

Pilgrim's Progress: Doubting Castle and the Delectable Mountains (pp. 132-147)

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I. By-path meadow “on the left hand of the road a meadow”

The way from the river was _____, and their feet _____.

Stile = steps for getting over a fence.

A man called _____ told them it was the right path.

What did they trust by leaving the way taking the ease of By-path meadow? _____

What does the ease of By-path meadow represent? _____

Hopeful: I would have spoken plainer, but _____.

Prov 14.12 ‘There is a way which seemeth _____ unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of _____.

II. Doubting castle “there was...a castle, called Doubting Castle”

Owned by Giant _____

Christian had double sorrow, because _____

Doubt and despair are often the spiritual consequences of sin. What sins can lead to these consequences?

On the advice of _____, the giant beat them with a grievous crab-tree _____ (club).

Christian suggests suicide, but Hopeful says that would be _____.

“Show them the _____ and _____ of those that thou hast already dispatched (killed).”

III. Escape “What a fool, quoth he, am I”

“I have a key in my bosom, called _____.”

What activity brought to mind Christian’s key? _____

Note: Bunyan uses a word here, “d__nable” (p. 141), which would not have been considered profane in his day but has become so in our day. Meanings and uses change, and as they do, Christians should be wise and refrain from that which is profane.

They consented to erect there _____.

“Though the pilgrims had sinned greatly in leaning to their own understanding, God had graciously taught them some valuable lessons from this bitter experience. They had learned never to depart from God’s Way and anything that he desired them to go through, to value the light of God’s countenance and to distrust themselves more thoroughly. They had been taught the dreadful evil of sin and sin’s consequences; they had seen their weakness and Christ’s strength and that the only way of deliverance was by casting themselves totally on Christ.”¹

IV. Delectable Mountains “they came to the Delectable Mountains”

Delectable = delightful, pleasing

Various interpretations have been given for the Delectable Mountains: just a place of rest, the local church,

¹ Maureen Bradley, *Pilgrim’s Progress Study Guide*, p. 73.

the ministry of the Word by godly pastors. Maureen Bradley suggests perhaps Sabbath Rest, in keeping with the Puritan idea that the Sabbath [Sunday] was a 'market day for the soul.'

If one considers Sunday to be "a day set aside for instruction in Sunday school, for sitting under the preaching of godly ministers, and for meditation on Scripture and prayer,"² how would the Delectable Mountains remind you of a market day for the soul?

They were asked three questions:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

"Few of them that begin to come hither, do _____."

Shepherds named:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

V. Wonders "shall we show these pilgrims some wonders?"

A. A hill called _____

"hearkening to _____ and _____." (2 Tim. 2:17-18)

What causes Christians to fall into error? _____
_____ (2 Tim 2.16)

B. Another mountain called _____.

Men wandering among the _____ because they were captured by _____.

How does a thoughtful Christian make use of Caution? _____

C. Another place in a bottom, where was a _____, a "by-way to _____."

Types of people who seem to be believers ("a show of pilgrimage") and yet end up in hell, and their biblical parallels:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

D. A high hill called _____

Perspective glass = viewing device, like a telescope or binoculars

Though Christian and Hopeful can only see through the glass 'darkly', partly because of their own weakness, what does the vision of Celestial glory give them?

² Bradley, p. 75.