Tzu-kung asked saying, “Is there any single saying that one can act upon all day and every day?” The Master said, “Perhaps the saying about consideration: ‘Never do to others what you would not like them to do to you.’”

The Master said, “If out of three hundred Songs I had to take one phrase to cover all my teaching, I would say, ‘Let there be no evil in your thoughts.’”

The Master said, “High office filled by men of narrow views, ritual performed without reverence, the forms of mourning observed without grief – these are things I cannot bear to see!”

The Master said, “In old days a man kept a hold on his words, fearing the disgrace that would ensue should he himself fail to keep pace with them.”

The Master said, “He who will not worry about what is far off will soon find something worse than worry close at hand.”

The Master said, “Yu, shall I teach you what knowledge is? When you know a thing, to recognize that you know it, and when you do not know a thing, to recognize that you do not know it. That is knowledge.”

The Master said, “He who seeks only coarse food to eat, water to drink, and bent arm for pillow, will without looking for it find happiness to boot. Any thought of accepting wealth and rank by means that I know to be wrong is as remote from me as the clouds that float above.”

The Master said, “In old days men studied for the sake of self-improvement; nowadays men study in order to impress other people.”

The Master said, “In the presence of a good man, think all the time how you may learn to equal him. In the presence of a bad man, turn your gaze within!”

Tzu-yu asked about the treatment of parents. The Master said, “Filial sons nowadays are people who see to it that their parents get enough to eat. But even dogs and horses are cared for to that extent. If there is no feeling of respect, wherein lies the difference?”

The Master said, “A young man’s duty is to behave well to his parents at home and to his elders abroad, to be cautious in giving promises and punctual in keeping them, to have kindly feelings towards everyone, but seek the intimacy of the Good. If, when all that is done, he has any energy to spare, then let him study the polite arts.”

Meng Wu Po asked about the treatment of parents. The Master said, “Behave in such a way that your father and mother have no anxiety about you, except concerning your health.”

The Master said, “To learn and at due times to repeat what one has learnt, is that not after all a pleasure? That friends should come to one from afar, is this not after all delightful? To remain unsoured even though one’s merits are unrecognized by others, is that not after all what is expected of a gentleman?”
The Master said, “A gentleman does not grieve that other people do not recognize his merits. His only anxiety is lest he should fail to recognize theirs.”

The Master said, “A gentleman can see a question from all sides without bias. The small man is biased and can see a question only from one side.”

The Master said, “A gentleman covets the reputation of being slow in word but prompt in deed.”

The Master said, “A gentleman is ashamed to let his words outrun his deeds.”

The Master said, “Govern the people by regulations, keep order among them by chastisements, and they will flee from you, and lose all self-respect. Govern them by moral force, keep order among them by ritual, and they will keep their self-respect and come to you of their own accord.”

The Master said, “He who rules by moral force is like the pole-star, which remains in its place while all the lesser stars do homage to it.”

The Master said, “To demand much from oneself and little from others is the way for a ruler to banish discontent.”

Tzu-kung asked about government. The Master said, “Sufficient food, sufficient weapons, and the confidence of the common people.” Tzu-kung said, “Suppose you had no choice but to dispense with one of these three, which would you forgo?” The Master said, “Weapons.” Tzu-kung said, “Suppose you were forced to dispense with one of the two that were left, which would you forgo?” The Master said, “Food. For from of old, death has been the lot of all men; but a people that no longer trusts its rulers is lost indeed.”
1. According to Confucius:
   a. What attributes make a good leader?
   b. How should people behave towards their parents?
   c. What is knowledge?
   d. What does it mean to be a gentleman?

2. Give two examples from these passages that show that Confucius attaches great importance to humility.
   a.
   b.

3. Which of Confucius' ideas do you think you could apply to your own life? Explain.