"The Pilgrims Progress" The Mountain Of Morality (Pages 8b-12a)

Introduction:

- 1. Last Week As We Continued Our Journey:
 - Through The Pilgrim's Progress:
 - Christian Came To An Intersection:
 - On His Path To The Wicket-Gate:
 - Where He Met A Man:
 - Whose Name Was "Mr. Worldly-Wiseman!"
 - That Man Seemed Like:
 - Such A "Gentleman" To:
 - Our Ragged Pilgrim:
 - And So Interested:
 - In His Plight!
- 2. And So When Mr. Worldly-Wiseman:
 - Offered To Him:
 - What Seemed To Be:
 - A Much Better Way:
 - To Get Rid Of His Burden:
 - Christian Was Ready To Follow The Advice Of This:
 - Sympathetic Stranger!
 - And Yet He Was Still:
 - But A Stranger!
 - The Path:
 - That Was Safer & Easier & Cheaper:
 - According To Mr. Worldly-Wiseman:
 - Led To A Village "Named Morality!"
 - And To *Another* Gentleman:
 - "Whose Name Is Legality" Who:
 - Was Described To Christian As:
 - "A Very Judicious Man, And A Man Of A Very Good Name, That Has Skill To Help Men Off With Such Burdens As Thine Are From Their Shoulders!"
- 3. When Christian Heard This:
 - He Ignored:
 - The Advice Of Evangelist:
 - Who He Will Meet Again Soon Enough!
 - And Followed The Advice:
 - Of That Mr. Worldly-Wiseman!
 - So At The Bottom Of Page 8:
 - At The Last Paragraph We Read:
 - "So Christian Turned Out Of His Way, To Go To Mr. Legality's House For Help!"
 - Read Through Pg. 12, Line 4:
 - "Till Again he Was Got Into The Way Which He Left, To Follow Mr. Worldly-Wiseman's Counsel!"
- 4. Thank The Lord:
 - For The Good & Godly People:
 - He Brings Into Our Lives:
 - Like Evangelist!
 - To Ask Us:
 - The Hard Questions Like He Did When He Asked Christian:
 - "What Dost Thou Here, Christian?"

- He Was *Not*:
 - Where He Was Supposed To Be!
 - He Had Gotten Out Of The Path:
 - That Led To True Light And Life!
- But God Often Uses People, Like This Man, In Our Lives:
 - To Do What Jesus Said In *Matthew 18:12-13* "How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? / And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep,

than of the ninety and nine which went not astray!" Well - Christian: 5. - Did Go Astray - Because: - He Already Was Astray! - He Had Not Yet Knocked On The Door: - Of That Wicket-Gate! - He Was Still On The Outside: - Of The Door To Salvation! - And - So It Is For: - Everyone Who Is Still Astray! - They Will Keep Going Further Astray: - Until & Unless: - Jesus - Through His Word & Through His Servants: - Goes After Them And "Seeketh That Which Is Gone Astray!" 6. But - Where Do They Go? - Where Did Christian Go? - They Will Go Anywhere & Try Anything: - To Find Whatever Promises Relief: - From The Burden Of: - Their Stinging Conscience! - And That Is Why: - Christian Soon Found Himself: - At That "Hill" Which Was On The Way: - To Mr. Legality's House! - But - What Mr. Worldly-Wisemen: - Described As A "Hill" - To Christian: - It Was A Mountain! - And - That Mountain: - Was So High & So Impregnable: - It "Did Hang So Much Over" - That: - It Seemed Like: - "The Hill Should Fall In His Head!" Now - This Is An Image: 7. - That Is Hard To Picture In Our Minds: - But - Imagine The Hill You Are To Go Over To Get To Your Destination: - Doesn't Just Go Up - It Goes Straight Up! - And - Then - It Even Goes Over Your Head! - Not Even Skilled Mountain Climbers Could Scale Such A Rock! - That Mountain Was: - The Mountain Of Morality! - As Bunyan Points Out In His Notes In The Margin: - It Was "Mount Sinai" - Where: - God Gave Israel: - His Law! You See - Christian Was Convinced By Mr. Worldly-Wiseman: 8. - That The Best Way To Get Rid Of His Burden: - Was To Try To Keep: - The Works Of The Law! - And - To Try To Live: - A Moral & A Good Life! - And His Hope Was That: - Some Day - His Good Works: - Would Outweigh His Bad Works: - And His Burden Would Be Gone!

- Christian Became "Afraid That He Should Be Burned. Here, Therefore, He Sweat And

- But - What Happened Instead?

- When He Was Confronted With:

- That Mountain Of Morality:

Did Quake For Fear!"

- But Then By God's Grace:
 - Bunyan Writes "With That he Saw Evangelist Coming To Meet Him!"
 - But This Meeting Was Different:
 - Than The First!
 - Evangelist Had:
 - "A Severe And Dreadful Countenance" This Time!
 - And So Christian:
 - "Began To Blush For Shame!"

