

Three Questions

Read Leo Tolstoy's short story Three Questions and answer the following questions. Think about each question carefully and answer thoroughly to get full credit. Remember to use complete sentences.

Text: <http://www.online-literature.com/tolstoy/2736/>

1. Why does the emperor decide to ask his three questions? How do you think he settles on these three?
2. How would you characterize the first round of answers to the emperor's questions? Why are they unsatisfactory responses?
3. Why does the emperor go to the hermit? What does he expect to learn there? Why does he expect a seemingly "enlightened" man will be able to solve his dilemma?
4. What does the hermit teach the emperor? How is this lesson taught? Do you think the emperor has had his three questions answered?
5. Do you agree that the present is the most important time? Why or why not?
6. What motivates us to act in the world? Should the happiness of others be privileged over our own happiness? Why or why not?