

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?
2. What does Christian fail to notice about their condition?
3. What encouragement does Christian receive to prevent him from turning back?
4. As Christian moves forward, how is he described? What does this signify?
5. What reason does Watchful provide for the Lord of the Hill building the palace?
6. What does Christian reveal to the Porter about his name?
7. Why does the Porter call out Discretion- the first of the Palace's virgins?
8. How is Discretion described by Bunyan?
9. Upon hearing Christian's testimony, who did Discretion call to further interview him?
10. Christian is essentially retelling his story in this section; why is Bunyan doing this?
11. What specific subjects do they question Christian about?
12. What helps Christian in his moments of temptation?
13. Why is he so desirous to go to Mount Zion?
14. What else is Christian asked about?
15. During dinner, how is the Lord of the Hill described?
16. In describing the actions of the Lord, they said:
 17. The next morning, they desire Christian to stay; what do they want to show him?
 18. The next day, they asked Christian to stay again; what did they want to show him?
 19. The next day, they again asked Christian to stay; what did they want to show him?
 20. What was the name of the Pilgrim that the Porter had recently seen pass by?
 21. What do the ladies provide for Christian for his journey?

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!