Pilgrim's Progress (Part 9)

Christiana

Quote: "We need not, when abed, to lie awake to talk with God, he can visit us while we sleep, and cause us then to hear his Voice. Our heart oft-times wakes when we sleep, and God can speak to that, either by words, by proverbs, by signs and similitudes, as well as if one was awake."  

–Christiana

- **City of Destruction**
  - After Christian dies, his wife regrets her treatment of him
    - After beginning her pilgrimage, she calls herself "Christiana"
  - Christian's cry of "What shall I do to be saved?" haunts his wife
    - she realizes & confesses her sin
  - Christiana dreams of a parchment that has recorded her sins and of Christian in Heaven
  - **Secret** visits Christiana
    - brings a message of God's forgiveness
    - brings an invitation to come to Father's house
    - gives Christiana a letter written in letters of gold
      - letter invites her to come to God's city, as Christian did
    - tells Christiana
      - go to the Wicket-gate
      - put this letter in thy bosom
      - read this letter to thyself & to thy children until you know it by heart
        - Four boys: Matthew, Samuel, Joseph, and James
        - "the bitter is before the sweet"
  - Christiana begins to pack
    - four sons are happy to go
    - two neighbors come to call
      - Mrs. Timorous
        * wife of Timorous who was afraid of the lions
        * acts like her husband (trying to discourage honest pilgrims)
      - Mercy
      - Mrs. Timorous tries to discourage Christiana but Mercy decides to walk a little way with her
      - Mrs. Timorous goes home & sends for some neighbors:
        * Mrs. Bat's-Eyes, Mrs. Inconsiderate, Mrs. Light-Mind & Mrs. Know-Nothing

- **Slough of Despond**
  - Christiana had heard of Christian's falling in
    - the King sends laborers to mend the King's highways
      - some pretend & bring dirt and dung instead of stones
  - Christiana, Mercy & children used the stepping stones
    - Bunyan called these stones "the promises"
      - instead of struggling, we are to rest by faith on the promises

1 http://www.chapellibrary.org/johnbunyan/text/bun-pilgrim%27sprogress.part.II.pdf
**The Wicket-Gate**
- They knock & knock
  - hear a great dog barking (they are afraid)
  - they finally knock again
  - they are admitted
  - ask the gate keeper why he keeps a dog that causes pilgrims to fear & perhaps run away
    - gate keeper = Goodwill (Christ)
    - dog belongs to castle nearby (Beelzebub's Castle)
    - purpose of dog is to discourage pilgrims
  - Goodwill feeds them, washes their feet, and sets them in the way
    - just as He did with Christian earlier

**Beelzebub's Garden**
- garden = the world
- fruit = sin
- branches of fruit trees hung over the wall
  - this was more dangerous than the barking dog
  - notice entrance into the garden wasn't necessary to eat of the fruit
- Christiana's sons picked and ate of them ("to their hurt")
- Christiana corrected them but didn't know whose fruit they had eaten

**Two-Ill Favored Ones**
- Attacked the two women & children
- The women cried, "Murder! Murder!"
- "Some of the house" (at the Wicket-Gate) heard Christiana & sent help
  - Reliever: "he that came in for their relief"
  - attackers fled to Beelzebub's Garden
- Reliever asked why the women hadn't asked for a "conductor"
  - "Ye have not because ye ask not" (James 4:2).

