

Aim:**Refer:****Resources:** Pictures of Pilgrims Progress are available here: <http://www.bunyanministries.org/>

Today's lesson is filled with many different object lessons.

Briefly discuss each object lesson and its meaning.

- Matthew 6:19-21, 24 Treasure on heaven or earth
 - What are earthly treasures? (Money, possessions, importance etc)
 - What are heavenly treasures? (Eternal life, Fruit of the Spirit, God's love etc)
- Matthew 6:25, 26, 28-30 Do not worry about stuff
- Matthew 6:27, 34 Does worrying help?
- Matthew 6:33 Seek God first

In John 10 Jesus makes several object lesson from shepherds. The job of a shepherd was very different in Bible times than it is in Australia today. Sheep farming was very different in Bible times. There were no fenced paddocks, nor sheep dogs. The shepherd would call his sheep from the sheep fold (many shepherds might use the same sheepfold) and the shepherd would lead his sheep to the safe places to eat and drink, protecting them from any danger and finally leading them home in the evening. (Could watch a clip like this of a modern day shepherd calling his sheep www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coq_grSFINs)

Read John 10:1-7

- John 10:9 In what way is Jesus like the gate to a sheepfold? (There was only one way for the sheep to go into the safety of the fold; there is only one way for people to go to heaven – through Jesus.
- What would a thief or robber – someone who climbs over the wall represent? (A false prophet, anyone who says you can go to heaven a different way)
- John 10:11-14 In what ways is Jesus like a shepherd?
 - *A shepherd loved his sheep and would do anything, even risk or give up his life for the sheep; Jesus gave up His life to save us.*
 - *A shepherd cared for his sheep and provided them with the things they needed. Jesus cares for us and has promised that if we choose to follow Him He will provide the things we need.*
 - *The sheep know their shepherd; they recognised his voice; God's people will recognise God's voice and God's leading in their lives.*

Let's continue with the object lessons in Pilgrims Progress. Last week Christian and Pliable fell into the mud and Pliable gave up and went home.

Now as Christian was walking by himself, he spied one afar off come crossing over the field to meet him; the gentleman's name was Mr. Worldly-Wiseman who dwelt in the town of Carnal Policy.

(Carnal is like the opposite of Spiritual)

Said he, "How now, good fellow, whither away – where are you going – in this burdened manner?"

"I tell you, Sir, I am going to yonder wicket-gate before me; for there, as I am informed, I shall be put into a way to be rid of my heavy burden. I was bid by a man that appeared to me to be a very great and honourable person; his name, as I remember, is Evangelist."

"There is not a more dangerous and troublesome way in the world than is that unto which he hath directed thee! Hear me, I am older than thou. Thou art like to meet with, on the way which thou goest, wearisomeness, painfulness, hunger, perils, nakedness, sword, lions, dragons, darkness, and, in a word, death, and what not! I could direct thee to the obtaining of what thou desirest, without the dangers that thou in this way wilt run thyself into; yea, and the remedy is at hand. Besides, I will add, that, instead of those dangers, thou shalt meet with much safety, friendship, and content... Why, in yonder village named Morality, by the hill of Mt Sinai — there dwells a gentleman whose name is Legality, 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.

So Christian turned out of his way, to go to Mr. Legality's house for help; but, behold, when he was got now hard by the hill, it seemed so high, and also that side of it that was next the wayside, did hang so much over, that Christian was afraid to venture further, lest the hill should fall on his head; wherefore there he stood still, and knew not what to do. Also his burden now seemed heavier to him, than while he was in his way. There

came also flashes of fire out of the hill and Christian was afraid that he should be burned. Now he began to be sorry that he had taken Mr. Worldly-Wiseman's counsel.

Now lets look at the object lessons. Christian is told to go the village of Morality, by the hill Mt Sinai and look for Mr Legality.

Does Morality sound similar to a word you know? And do you know what it means?

Morality is like moral or morals. Morals have to do with what is right and wrong; we say that someone who has a good idea of what is right and you chooses to do what they know is right has good morals.

What happened at the real Mt Sinai? (God gave the Ten Commandments)

The Ten Commandments are also called God's laws. We say that someone who obeys the Ten Commandments has good morals. God wants us to obey the Ten Commandments yet Christian is in trouble for trying to go this way rather than going the way that evangelist told him to.

Do you know what legality means or what words it is similar to? (Legal – allowed by law)

Christian in trying to go to the house of Mr Legality in the town of Morality by My Sinai represents a person who is trying to save himself by obeying the Ten Commandments.

Discuss: What is wrong with this?

- *Isaiah 64:6 (Righteousness like filthy rags)*
- *Proverbs 16:25 (The way that seems right ends in death)*
- *Ephesians 2:8 (Saved by grace)*

With that Christian saw Evangelist coming to meet him; at the sight also of whom he began to blush for shame. So Evangelist... began to reason with Christian. "What dost thou here, Christian?" said he.

At which words Christian knew not what to answer; wherefore at present he stood speechless before him.

Said Evangelist, "Stand still a little, that I may show thee the words of God."

After which he said, "Thy sin is very great, yet will the man at the gate receive thee, for he has good-will for men; only," said he, "take heed that thou turn not aside again, lest thou perish from the way."

Then did Christian ready himself to go back; and Evangelist, after he had kissed him, gave him one smile, and bid him God-speed. So he went on with haste, neither spake he to any man by the way. So, in process of time, Christian got up to the gate.

Now, over the gate there was written, "Knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

He knocked, therefore, more than once or twice, saying— "May I now enter here? Will he within open to sorry me, though I have been an undeserving rebel? Then shall I Not fail to sing his lasting praise on high."

At last there came a grave person to the gate, named Good-will.