- 9. I Think This Shows Us:
 - That Witnessing To The Lost:
 - May Take Different Forms At Times!
 - Sometimes You:
 - Woo People To Christ:
 - Using The Promises Of Christ's:
 - Pardon & Peace!
 - But Other Times You May Need To:
 - Warn People About Christ:
 - Using The Promises Of Christ's:
 - Justice & Judgment!
 - But That Is To Be Expected!
 - Even As Jude Tells Us:
 - In Jude 1:22-23 "And of some have compassion, making a difference: / And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh!"
 - This Was The Time:
 - When Evangelist Had To:
 - Pull Christian Out Of The Fire:
 - And Save Him With Fear!
 - He Confronted Him:
 - As The Prophet Nathan Confronted King David:
 - With The Words "Thou Art The Man!"
 - "Thou Art The Man That Art Running Into This Misery; Thou Has Begun To Reject The Counsel OF The Most High, And To Draw Back Thy Foot From the Way Of Peace, Even Almost To The Hazarding Of Thy Perdition!"
 - It Is True We Need To Stress:
 - The Grace & Loving-Kindness Of The Lord!
 - But It Is Also True That For A Sinner:
 - "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!" (Hebrews 10:31)
- 10. Well After Evangelist:
 - Meets Up With Christian:
 - We Are Privy To Their Conversation:
 - About That Mountain Of Morality!
 - And So The First Thing We Need To See About This Mountain And Even:
 - God's Law As A Whole Is:
- 1. The Cause Of Morality!
 - The Cause Of Morality:
 - Is The Holiness Of God!
 - It Was His Holiness & Majesty:
 - That Was On Full Display:
 - At Mount Sinai In The Book Of Exodus!
 - In The Margin, Bunyan Refers To Exodus 19:16-19!
 - And What Takes Place In The Next Chapter?
 - In Exodus 20? The Giving:
 - Of The Law The Ten Commandments!
 - Which We Spent Some Time Looking At Last Year On Sunday Nights!
 - But Even Though Our Pilgrim:
 - Responded To The Moral Law Of God:
 - The Way He Did With Fear & Trembling!

- That Does Not Mean:
 - There Was Anything Wrong:
 - With God's Law!
- After All How Does The Apostle Paul:
 - Describe God's Law?
 - In *Romans 7:12* "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good!"
- In Truth:
 - The Law Of God:
 - Was Both A Revelation & A Reflection:
 - Of The Nature & Character Of God! And It Still Is!
 - He Is In The Words Of The Seraphims:
 - Of Isaiah 6:3 "Holy, Holy, Holy!"
- So The Problem For Christian Was Not:
 - With God Or His Law!
 - The Problem For Christian Was:

2. The Condition Of Morality!

- The Condition Of Morality:
 - Is Given To Us Romans 10:5:
 - "For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them!"
- When Christian:
 - Was Confronted With:
 - The Terrible Majesty & Holiness Of God:
 - In The Words Of Bunyan:
 - "His Burden Now Seemed Heavier To Him, Than While He Was In His Way!"
 - God Graciously Opened Christians Eyes:
 - To See The Reality Of Things!
 - To "Behold Things As They Are!"
- So That No Matter What Or How Much:
 - Either He Or We Might Do:
 - In Compliance With The Will & Word Of God:
 - We Are Still Sinners!
 - And Are Woefully Still Unclean, Unworthy, And Undone!
- This Is What Took Place:
 - In The Heart & Life Of The Apostle Paul As Well:
 - In *Romans 7:9-11* "For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. / And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death!"
 - You See The Law Of God:
 - Requires Perfect Morality!
 - A Morality:
 - Which Noone Can Achieve!
 - And Romans 3 Makes This Clear!
 - Romans 3:10 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one!"
- So Instead Of:
 - Curing Us:
 - From Our Sins:
 - The Law Of God Leads To:

3. The Curse Of Morality!

- The Three Men That Evangelist Talks To Christian About:
 - All Had In His Words:
 - "A Design To Beguile Thee Of Thy Salvation!"
 - And He Called Mr. Worldly-Wiseman:
 - An "Alien!"
 - And Mr. Legality:
 - A "Cheat!"

- And His Son Civility:
 - A "Hypocrite!"
- So They Took The Good Thing That God Gave:
 - To Reveal His Righteousness:
 - And Turned It Into A Way:
 - For Man To Try To Establish His Own Righteousness!
 - Which Is Impossible!
- But Those Three Men:
 - Were Agents Of The Devil!
 - They Were In Bondage To Him:
 - And This Was Their Design All Along!
 - They Knew From:
 - Galatians 3:10 "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them!"
- So Instead Of Being:
 - Helped With His Burden:
 - His Burden Became Heavier!
 - Even Heavier Than When:
 - He Was In The Slough Of Despond Which Was Still Along The Right Path!
- Well Rightfully So:
 - Christian "Now" "Looked For Nothing But Death, And Began To Cry Out Lamentably!"
 - But What Caused Christian:
 - To Start Down This Path:
 - To Begin With?
 - Evangelist Told Christian:
 - "There Are Three Things In [The Counsel Of Mr. Worldly-Wiseman] That Thou Must Utter Abhor!"
 - And This Shows To Us:
- 4. The Concern About Morality!
 - With These Three Things:
 - Bunyan Shows To Us That:
 - Part Of The Responsibility Of An Evangelist:
 - Is To Expose Error!
 - And Christian Was Blind To Three Main Errors:
 - That Were In The Advice Of Mr. Worldy-Wiseman!