**House of Interpreter**
- Innocent answers the door
  - all within leaped for joy when they heard who was at the door
  - told the Master (Interpreter)
- Women & children came in to rest
  - supper provided (the Lord's Supper – communion)
  - shown all the lessons Christian was shown
    - man in the cage
    - man and his dream
    - etc.
    - shown a "muck-rake," a spider on the wall, a hen & chickens, a slaughterhouse, the Garden of God, etc
    - lessons taught to Christian were comprehensive
    - why did Christiana need additional lessons?
      - * lessons adapted for a mother & housewife (according to one's situation)
- Music during the meal
  - thought to reference singing in public worship
    - a custom recently introduced
very controversial
Christians (who met in secret) wouldn't sing at gatherings (dangerous)
  * As government restrictions relaxed, singing could be added to services
  * some resisted this – wasn't traditional

- **Bath**
  - thought to represent baptism
    - this was something the "Master would have the women to do"
    - after the bath they were "much enlivened and strengthened" (full of life & made stronger)
  - happens after a discussion with Interpreter of their journey thus far
    - public declaration of salvation and experience

- **White Raiment**
  - robes of righteousness
  - clothed with humility

- **Great-heart**
  - a man-servant of Interpreter
    - a minister of the Gospel
  - took sword, helmet & shield
  - told to conduct women & children to Palace Beautiful

- **The Cross & the Tomb**
  - stopped & praised God
    - "my heart . . . is ten times more lightsome and joyous now"
  - Christiana wishes others were here
    - doesn't realize that not everyone who sees the Cross will feel as she does
      - men stood by & watched Jesus die, unaffected, laughing

- **Simple, Sloth & Presumption**
  - asleep when Christian passed, now are hanged by the neck
    - hung near the highway as a warning
  - not only didn't want to be pilgrims but persuaded others to leave the way
    - Slow-pace, Short-wind, No-heart, Linger-after-lust, Sleepy-head, and Dull
    - told others the Lord was a hard taskmaster
    - brought an evil report of the land
    - called the bread of God husks

- **Hill of Difficulty**
  - spring of grace is defiled (muddy – doctrines of men are mixed in)
  - way has been relatively easy until now
    - hill leads to Palace Beautiful (the Church of God)
    - the way gets much harder when one is placed in the body (visible)
  - Two By-ways (where Formality and Hypocrisy were lost)
    - ways stopped up w/chains, posts, and a ditch
    - yet some still choose these by-ways (have to climb over the obstacles)
    - "The way of the transgressors is hard" (Proverbs 3:15)
  - **Bottle of Spirits**
    - given to Christiana by Interpreter
    - is forgotten in the Arbor
      - Mercy: "this is a losing place" (Christian lost his scroll here)
Great-heart: "The cause is sleep or forgetfulness"

A Stage
- the place where Christian met Mistrust & Timorous
  - afraid of lions; tried to persuade Christian to turn back
- on this stage Mistrust & Timorous were "burned through the tongue with a hot iron, for endeavoring to hinder Christian in his journey"
  - thought to be a reference to a friend of Bunyan (John Child) who gave up his profession and then, overwhelmed by despair, committed suicide

Palace Beautiful
- Giant Grim (or Bloody-man)
  - backs the lions
  - slays pilgrims
  - Great-heart cuts off his arm and breaks his helmet
  - lions are still chained
- Porter (Mr. Watchful)
  - recognizes Great-heart (he's brought pilgrims before)
- Women & children stay about a month
  - Great-heart leaves
  - Christiana is questioned concerning the spiritual training of her children
    - the Church of God is where a parent can be challenged & taught how to "train up a child in the way he should go"

Matthew becomes sick
- the eldest son of Christiana
- Mr. Skill (approved physician) comes
  - "What diet has Matthew of late fed upon?"
- Matthew had eaten of the fruit from Beelzebub's garden
  - Christiana had gotten after him but didn't prevent him
    - now she realizes her carelessness
    - as parents, we have to do more than scold
- Matthew has to vomit out the poison (get rid of it)
  - when the Word cleanses us from sin, we must get rid of it
- (Why did only Matthew get sick from the fruit? Perhaps, the other boys were too young to be held accountable? Perhaps Matthew, as the oldest, led them into sin?)

