

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 21

Question 4

- a) Masters in this context is not the same as employers.
- b) It is possible to serve two employers at the same time but not two masters; or owners.
- c) The word here translated 'serve' literally means to be a slave of.
- d) The strong language is here to emphasise the issue of ownership and allegiance.

Question 5

- a) 'Hating' and 'loving' here relate to preferring one to the other or having a higher loyalty; especially when the two masters compete with one another for that loyalty.
- b) These verses are about sorting out our allegiances. Only one can come out on top; however hard we try to please both.
- c) One master will always be preferred: **1 Tim 6:9**.

Question 6

- a) 'Money' is sometimes translated as 'mammon'. This referred to anything that one puts confidence in.
- b) Quite often it is money-related. However, it can be more generally defined in terms of material possessions.
- c) It is not wrong to have such possessions, but you cannot be simultaneously devoted to God and material things.
- d) Something will have to give.
- e) Jesus is warning against the inevitability of compromise when our allegiance is challenged; particularly by materialism.

Question 1

- a) The eye is like a 'window' which lets in the light that illuminates the 'whole room' (i.e. the body).
- b) It can also be applied to the means by which the body is able to find its way about.
- c) Therefore the body depends on the eye for both illumination and direction.
- d) What we see; and how clearly we see it, is important.
- e) Sometimes we say that our eyes play tricks on us. Jesus is setting out the spiritual application of this.

Question 2

- a) The idea of the healthy eye is a 'single' eye; or a clearly focussed one. We see things clearly as they are meant to be seen.
- b) The idea of the bad eye is that of having double vision. What we see is misty and blurred.
- c) This can also apply to the things we look at; and those things we allow to enter our eyes and therefore our minds.

Question 3

- a) If we take the term 'light' in its usual context: i.e. revelation and purity, we find that Jesus is referring again to kingdom values.
- b) Living these values affects, and is affected by, what we feed our minds on and then how that is expressed in our actions: Phil 4:8-9 (note in ESV that in verse 8 we are to '**think**' about these things; and in verse 9 to '**practice**' these things!)
- c) We are to be lights of the world (**Matt 5:14-16**).