- The First Error Was:
 - The Deliberate Contradiction:
 - To The Word!
 - The Word Of God!
 - Evangelist Told Him:
 - One Way To Go The Right Way!
 - Just As Jesus Said In *Matthew 7:14* "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it!"
 - But That So Called "Wiseman" Told Christian:
 - To Go Another Way The Wrong Way!
 - As Jesus Said In *Matthew 7:13* "Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat!"
 - And Christian Believed:
 - The Word Of The World:
 - Instead Of:
 - The Word Of The Lord!
 - And This Is Still:
 - A Dangerous Error!
 - As It Has Always Been!
 - Even In The Garden Of Eden The Serpent Questioned God's Word! To Eve, He Asked "Yea, Hath God Said?"
- The Second Error Was:

- The Deceptive Contradiction:
 - Of The Cross!
 - The Cross Of Christ!
- What God Savs:
 - Is Necessary For Eternal Life:
 - The World Contradicts & Says:
 - "Shall Be Thy Death!"
- But Jesus Said:
 - In Luke 9:23 "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me!"
- It Is A Cross:
 - To Deny What Seems:
 - To Be The Way Of Life:
 - Like The Paths Of Morality & Civility!
 - And Instead:
 - To Trust In What Seems:
 - To Be The Way Of Death:
 - The Cross Of Christ!

- It Is A Cross:
 - To Deny Yourself:
 - And Those Things You Think:
 - You Can Control Even:
 - Your Self-Righteousness!
 - And Instead:
 - To Trust Completely:
 - In The Righteousness Of Someone Else Even Someone You've Never Seen:
 - For Your Salvation!

- The Third Error Was:
 - The Destructive Contradiction:
 - Of The Law!
 - The Law Of God!
 - Evangelist Told Christian:
 - That Morality, Legality, & Even Civility:
 - Could Never "Deliver Thee From Thy Burden" Even Though:
 - That Was What Mr. Worldly-Wiseman Promised They Could Do!
- This Is The Great Concern:
 - About Morality!
 - True Morality Is Good!
 - But Good Is Not Good Enough:
 - To "Deliver Thee From Thy Burden!
 - And Christian Is Starting:
 - To Understand This More & More!
 - Because Then He Seeks Once Again For:
- 5. The Cure For Morality!
 - Christian's Heart Is Truly Broken!
 - His Sin By Consenting To & Believing In;
 - Those Errors Was "Very Great!"
 - Evangelist Informed Him That:
 - "Thou Has Forsaken The Way That Is Good, To Tread In Forbidden Paths!"
 - That Is He Forsook:
 - The True Gospel!
 - And Followed After:
 - A False Gospel "Another Gospel: Which Is Not Another!" (Galatians 1:6-7)
 - So He Cried Out:
 - "Sir, What Think You? Is There Hope? May I Now Go Back, And Go Up To The Wicket-Gate? Shall I Not Be Abandoned For This, And Sent Back From Thence Ashamed? I Am Sorry I Have Hearkened To This Man's Counsel! But May My Sin Be Forgiven?"
 - Oh, What A Promise We Have:
 - For Christian In Psalm 51:17 "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and

a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise!"

- As An Answer:
 - Did You Notice:
 - How Evangelist Sent Him Back On His Way?
 - "After He Kissed Him [With Nothing But A Fatherly Kiss], [He] Gave Him One Smile, And Bid Him Godspeed!"
 - There Was Hope:
 - For Christian Still!
 - And As Paul Says In Titus 3:3-4:
 - "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. / *But after that* the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared!"
- The Cure For Morality:
 - Or Rather The Lack Thereof:
 - Is The Gracious, Forgiving Smile Of God:
 - Upon Sinners Who:
 - Turn From Their Own Works & Trust In The Finished Work Of Jesus Christ!
 - Because As Evangelist Told Christian:
 - "Yet Will The Man At The Gate Receive Thee, For He Has Good-Will For Men!"
 - And As We Will See Next Week:
 - That "Man At The Gate" Is Jesus!

Conclusion:

- 1. Have You Faced The "Mountain Of Morality":
 - As Christian Did?
 - It Is A Place Not Of Help:
 - But Of Hopelessness!
 - Because "There Is None Righteous, No Not One!"
- 2. The World May Look At You:
 - And See Someone:
 - Who Has It All Together!
 - You Are Moral & Civil & Good!
 - But What Really Matters:
 - Is How God Sees You!
 - As We Are Told In:
 - 1 Samuel 16:7 "For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart!"
 - And What Does He See There?
 - Isaiah 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags!"
- 3. So Remember:
 - For Your Own Sins:
 - As Well As For:
 - The Sins Of Others:
 - Morality, Legality, And Civility:
 - Will Not Save You Or Relieve You From The Burden Of Your Sin!

- What Will?
 - Christ Alone!
 - And Trusting In His Righteousness:
 - Instead Of Your Own!

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