Valley of Humiliation
- Great-heart returns to guide them farther
- walks down Hill Difficulty into the Valley of Humiliation
- Great-heart tells them there is nothing to be afraid of
- Found a pillar that says to let "Christian's slips" be a warning
- Why was this valley easier for the women than for Christian?
  - Remember, pride was one of Christian's faults
  - here the humble man or woman is contented
    - already "little in thine own sight" (1 Samuel 15:17)
- This valley is free from noise & the hurtings of this life

2 http://www.chapellibrary.org/johnbunyan/text/bun-pilgrim%27sprogress.part.II.pdf
- nobody walks here but those that love the pilgrim's life
- this is a pleasant place
- some men have met angels here, found pearls here
- in former days, the Lord walked & lived here
  - later we hear of Mr. Fearing who loved this place
    * "he would lie down, embrace the ground, and kiss the flowers"
    * he was petrified of the next valley
      + it is thought there was a special check from God on the enemies of this valley
    * he was fearful at the Dark River
      + remarkable – the river was lower than ever seen by Great-heart
    * "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able"
      (1 Corinthians 10:13)
    * some notes (bass) are more "doleful" (mournful) than others; yet the first string the
      musician usually touches when tuning his instrument is the bass (Bunyan)
  - Great-heart points to the spot where Christian & Apollyon fought
    - just beyond Forgetful Green
    - "take heed . . . lest thou forget" (Deuteronomy 4:9, 23)
    - stones w/Christian's blood, broken darts
      - good to study the fights of former Christians: learn how they won the good fight, how
        they wore their armor, how they kept the faith
    - monument marks the battle
    - wounded Apollyon moved to the next valley
  - Valley of the Shadow of Death
    - easier because they had daylight & a conductor
    - difficulty of valley depends on the pilgrim's state of mind, health, spirits, education, etc.
    - James becomes sick (with fear)
      - Christiana has the bottle of spirits and pills from Mr. Skill
      - James revives
    - Lion behind them
      - Great-heart puts himself between the lions & the women/children
      - lion came no further; couldn't sneak up unawares
    - A Pit with a great mist
      - darkness
        - them "that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord,
          and stay upon his God" (Isaiah 50:10)
        - they prayed & God sent light
        - Samuel: "If ever I get out here again, I think I shall prize light and good way better than
          ever I did in all my life."
      - snares
        - Heedless (flesh torn) had fallen in the ditch (left side)
      - cave
        - Giant Maul
          * lived in the cave of Pagan & Pope
          * spoiled pilgrims with sophistry
            + maul = heavy, long-handled hammer OR to injure by beating
+ sophistry "convincing but misleading arguments"
* Catholicism had reared its ugly head, becoming more powerful through James II
* falsely accuses Great-heart of kidnaping
* fought with Great-heart for about an hour
  + knocks Great-heart down with his club (subtle arguments)
* Great-heart prayed & was able to kill Giant Maul

- **Vanity Fair**
  - stayed at the house of Mr. Mnason (an old disciple)
  - there are now some honest people in this town
  - neighbors are "more moderate"
    - the blood of Faithful causes them to be ashamed
    - pilgrims aren't burned anymore
    - Christians of this town don't have to hide anymore
  - **Monster**
    - like no beast on the earth
    - body like a dragon
    - it had seven heads & ten horns
    - great havoc of children
      - havoc = widespread destruction
    - governed by a woman
    - Bunyan references Revelation 17:3
      - "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS" (verse 5)
      - this beast is the 8th beast (verse 11) made up of all the other 7 beasts
    - monster propounded (put forth for consideration) conditions to men of the town
      - men who loved their lives more than their souls accepted these conditions
      - slew people of the town & carried away their children
      - Great-heart & others tried to kill this serpent
        - caused him to retreat
        - continually assulted him
        - in time, he became wounded & lame
        - couldn't cause the trouble he had caused before
        - some believe he will (in time) die of his wounds

- **By-Path Meadow**
  - Great-heart, old Honest & Christiana's four sons (now men) went to fight Giant Despair & tear down Doubting Castle
    - Honest cut down Diffidence with one blow
    - Great-heart was Despair's death
    - demolished the castle
      - found Mr. Despondence & daughter Much-afraid
    - Despair's head was set on a pole by the highway side as a warning
      - "Though Doubting Castle be demolish'd And the Giant Despair hath lost his head, Sin can rebuild the Castle, make't remain, And make Despair the Giant live again."

