

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

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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 _____ is behind me.” This Bible phrase comes from:

Deuteronomy 19:11-13 that he may _____

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? _____

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 _____.”

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

You cannot think what a _____ she had.

I remembered an old writing, “Her steps _____.” (Proverbs 5:5)

What does Faithful fear concerning his escape from Wanton? _____

“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 _____, from the town of _____.

His three daughters:

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 _____.

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

What warning, then, should we take as believers concerning our own Christian walk? _____

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

It was but a word and a blow, for _____.

“I know not how to _____.”

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

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

“The man that overtook you was _____.”

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?

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

1. I met with one _____.

2. I met with _____.

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

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

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

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

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

“But his house (his family, his private life) is as empty of religion as _____

_____.”

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? _____

Which speech of Talkative gives the first hint of his character? _____

FAITHFUL: "What shall we do to be rid of him?" CHRISTIAN: "Ask him plainly... whether this thing (power of religion) be _____."

"I have heard many cry out against sin _____, who yet can abide it well enough _____."

"He does not lay the blessing in the _____ of them, but in the _____ of them."

Then Talkative at first began to _____. ... "I cannot but conclude you are some peevish or melancholy man, not _____; and so adieu."

"There is but little of this _____ nowadays."

What should be done with the Talkative's of our day? Should we accept them into church membership? Why or why not? _____
