

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 24

Question 1

- a) This passage is not telling us that we are not to be discerning between right and wrong.
- b) The Russian novelist Tolstoy said “*Christ here totally forbids the human institution of any law courts*”. He completely misrepresented what Jesus is saying here.
- c) Jesus is not talking here about the ability to make value judgements about a person or their actions. In fact He encourages right judgement in **John 7:24**.

Question 2

- a) In verse 1 Jesus is saying that we are not to be ‘judgemental’. In other words critical or condemning.
- b) He probably had in mind the self-righteousness of the Pharisees who judged everyone by their own values; which often fell way short!
- c) The difference between the right and wrong type of judgement is whether it is destructive.
- d) It often comes down to our attitude towards people and to our own motives.

Question 3

- a) This could be said to refer to the measure in which people we judge, judge us back.
- b) However, it is more likely in the context to refer to the judgement God makes on our behaviour.
- c) In other words; our judgement of others shines the light on our own behaviour and motives. This causes us to condemn ourselves before God’s perfect judgement: **James 4:11-12**.

Question 4

- a) It is much easier to see faults in others than in ourselves. As the old adage goes: when you point a finger at something, there are always three fingers pointing back at you! **Romans 2:1**.
- b) Interestingly, it is true here that the speck in our brother's eye does need removing. But not by a surgeon who has a log in his own eye!
- c) The fundamental issue here is that of attitude. If our attitude is right then we can approach a brother with his fault (**Matthew 18:15**).

Question 5

- a) The Greek word translated 'hypocrite' originally meant 'an actor who wears a mask'. In other words someone who is not what they seem. They don't 'practice what they preach'.
- b) We should not be incensed at other people's failings if we are not prepared to deal with issues in our own lives.
- c) By dealing with those issues we will often then see people in a different light.
- d) If nothing else we will have a purer motive when pointing out something in someone else's life.
- e) By examining ourselves we see how much we all need God's grace: **Romans 14:10-12**.

Question 6

- a) Whilst it is true that we should not to be judgemental; it is equally important that we are not 'undiscriminating'.
- b) There is right and wrong!
- c) Having been told not to judge, the danger is that we become wishy-washy about things; overlooking things that need addressing.
- d) Dogs in the Bible were not the sort of lovable pets we know. They were wild animals that roamed around and were very dirty and dangerous.
- e) The pig was of course considered by the Jew to be ceremonially unclean.
- f) The question is; would you give something valuable to them; for them simply to tread it into the ground and then set on you.
- g) This is all about right judgement and discernment. We certainly need wisdom!