- **Delectable Mountains**
  - large group of people by this time
    - Christiana, sons, sons' wives, old Honest, Ready-to-halt, True-heart, Feeble-mind,
Despondency, Much-afraid,

○ The Shepherds (pastors)
  - open the palace door
  - feed the weary pilgrims
  - give them a place to rest
  - show the Pilgrims "some rarities"
    ■ 1st – what they had shown to Christian
    ■ 2nd – Mount Marvel
      * Great-grace's son teaches pilgrims how (by faith) to tumble difficulties out of their way
      * "believe down" mountains – "say unto this mountain, Be thou removed" (Mark 11:23)
    ■ 3rd – Mount Innocent
      * Prejudice & Ill-will throwing dirt on a man dressed in white
      * the dirt would fall off & his garments were as clean as before
      * this is Godly-man
      * men such as Prejudice & Ill-will labor in vain
    ■ 4th – Mount Charity
      * man is making cloths out of a bundle of cloth
      + bundle of cloth never gives out
      + just as the widow's barrel never gave out when she gave to the Prophet
      + he who labors for the poor will never "want"
    ■ 5th – Fool & Want-wit
      * washing an Ethiopian to make his skin white
      * meaning: all efforts by a vile man to make a good name will only make that name more "abominable" (e.g. Pharisees & hypocrites)
      + the folly of reforming one's actions without having a heart change
  ○ By-Way to Hell
    * Mercy desired to look in

  ○ Looking Glass
    - hanging in the dining room of Palace Beautiful
    - look one way & see oneself
    - look another way & see the Prince of Pilgrims
    - it's the Word of God
    - Mercy longed for this Looking Glass
  ■ the true believer longs for the Word

● Valiant-for-truth
  ○ standing where Little-faith was robbed
  ○ sword drawn, bloody
  ○ attacked by three men
    - Wild-head, Inconsiderate & Pragmatic
    - they fought with Valiant & fled
    - Great-heart: "here was great odds, three against one"
    - "it is nothing to him that has the truth on his side; how many did Samson slay with the jawbone of an ass?"

● Enchanted Ground
  ○ great mist fell over them; they walked not by sight
- Great-heart has a map and a light
- map shows a turn to the right
- by following the map, they avoided a pit (made on purpose to destroy pilgrims)
- found a beautiful inn for resting
  - called "The Slothful's Friend"
  - resisted temptation
- another arbor
  - two men were lying within
    - Heedless & Too-bold
  - tried to wake up these pilgrims
    - shook them
  - they talked in their sleep but didn't wake up
    - "when men talk in their sleep, they say anything, but their words are not governed either
      by faith or reason"
- Stand-fast
  - on his knees with hands & eyes lifted up, speaking earnestly to God
  - got up & begin to run toward the Celestial City
  - asked why he was on his knees
    - tempted by Madam Bubble (mistress of the world)
    - very tired & hard to resist her temptations
    - fell to his knees and prayed for help
    - at this time Great-heart & others arrived
    - rightly named Bubble – no substance to her (just as a bubble – you reach out to grab it and
      it pops)
- Land of Beulah
  - rested & were refreshed
  - a message came from the Celestial City for Christiana
    - "the Master calleth for thee"
    - she made ready to leave (set her house in order)
    - the road was full of people to see her journey on
    - "I come, Lord, to be with Thee, and bless Thee"

Main Characters:

1. Christiana
2. Mercy
3. Great-heart
4. Matthew
5. Samuel
6. Joseph
7. James
8. Despondency
9. Much-afraid
10. Valiant-for-truth