

## GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 9

Between questions 2 and 3 you will need to show a clip from the Christianity Explored Course DVD:

**Episode 3: Sin**  
**Start Time: 10.06**  
**Finish Time: 13.04**

Before running the clip, explain that it is based on Mark's record of the theme we are looking at in this study.

### Question 1

- a) Jesus points to their misunderstanding of God's Law.
- b) The Scribes and Pharisees prided themselves in enthusiastically keeping that Law. The problem was that often this observance was external and did not accompany an inner righteousness.
- c) They have reduced the law of God to a simple external set of legalistic requirements and have missed the whole point (note **verse 20**).

### Question 2

- a) Jesus here gets to the heart of the problem of adultery.
- b) In verses 27-28 He deals with 'cause and effect'. Whilst adultery is the effect; lust is the cause.
- c) Adultery is the external activity; lust is the internal attitude.
- d) Sexual impurity begins in the desires of the heart.
- e) Jesus shows that sin is a problem of the heart which then expresses itself in actions: e.g. **Jeremiah 17:9-10; Matthew 12:34-35; Matthew 15:18-20**.

**Show DVD Clip**

### Question 3

- a) The eye is that which looks and lusts.
- b) The hand is used because adultery is a kind of theft in that it is taking something that does not belong to us.
- c) Jesus is not literally suggesting that we cut off limbs, but expressing that we would have been better off without those limbs than having them cause us to commit sin.
- d) Of course it would not solve the real problem; that of the heart (**again note verse 20**).

### Question 4

- a) There is a well-known saying which goes: "*There is a heaven to be gained and the hell to be shunned*".
- b) We should do everything we can to avoid the punishment of sin: **Colossians 3:5-6**.
- c) We often fail to consider the terror of hell and Jesus is saying that we should be looking to do whatever it takes to avoid going there; even if it means losing something now: **Mark 8:36-37**.
- d) This of course is why Jesus came; to deal with the problem of the heart. It was a problem that we could ultimately not rectify.

### Question 5

- a) Sin is to be taken seriously because in Jesus' teaching, it leads to hell.
- b) Hell is so serious that no illustration can be too extreme: **Romans 2:6-11**.
- c) Hell means eternal separation from God's blessing where we face God's judgement for our rebellion against Him.
- d) We have been saved from the punishment of sin and the fear of hell. The awfulness of it should drive us to want to share the gospel before it is too late.