

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 12

Question 1

- a) This law is found in Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20 and Deuteronomy 19:21.
- b) It was not designed to be carried out by the individual; but by the judiciary: e.g. the courts.
- c) It was also meant to protect people in that the retribution would be proportionate; i.e. the punishment would fit the crime.
- d) The law was never meant to sanction acts of personal retaliation.
- e) The Jews had turned it into a way of simply getting revenge.
- f) Jesus is not altering the meaning of the law but explaining its true meaning.

Question 2

- a) Jesus is not suggesting that we should be door mats. We should be those who love justice and resist evil.
- b) The matter here concerns the motivation for our response: **Rom 12:17-21.**
- c) Some point to this verse in the Sermon on the Mount to support the view that Christians should not be in the police force or the armed forces. This is not what the passage refers to.

Question 3

- a) In those days a slap with the back of the hand across the face was a gross insult. It was the ultimate sign of contempt.
- b) We see this happening to Jesus during his trial in **Matt 26:67-68.**
- c) The follower of Jesus is willing to take another insult rather than retaliate.

Question 4

- a) This verse suggests that there is something you have done that leads to you being sued in court.
- b) To be sued for your clothing would be humiliating enough. But Jesus suggests that the disciple should go further in showing that you are sorry to cause him trouble.
- c) The outer clothing was considered a rightful possession by law; on humanitarian grounds (Exodus 22:26-27)
- d) Jesus is showing that the Christian should be willing to abandon what we consider to be our rights by law if necessary. It is all in the cause of our Christian witness.
- e) C H Spurgeon once said, "*Sometimes we have to be the anvil while bad men are the hammers*".

Question 5

- a) A Roman soldier could commandeer a civilian to help him: e.g. carry his luggage for a prescribed distance.
- b) You can imagine that the Jews would take offence at this insult dished out by the occupying forces of another nation. It could be humiliating.
- c) Christians are to be prepared to accept such an imposition cheerfully.
- d) Sometimes we have to accept that the way we are treated is just not fair.
- e) We must be willing to give up our freedoms sometimes to uphold our testimony as Christians.

Question 6

- a) This does not mean that you should lend money to just anyone who comes along.
- b) This is about being prepared to release what you have to help others and not to consider it yours by right.
- c) We are not to be asking all the time what is in it for us and what we can get out of it.
- d) Followers of Jesus must be willing to be self-sacrificial. This is sometimes referred to as 'the way of the cross'; following the Saviour's example: see **Phil 2:6-7**.
- e) The idea here is putting others before our inconvenience.