

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS - PART 4 VANITY FAIR AND GIANT DESPAIR

Intro:

- 1) If you could have anything you want, what would it be?
- What would you be willing to do to get it?
- 2) Have you ever entered an argument knowing you were going to lose it?
- "I've made up my mind, don't confuse me with the facts!"
- 3) What is despair? How is it different from "being down in the dumps"?

Scene 20 - Vanity Fair

- 1) What is "Vanity"?
- 2) How is Vanity Fair a representation of the world today?
- 3) What are the origins of this faire?
- 4) How can good things (houses, gold, etc) become bad? **James 4:1-4**
- 5) Is there any way to get to the Celestial City without passing through the faire?
- 6) How are Christian and Faithful different from those at the faire?
- 7) What does this tell us about how the world will view us as Christians?
- 8) How does one "buy" the Truth? Can truth be sold?
- 9) Christian and Faithful do not rail against their accusers, and in their witness start to lead others to search for truth. How did Paul do this in **Philippians 2:12-24**?
- 10) Are Christians "disturbers of the peace"? See **Matthew 10:34-36**
- 11) Who are the three witnesses brought forth? Do they still accuse the Church today?
- 12) What would we call Superstition today? (See **John 14:6**)
- 13) What is Flattery? How is it different from a genuine compliment?
- 14) Would you characterize the jury of peers as progressive and / or tolerant?
- 15) Compare Faithful's martyrdom to Jesus' Passion and crucifixion.
- 16) What image does Bunyan "borrow" from **II Kings 2:11**?
- 17) How does Christian eventually escape from this city / faire?

Scene 21 - Put not your hope in riches

- 1) Who does Christian meet after his escape from Vanity Faire?
- 2) Where did this man come from?

- 3) What does “by-ends” mean?
- 4) What type of person does he represent in the Church today?
- 5) According to **Matthew 16:24-26** what is required to be a true pilgrim?
- 6) Who are By-Ends’ three friends? Do we still run into them today?
- 7) How can “religion” be used as a means of worldly gain?
- 8) How does Christian refute their arguments? **John 6:26-27**
- 9) What 4 Biblical stories does Christian give in support of his refutation?

Genesis 34:20-24 _____

Luke 20:46-47 _____

Matthew 26:14-16 _____

Acts 8:19-22

Scene 22 - The silver mine

- 1) Why is lucre seen as a small hill, easily climbed?
- 2) Who was Demas? **Philemon 1:23-24, II Timothy 4:10**
- 3) What has Christian heard about Demas and the mine to keep him from temptation?

Matthew 26:14-15

Scene 23 - Lot’s wife; the salt of the earth

- 1) Review the story in **Genesis 19:23-26**
- 2) What is Jesus telling us in **Luke 17:23-33** about remembering Lot’s wife?
- 3) What does it mean when God “gives them over” to a particular sin?

Scene 24 - Taking the easy path

- 1) What makes By-Path meadow so appealing, given the Way they are on?
- 2) How easy is it to leave the Way?
- 3) Look at **Proverbs 3:5-6** What’s the danger in trusting in our own wisdom?
- 4) Who does Vain-Confidence represent in our world today?
- 5) What happens when an apology is given but forgiveness is not given or received?
- 6) How does Paul describe true repentance in **II Corinthians 7:10-11**?
- 7) Why is it more difficult to get back on to the Way than to depart from it?

Scene 25 - Dounting Castle

- 1) According to Dante, what is the saying over the gates of Hell?
- 2) How did Christian and Hopefull get captured?
- 3) Why couldn't Christian fight against this foe?
- 4 Look at David's description in **Psalm 32:3-4**. Does this describe doubting castle?
- 5) How do diffidence and despair work together to beat us down spiritually?
- 6) Christian seriously considers the giant's offer of suicide. Is the mere though sinful?
- 7) Read **John 1:5**. How do the forces of darkness react to the Light?
- 8) Look a **Hebrews 10:32**. How can remembering past victories help us overcome despair?
- 9) What is the "key" to overcoming despair that Christian had forgotten about?
 - "And so often times it happens, that we live our lives in chains, and we never even know we hold the key" (Did Don Henley / the Eagles read Bunyan?)
- 10) Why was there more than one gate (and some very hard to open) to escape Dounting Castle?
- 11) Once the pilgrims were back on the Way, how did they try to warn others?
- 12) How can our faith stories help others on thier journey?