk in the Spirit”.*

QUESTION 3

- a) There was clearly a spirit of gloom surrounding Jesus’ imminent departure.
- b) Jesus is therefore challenging the extent of their love for Him.
- c) Would they not want Him to return to the Father? Would they not want Him to again have that glory the Father and Son had shared together before the incarnation (see **John 17:5**)?
- d) When Jesus returns to the Father, He will have triumphed. His reign would be established.
- e) That should in turn bring joy to those disciples.
- f) They were evidently more consumed with thoughts of their immediate loss.

- g) The phrase *“for the Father is greater than I”* has been used to suggest the Son’s inferiority to the Father.
- h) However, Jesus is not speaking here of His essential nature but of His submissive role during His time on earth when He took on our humanity.
- i) He became the humble servant, obedient to death on a cross (see Phil 2).

QUESTION 4

- a) The seemingly harsh words of verse 28 are for the disciples own good.
- b) *“He is preparing the way for them to come to a faith that could never again be shaken”* (Don Carson).
- c) In His departure, Jesus secures their redemption (and ours). It gives them access to the Father and brings them the Holy Spirit.
- d) Their desire to keep hold of Jesus in His bodily form would mean they would miss out on all of those benefits.

QUESTION 5

- a) This ‘ruler of the world’ here refers to Satan (see also **John 12:31; 16:11**). Satan is given other names in scripture including ‘the evil one’ in 1 John 5:19; and the ‘god of this world’ in 2 Cor 4:4.
- b) He is not of course the legitimate ruler but has been permitted certain temporary power.
- c) This is the critical moment. But the outcome of this monumental battle is in no doubt. It will end in defeat for the evil one (see **12:31-32**). Note the power of the cross.
- d) Satan has no claim on Jesus. He has no power over Him. He cannot hold Him in death.
- e) Jesus is not of this world. He is outside of Satan’s domain.