

The Pilgrim's Progress: A Study

Week 6: Section 4- The Palace Beautiful (Pastor's Notes)

Cover the Narrative

Let's take time to discuss the basic story of pages 42-53, focusing on these key questions:

1. As Christian approaches the Palace Beautiful, what is in the way?
The two frightful lions that Mistrust and Timorous had encountered.
2. What does Christian fail to notice about their condition?
They are chained.
3. What encouragement does Christian receive to prevent him from turning back?
The Porter, Watchful, perceiving that he might falter, tells him that the lions are chained and are positioned as a trial of faith to any that would enter.
4. As Christian moves forward, how is he described? What does this signify?
He moves forward with trembling. This demonstrates that we must walk by faith even when it is difficult or frightening to do so.
5. What reason does Watchful provide for the Lord of the Hill building the palace?
To provide relief and security to pilgrims.
6. What does Christian reveal to the Porter about his name?
That while he is now called Christian; his name used to be Graceless.
7. Why does the Porter call out Discretion- the first of the Palace's virgins?
She is to hear the testimony of Christian to see if it is suitable for him to be allowed in.
8. How is Discretion described by Bunyan?
She is a beautiful and grave damsel.
9. Upon hearing Christian's testimony, who did Discretion call to further interview him?
Prudence, Piety, and Charity.
10. Christian is essentially retelling his story in this section; why is Bunyan doing this?
The Palace Beautiful, representing the church, is a serious place to enter into fellowship with. The retelling of events represents Christian's testimony to the church.
11. What specific subjects do they question Christian about?
Questions focused on the events that led him to enter his pilgrimage, the events at the House of the Interpreter, the significance of the cross, the encounters that he had with others along the way, and the difficult spiritual challenges that he faces.
12. What helps Christian in his moments of temptation?
He is helped in his time of temptation by thinking about Jesus dying for his sins, the righteousness of Christ in Whom he now stands, the assurance of salvation which he has now been given, and the happy thought of the destination to which he is traveling.

13. Why is he so desirous to go to Mount Zion?

He desires to go to Mount Zion so that he can see Jesus alive, be rid of the temptation of sin, to see an end to death, to be with the people of God forevermore, and to worship the King he loves.

14. What else is Christian asked about?

He is asked about his family- why they didn't come with him and what he had done to convince them of their need to flee the wrath to come.

15. During dinner, how is the Lord of the Hill described?

He is described as a great warrior, but also one who completed a mission of salvation at great cost.

16. In describing the actions of the Lord, they said:

He had made many pilgrims princes, though by nature they were beggars born.

17. The next morning, they desire Christian to stay; what do they want to show him?

The rarities of the Palace Beautiful- the pedigree of the Lord, records of those who had served the Lord, the acts of the servants of the Lord, and his willingness to receive pilgrims.

18. The next day, they asked Christian to stay again; what did they want to show him?

They showed Christian the armory of the Palace which provided ample supply of the full armor of God. Further, they showed Christian many engines through which the Lord's servants had accomplished mighty things (Jael's hammer, David's sling, etc.)

19. The next day, they again asked Christian to stay; what did they want to show him?

They took him to the top of the palace where they showed him the Delectable Mountains and Immanuel's land.

20. What was the name of the Pilgrim that the Porter had recently seen pass by?

It was Faithful- a near neighbor of Christians in the city of destruction.

21. What do the ladies provide for Christian for his journey?

They give him a suit of armor from the armory; also, they give him bread, wine, and a cluster of raisins.

Theological Discussion

- Discuss the Palace Beautiful. How does it picture the church?
- What is the significance of the names of the virgins of the house?
 - Discretion- Authority to make wise decisions.
 - Piety- The quality of reverence.
 - Prudence- Cautious and wise in matters of importance.
 - Charity- the quality of love.
- Consider the Bunyan quotation in footnote 1 on page 49. What does it tell us of Bunyan's view of the church?
- The lions represent the dual dangers of Governmental and Ecclesiastical power to the true church. How were these threats evident in Bunyan's time?

- Bunyan sees the church as offering the clearest view of the glory of eternity while still in our pilgrimage. He further sees the church as a place of comfort and safety for pilgrims, as well as a place for their equipping. What do you think Bunyan would say to a person who professes Christ, but has no desire to be a part of the church?
- What is the significance of the engines which are shown to Christian?
 - Most of them signify that God did mighty works through weak vessels. By hammers, pots, and slings; nations, warriors, and leaders were brought down. God uses the weak things to put to same those things which are mighty.

Assignment for next week:

For next Wednesday night, please read pages 53-68 in the supplied book, covering the following sections:

- **Christian Fights Apollyon** (page 53),
- **The Valley of the Shadow of Death** (page 59)
- **Christian Meets Faithful** (page 65)

If you can, fill out your worksheets, and look up the Biblical references in your Bible.

-I look forward to seeing you again, then!