

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 17

Question 1

- a) The first three petitions we looked at in this study concerned God directly.
- b) The primary concerns of the believer as reflected in those first two verses are His glory; His reign; and His will.
- c) When those desires; even passions, are foremost in our hearts and minds, our asking will be driven not by selfish desires but for God's honour (**Prov 30:7-9**).
- d) Whilst Jesus is showing that it is right to ask for our material needs, those opening statements of the prayer should protect against selfish or greedy requests.

Question 2

- a) Bread is a recognised broad term used to represent all daily provision.
- b) It was also recognised as the basic food for life (hence the use of it in Jesus' statement that He was the Bread of Life in John 6).
- c) It suggests sufficient to meet basic need.
- d) This is a wonderful invitation to pray for the everyday things of life; not just the big things. God is interested in the little things as well (**Psalm 145:15-16**).

Question 3

Examples:

- Exodus 16 - Manna in the Wilderness
- 1 Samuel 21 – David and the holy bread
- 1 Kings 17 - Elijah fed by the ravens
- 1 Kings 17 - Widow at Zaraphath provides for Elijah
- John 6 – Feeding of the Five Thousand
- John 6 - Jesus the bread of life

Question 4

- a) This prayer recognises that the source of our provision is God: **James 1:17**. It makes sense therefore to go to Him with our needs.
- b) The Greek word means ‘the day that is coming’; suggesting a morning prayer for the day ahead.
- c) In those days labourers were paid daily. It would be enough to buy a day’s provision but there was never going to be anything left to save.
- d) Jesus’ disciples were to learn to trust God for one day at a time. This is emphasised in what He says later in the Sermon (**6:31-34**).
- e) Jesus is not saying that we should not have more or save some but it is a principle of focusing on our needs rather than our wants. Remember that our desire is to see God’s will done and His reign extended. Those things are far more important.

Question 5

- a) Earlier in chapter 6 the recurring theme was that of heart motive.
- b) That continued in the opening two verses of the Lord’s Prayer where the person praying directs their motive to God’s glory, God’s reign and God’s will.
- c) James is very direct in his assessment of what constitutes a proper request in **James 4:1-3**.
- d) With that in mind no prayer is too small or too big!

“The prayer of a Christian is not an attempt to force God’s hand, but it is a humble acknowledgment of helplessness and dependence” (J. I. Packer).

Question 6

- a) Get the group to reflect on some of the principles we have learnt from this study e.g. dependence, sufficient, trust, motive etc.
- b) This gives us a different set of values to the world and will therefore determine what we consider important and of real value.