

Pilgrim's Progress: Meeting Faithful (pp. 77-101)

Page numbers correspond to the Whitaker paperback edition, ISBN 0-88368-096-3

I. Faithful “he saw Faithful before (ahead of) him”

Seeing faithful ahead on the road, Pilgrim calls to him to stop and wait. Faithful replies, “no, I am upon (in fear of) my life, and the **avenger of blood** _____ is behind me.” This Bible phrase comes from: Deuteronomy 19:11-13 that he may **die** _____

For a real-life (but fictitious) illustration, read 2 Samuel 14:7

What lesson must Christian learn even in his overtaking of Faithful in the way? **the lesson of humility, for in his pride he thought himself better than his brother, yet needed his brother’s help in recovering from his own stumbling** _____

II. Faithful’s Story “sweet discourse of all things that had happened to them”

A. Back in the City of Destruction “How long did you stay in the city?”

Christian asks about Pliable, who went back. Faithful says, “He hath, since his going back, been **greatly in derision** _____.”

B. Wanton “I met with one whose name was Wanton”

You cannot think what a **flattering tongue** _____ she had.

I remembered an old writing, “Her steps **take hold of hell** _____.” (Proverbs 5:5)

What does Faithful fear concerning his escape from Wanton? **he fears that his escape is not complete – that is, he fears, I think, the recollection of her temptations** _____

“The probability is, that the temptations of the flesh, even when resisted, do us an injury. If the coals do not burn us, they blacken us. The very thought of evil, and especially of such evil, is sin. We can hardly read a newspaper report of anything of this kind without having our minds in some degree defiled. There are certain flowers which perfume the air as they bloom, and I may say of these matters that they scatter an ill savor as they are repeated in our ears.”¹

C. Very Aged Man “I met with a very aged man”

His name was **Adam the first** _____, from the town of **Deceit** _____.

His three daughters:

The Lust of the Flesh _____

The Lust of the Eyes _____

The Pride of Life _____

¹ Charles Spurgeon, *Pictures from Pilgrim's Progress*, pp.146-147, quoted in Maureen Bradley, *The Pilgrim's Progress Study Guide*, p. 49.

“The Lust of the Flesh, we have already spoken [of] under the head of wantonness. Then there is the Lust of the Eyes. The eye can scarcely look upon a thing of beauty without desiring it. We soon become covetous unless the Spirit of God keeps our mind under proper restraint. 'Thou shalt not covet,' is a commandment which is often broken by us almost unconsciously. Consequently, we do not repent as we should of our sin against that commandment which touches our thoughts and our desires. As to the Pride of Life, I am afraid that many Christians trickle to this third daughter of the First Adam by self-indulgence in dress, and expenses, and all sorts of showiness. Mark you, this Pride of Life, though the most respectable of the three, as people think, is as genuine a daughter of the Old Adam as is the Lust of the Flesh. I cannot imagine our Lord Jesus Christ dressing himself so as to attract attention. ... This daughter of the Old Adam is much set by in these days. She keeps the milliners' shops going, and she sends many a man into the bankruptcy court; and, alas! she is invited into many of our Christian circles, and thought right well of.”²

When he got me home, he would **sell me for a slave** _____.

Is Faithful confronting these temptations as a believer or as an unbeliever? **as a believer** _____

What warning, then, should we take as believers concerning our own Christian walk? **we should be on our guard against our continuing enslavement to our sin nature** _____

D. Swift runner “saw one coming after me, swift as the wind”

It was but a word and a blow, for **down he knocked me** _____

“I know not how to **show mercy** _____.”

Christian asks, “Who was [it] that bid him forbear (quit)?”

Faithful says, “I concluded that he was **Our Lord** _____.”

“The man that overtook you was **Moses** _____.”

While the Law is holy, just, and good, what is the result of any attempt by Christians to live by the law in the light of our human failings and temptations?

Contemplation of our state under the Law alone brings discouragement; contemplation of our state under the Law satisfied by Christ brings enablement. _____

E. In the valley “Did you meet nobody in the Valley of Humility?”

1. I met with one **Discontent** _____.

2. I met with **Shame** _____.

Both of these enemies attack our spiritual lives by appealing to what vice? **pride** _____

“I had **sunshine** _____ all the rest of the way.”

Why do you suppose Faithful’s experience in the Valley of Humiliation is so different from Christian’s?

Because the Christian life is not a ‘cookie-cutter’ ‘one size fits all’ experience _____

III. Talkative “saw a man whose name was Talkative”

“To talk of things that are good, to me is **very acceptable** _____.”

“But his house (his family, his private life) is as empty of religion as **the white of an egg is of savour** _____

² Charles Spurgeon, *Pictures from Pilgrim’s Progress*, pp.150-151, quoted in Maureen Bradley, *The Pilgrim’s Progress Study Guide*, p. 50.

_____.”
What kind of ‘faith’ would you say Talkative has? **intellectual assent** _____

Which speech of Talkative gives the first hint of his character? (various answers) possibly the one on page 90 where he begins to talk of ‘things heavenly, or things earthly; things moral, or things evangelical; things sacred, or things profane ; things past, or things to come... provided that all be done to our profit’ _____

FAITHFUL: “What shall we do to be rid of him?” CHRISTIAN: “Ask him plainly... whether this thing (power of religion) be **set up in his heart, house, or conversation** _____.

“I have heard many cry out against sin **in the pulpit** _____, who yet can abide it well enough **in the heart, house, and conversation** _____.”

“He does not lay the blessing in the **knowing** _____ of them, but in the **doing** _____ of them.”

Then Talkative at first began to **blush** _____ “I cannot but conclude you are some peevish or melancholy man, not **fit to be discoursed with** _____; and so adieu.”

“There is but little of this **faithful dealing with men** _____ nowadays.”

What should be done with the Talkative’s of our day? Should we accept them into church membership? Why or why not? **No, those whose lives do not match their profession are unacceptable as church members. Their bad testimony causes the gospel and the church to bear reproach as hypocrites. And we do no help to the Talkative one who may carry on in his deceits with false assurance.** _____

