Essential Questions CH. 11

1. The reign of Augustus Caesar is usually seen as the beginning of a glorious age. The historian Tacitus, however, noticed many problems, including the fact that the, “legal system . . . was wholly incapacitated by violence, favoritism, and—most of all—bribery.” Which of these views is correct? What were the achievements and shortcomings of Augustus’s reign?
2. Jesus said, “Ye have heard that it hath been said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say unto you that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.” To what legal tradition was Jesus referring? Why would this simple philosophy make so many people angry? What were the foundations of his thought?
3. Examine the role that family played in ancient Rome. What role did women play inside and outside the home? Did women have more or less freedom in Rome than in other societies?
4. Examine the intellectual world of the Romans. How did the Greeks influence the Romans? In what ways were they different?
5. Examine the constantly changing religious world of the Romans. Explain the Roman role in the rise of Christianity.
6. Discuss the reign of Julius Caesar. How did he transform the Roman state? How great was his influence on the later Roman empire?
7. Examine the social history of ancient Rome. What do the experiences of the Gracchi brothers, as well as that of Marius and Sulla, say about the social tensions in Rome? What caused these problems?
8. Discuss the concept of *pax romana*. What were the outstanding characteristics of this period? How were the Romans able to unify this region and hold it together for such a long period of time?