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Intro to Philosophy

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### Lesson 5 questions

#### Plato Morality and Happiness

Question 1. Socrates says we consider three things to be good. The first would be idle pleasures that on their own do not harm anyone else. The second is things that are desirable not simply for their own sake but produce a benefit, and the third are things that we do not do for their own sake but rather, for the sake of a reward or some kind of benefit like various ways of money making or sports.

Question 2. The story of the ring of Gyges is an example of what happens when a man can do what he wants without fear of anyone seeing him or holding him accountable. The ultimate point of the story is that men only behave justly in front of others so as to put up a front of righteousness and to appear to follow the ways of the just but if we no longer have to worry about this, then we would all do what we desire in our heart.

Question 3. Glaucon and Adeimantus ultimately agree that the best life for a man is to either live in belief or a higher power that will hold them accountable and attempt to act just or don't do it and live unjustly and gain what one can in this life so they can have no regrets whether they were wrong about there being a higher power or not. I disagree with this due to my belief in God and what the Bible says about works. It says all of our works are as filthy rags and we cannot obtain righteousness through them. What they argued about men choosing to do evil when no one is looking I can agree with since that is what happens with men who choose to follow their flesh but we can only obtain righteousness when we have faith in Jesus perfect sacrifice. Even if we attempt to go after all the things this world has, it will profit us nothing in the afterlife but God will meet all the needs of those who love him. Those who seek him will have their needs met so they no longer feel the need to seek the world as it is filled with sin and the wages of sin is death.

Aristotle Ethical Virtue

Question 1. Aristotle said that the activity of the soul in accordance with virtue is what can make someone truly happy as well as benefit the rest of humankind and to do so in an excellent way as he described when comparing a harpist to a good harpist. What he means by this is that the meaning of someone's life is found in how they perform the act that they are predisposed to doing in a virtuous way and to the best of their ability.

Question 2. Aristotle argues that the function of a human is an activity of the soul in accordance with or involving reason. What this means is that humans as opposed to other sentient beings on earth like animals, are made to follow what is impressed upon their being. The short version of this would be to say this person was born to play piano or that person was born to be a chef.

Question 3. What Aristotle meant in saying that virtue is a disposition and not a feeling or a capacity is that dispositions involve the persons very nature and virtues and capacity do not depend on nature. Virtues involve some sort of choice in how one acts and capacity is to have the potential to do or feel something but a disposition comes from ones true nature.

Question 4. We gain virtue by having a disposition that makes us inclined to do our best in our function and do it outstandingly.

Question 5. Virtue is like a mean in that having virtue means one knows when to act or to feel a certain way towards things as well as how much one should indulge in the feeling they get in the situation. One such example would be fear. All living things have a sense of fear and this fear is what helps them to survive longer. Too much fear however, can lead to one having a very closed off life and being too afraid to try anything and grow as a sentient being. An example of this would be being afraid to go into a dark forest alone. This is a valid fear as a dark forest can have all manner of creatures and unseen dangers. Fear in excess however, would be to be too afraid of everything outside of ones own house to even step out of it. One cannot live like this as its unhealthy to the persons state of mind. The solution to this would be to have courage enough to venture outside of their house and go on about their daily life. As for the opposite side, having too much courage to the point it could just be called blind bravery would put the person in danger as they do not have the sense of fear they should to be cautious when they need to.