

QUESTION 5

- a) What we seem to have here is a growing awareness to John of just what has taken place.
- b) By his own admission in verse 9, neither John or the other disciples fully understand what the scriptures have been foretelling.
- c) However, he wants to be clear that he is an eye-witness of what happened (e.g. **John 15:26-27; 19:35; 21:24; 1 John 1:1-4; 4:14**).
- d) What we have here is not a repetition of an official story, but the spontaneous evidence of a witness.

QUESTION 6

- a) Death came as a result of the curse at the Fall in Genesis 3.
- b) The curse could only be broken if death was defeated: **1 Corinthians 15:26** describes death as an enemy.
- c) Jesus death would only be half the solution to our sin. And our sin would not be completely dealt with (see **1 Corinthians 15:17**).
- d) *“Everything about the Christian faith stands or falls upon the truth or otherwise of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There can be nothing more serious or life-changing than the question as to whether Jesus is really alive”* (Andrew Paterson).

GROUP LEADER’S NOTES – STUDY 6

QUESTION 1

- a) The religious leaders were convinced that Jesus’ disciples were plotting some great deception and they could take no chances.
- b) Consequently, a guard was put on the tomb and the royal seal placed on it (see **Matthew 27:65**).
- c) But nowhere in Scripture is it stated that the stone had to be rolled away in order for Jesus to rise from the grave. He could have simply walked out.
- d) Nevertheless, the stone had to be removed to show that the grave had been conquered and that the victory had been secured.
- e) Charles Wesley writes in his hymn: *“Love’s redeeming work is done...fought the fight the battle won...vain the stone, the watch, the seal...Christ hath burst the gates of hell: Hallelujah.”*
- f) The moving of the stone also enabled Peter and John to enter the tomb and see for themselves that it was empty (v8).
- g) As Donald Grey Barnhouse wrote; *“The angel rolled the stone away from Jesus’ tomb, not to let the living Lord out, but to let the unconvinced outsiders in.”*

QUESTION 2

- a) **Luke 24:4-7** records that the angel had told the ladies at the empty tomb that Jesus was alive.
- b) Interestingly, she assumes that the body has been taken from the tomb and He is still dead.
- c) Remember that precautions had been taken to avoid this happening: (see **Matthew 27:62-66**).
- d) It appears that Peter and John probably thought the same as Mary and went off to investigate.
- e) It is interesting that Mary first goes to Peter, who had denied Jesus. He seems still to be seen as the leader of the apostolic group.
- f) Mary's comment: "We do not know where..." in verse 2, fits in with Mark's account of the presence of the other women. Mary appears to have run to the disciples on her own.

QUESTION 3

- a) John hesitates to go in. He's probably younger and fitter. He takes a quick glance.
- b) Peter is typically impulsive. He goes into the tomb but went away still unsure of what had happened (see **Luke 24:12**).
- c) John sees the same facts as Peter but tries to make sense of them. There could be only one answer. God was at work.
- d) John seems to be the first to believe in the resurrection. His 'believing' in verse 8 that Jesus was alive, is related to his 'seeing' the graveclothes when he finally followed Peter into the tomb.
- e) There are different words for the term 'saw' in verses 5 and 8. The second example is stronger and means to looking careful and examining. He now sees with understanding.

QUESTION 4

- a) It was evidently important to John that he saw the grave clothes. He gives far more information of this than the other gospel writers. Bear in mind of course that he was an eyewitness.
- b) If the body had been stolen, as some believed (and the authorities suggest); then surely the thieves would have left the grave clothes scattered about.
- c) On the other hand, they would have probably taken Him wrapped up; for the purpose of speed and also because of the smell of the corpse.
- d) The burial cloths would also have been valuable and worth taking.
- e) Grave-robbing was a crime punishable by death.
- f) It appears by John's description, that the body has just evaporated through the burial cloths. They lay as they were when the body was still there; with the face cloth folded neatly nearby.
- g) This was unlike the occasion when Lazarus was raised, and Jesus told those around him to unbind him: (see **John 11:44**).
- h) Don Carson writes: "*The description is powerful and vivid, not the sort of thing that would have been dreamed up; and the fact that two men saw it (v. 8) makes their evidence admissible in a Jewish court (Deuteronomy 19:15)*".