

Pilgrim's Progress

Stages 5 & 6: Faithful and Talkative

Vanity Fair

Faithful

~ seen ahead, surpassed (*last became first*)

- Avenger of blood – “close behind me”
- Christian “felt proud”...stumbled and couldn't get up
- Faithful assists

~ picture of Christian companionship/conversation

- Shared pilgrimage stories: similarities & differences

Faithful's encounters:

Wanton sensual pleasure

~ Faithful's confession: *I am not sure I entirely escaped her or not.*

Adam the First the old man

- Burning thought: *...however he flattered...once he lured me into his house he would sell me as a slave*
- Pursued/attacked by Moses – *secret fondness for Adam the First* – no mercy found in the law - Rescued by the Lord

Villains in the Valley of Humiliation

~ **Discontent, Shame** (*clingy...had a hard time shaking him...*)

Talkative son of Say-well in Prating Row - wretched fellow

~ looks best from a distance...close up...quite ugly

~ religion has no place in his heart, or house or conversation

- Talks about prayer...repentance...faith...the new birth, but he only knows how to talk about them

Evidences of saving grace in the heart:

1. Persuading the soul to abhor sin (not merely cry against it)
2. Evident to the person and to others – one's reputation

Faithful's piercing question: Is this true of you?

Stage 6

Evangelist

~ *How have you fared...what have you encountered...how have you behaved yourselves?*

~ rejoicing together, encouragements, cautions, counsel, reminders

~ at least one, to his advantage, will be killed in Vanity

1. Arrive at the Celestial City sooner
2. Escapes many miseries the other will meet

Vanity and the Fair

~ **Origins:** Beelzebub, Apollyon, Legion & associates

~ **Nature:** *continuous fair* on pilgrims' pathway

- All manner of merchandise to *appeal to the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life*
- Round-the-clock entertainment/amusements
- Tailored to taste: Britain Row, French Row, Italian Row, etc.

~ visited by the Prince of Princes: Temptations

Christian/Faithful: clearly out of place

~ garments; speech; little value on the wares being sold

- *We buy the truth* (Prov 23:23)

~ regarded as fools, lunatics, strange and unusual, madmen

- Remained patient, non-retaliatory, offered blessing
- Showed increased wisdom and meekness
- their manner noticed by some

~ caged; death penalty sought; Faithful on trial – boldness in truth

Judge: Lord Hate-good

Witnesses: Envy, Superstition, Pickthank

Jury: Blindman, No-good, Malice, Love-lust, Live-loose, Heady, High-mind, Enmity, Liar, Cruelty, Hate-light, Implacable

~ death by the cruelest method – **Faithful unto death** [Rev 2:10]

- taken by chariot on most direct route to Celestial Gate