

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

Luke tells us some other things about this time when Mary poured the perfume on Jesus' feet, although Luke doesn't give the names of the people involved.

When Simon, the Pharisee, saw what Mary had done, what did he think? **Read Luke 7:39**

Jesus knew what Simon was thinking and so He told this story which is found in verses 41-42.

"A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, cancelling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"

What did Simon answer? **Verse 43**

Then Jesus said, you didn't wash My feet, but she has washed them with her tears, you didn't greet Me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet. You didn't anoint me with olive oil but she has anointed me with rare perfume.

Read Jesus conclusion. **Verse 47**

Pilgrim's Progress finishes:

Now, upon the bank of the river, on the other side, they saw the two shining men again, waiting for them; and as they come out of the river, the shining ones said, "We are sent forth to minister for those that shall be heirs of salvation."

Then, they went along towards the gate. Now you must note that the city stood upon a mighty hill, but the Pilgrims went up that hill with ease, though the foundation of the city was higher than the clouds.

The talk they had with the Shining Ones was about the glory of the place.

"There," said they, "is the Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, and the innumerable company of angels. You are going to the paradise of God, wherein you shall see the tree of life, and eat of the fruits; and when you come there, you shall have white robes given you, and shall walk and talk every day with the King, even for eternity.

"There you shall not see again such things as you saw when you were upon the earth, sorrow, sickness, trouble, or death, for the former things are passed away."

Now, a company of the heavenly host and trumpeters came out to meet them; to whom the two Shining Ones said, "These are the men that have loved our Lord when they were in the world, and that have left all for His holy name; and He hath sent us to fetch them, that they may go in and look their Redeemer in the face with joy."

Then the heavenly host gave a great shout, saying, "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb."

They surrounded the Pilgrims, and they walked together; with trumpets sounding, showing Christian and Hopeful, how welcome they were.

Here also they had the city itself in view, and they thought they heard all the bells ringing, to welcome them. And thus, they came up to the gate.

Now, when they were come up to the gate, there was written over it in letters of gold, 'Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city.'

Then I saw in my dream, that the Shining Men bid them call at the gate; and when they did, some looked from above over the gate, Enoch, Moses, and Elijah, to whom it was said, "These pilgrims are come from the City of Destruction, for the love that they bear to the King of this place."

After the pilgrims showed their certificates, the gates were opened to let them in, and I looked in after them, and behold, the city shone like the sun; and the streets were paved with gold.

After that, they shut up the gates; but I wished myself among them.

Now while I was gazing upon all these things, I turned my head to look back, and saw Ignorance come up to the river side; but he soon got over, and that without half that difficulty which the other two men met with. For it happened that there was then in that place, one Vain-hope, a ferryman, who took him over in his boat.

Then Ignorance ascended the hill, to the gate, and when he came up to the gate, he began to knock. The men that looked over the top of the gate asked, "Whence came you? and what would you have?"

Then they asked him for his certificate, that they might go in and show it to the King, but he did not have one. So they told the King, but the King's reply was "I know him not."

Then I awoke, and behold it was a dream.

Ask if there are any questions, discuss and answer.

Remember that Pilgrims Progress is a parable. What is a parable? (A story that teaches something else)

Do you remember why John Bunyan wrote Pilgrims Progress? (Because it was illegal to preach and teach about the Bible at that time, only one church was allowed.)

Pilgrims Progress was written as a story about a journey, to teach about the spiritual journey of a Christian.

Can you think of some things we can learn from Pilgrims Progress?

- There was only one correct path to the Holy City – there is only one way to Heaven. How? (through Jesus)
- What event in history allows us to have sin removed from our lives? Jesus death – hence Christian had to go to the cross to have his burden removed.

- The cross was visible from both the beginning and end of the road. What Jesus did on the cross is central to Christian life.
- The robe and the armour were gifts, Jesus' righteousness is a gift to us and so is the armour of God.
- The pilgrims travelled in pairs most of the time, to strengthen and encourage each other. The same thing is important in real life.
- Christian had to keep journeying forward, to get to the Holy City. We must keep going forward in our spiritual journeys, that is, we must keep learning and growing spiritually.

Each of the troubles that Christian and his companions experienced, represents the troubles that real Christians can experience. Can you remember any?

- The valley of the shadow of death – when it seems like God isn't with us.
- The attack of Apollyon, Satan tries extra hard to discourage those who have chosen to go God's way.
- When Christian slept and lost his scroll, and had to backtrack, so then had to pass the lions in the dark. When we are spiritually slack, it makes temptations more difficult to overcome.