

From the Journal of John Woolman (1720 – 1772)

Stoppage (re: Slavery)

“If a man successful in business expends a part of his income in things of no real use, while the poor employed by him pass through difficulties in getting the necessaries of life, this requires his serious attention. “

At the house where I lodged was a meeting of ministers and elders. I found an engagement to speak freely and plainly to them concerning their slaves; mentioning how they as the first rank in this society, whose conduct in that case was much noticed by others, were under the stronger obligation to look carefully to themselves. Expressing how needful it was for them in that situation to be thoroughly divested of all selfish views; that, living in the pure truth, and acting conscientiously towards those people (slaves) in their education, and otherwise, they might be instrumental and helping forward a work so exceedingly necessary, and so much neglected amongst them.

Five Questions

1. What is the author’s main point in this passage? **This question gets at what the author's point is, not what you would like it to be.** (Main Point)
2. What new light do I find in this particular reading of this passage of text? **New light may be great or small.** (New Light)
3. How is this passage true **or not true** to my experience? (Truth)
4. What are the implications of this passage for my life? (Implications)
5. What problems do I have with this passage? (Problems)