

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

Ask: Who remembered to keep adding to your list of things to be thankful for? Who has the most?

Deuteronomy 6:4, 5

This is in Moses' writings, in the chapter after he repeats the 10 Commandments, so the Jews were very familiar with it, but the question they had was, "Who is my neighbour."

Did the Jews consider the Samaritans their neighbours? Give examples

(No. *This parable, the woman at the well, the widows dead son*)

Did the Pharisees consider sinners their neighbours? Can you give examples

(No. *Mary washing Jesus feet, the Pharisees questioned how Jesus could spend time with sinners.*)

Who did Jesus consider as His neighbour? (Everyone)

Romans 12:9-19NLT says:

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them... 10...take delight in honouring each other. 11...work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. 13When God's people are in need, be ready to help them... 14Bless those who persecute you... pray that God will bless them. 16... And don't think you know it all! 17Never pay back evil with more evil... 18Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. 19... never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God.

Pilgrims Progress continues: Now, I beheld in my dream that they had not journeyed far before the river and the way parted. Now the road was rough and their feet sore because of their travels, so they were much discouraged. Then a little before them, there was on the left hand of the road a meadow, with a stile to go over into it, and that meadow is called By-path Meadow.

Then said Christian to his fellow, "If this meadow lies along by our way-side, let us go over into it." Then he went to the stile to see and there was a path on the other side of the fence, going in their direction.

Christian said, "Here is the easiest going. Come, good Hopeful and let us go over."

"But what if this path should lead us out of the way?" asked Hopeful.

"Look," said Christian, "Does it not go along by the way-side?"

So Hopeful, being persuaded by his fellow went after him over the stile. They found it very easy for their feet and looking before them, saw a man walking as they did. So they called after him, and asked him where that way led. He said, "To the Celestial Gate."

So they followed after him, but, behold the night came on and it grew very dark so that they lost the sight of him. And he, not seeing the way before him, fell into a deep pit which was put there by the Prince of those grounds, to catch vain-glorious fools.

Now Christian and Hopeful heard him fall, so they called to him but there was no answer.

Then said Hopeful, "Where are we now?"

Christian was silent and now it began to rain, thunder and lightning in a very dreadful manner, and the water rose. Then Hopeful groaned, "O that I had kept on my way!"

Christian said, "Who could have thought this path should have led us out of the way?"

Hopeful replied, "I was afraid at the very first and gave you that gentle caution. I would have said more, but you are older than I."

"Good brother," begged Christian, "Be not offended. I am sorry I led you out of the way and I put you into such danger. Please, forgive me; I did not do it of an evil intent."

Hopeful replied, "Be comforted, my brother, for I forgive you; and believe too that this shall be used for good."

Christian said, "I am glad I have with me a merciful brother; but we must not stand here, let us try to go back again."

They tried to go back, but it was so dark, and the flood was so high, that in their going back they nearly drowned many times. It was impossible, so at last, they stopped under a little shelter to wait for daybreak, but being weary, they fell asleep.

KEEP READING OR LISTEN TO 4-15 'Captured by Despair'

Now there was, not far from the place where they lay, a castle called Doubting Castle, the owner was Giant Despair and it was in his grounds they now were sleeping. Wherefore he, getting up in the morning early, and walking in his fields, caught Christian and Hopeful asleep in his grounds.

Then he awoke them and asked what they did. They told him they were pilgrims and had lost their way. Then said the Giant, "You have trespassed on me, by walking in and lying on my grounds and therefore you must go along with me."

So they had no choice, because he was stronger than they.

The Giant therefore put them into his castle, in a very dark, nasty, stinking, dungeon.

Here then they lay from Wednesday morning until Saturday night without food, water or light. And Christian had double sorrow, because it was through his unadvised counsel that they were brought into this distress.

Now, Giant Despair had a wife, and her name was Diffidence. So when he was gone to bed, he told his wife what he had caught. Then she counselled him, that when he arose in the morning he should beat them without any mercy. This he did.

The next night she did advise him to counsel them to make away themselves. So when morning was come, he tells them that since they were never like to come out of that place, their only way would be to make an end of themselves, either with knife, strangling, or poison, "For why should you choose this life of bitterness?"

When they asked for freedom, he looked ugly upon them and beat them again, and would doubtless have made an end of them, but he suddenly felt ill so left them.

Christian said to Hopeful, "What shall we do? This life is miserable. I know not whether is best, to live or to die."

Hopeful replied, "Indeed, our present condition is dreadful and death would be far more welcome to me than staying here forever. Yet, let us consider that the Lord of the country to which we are going has said, 'Thou shalt do no murder.' Others as I understand, have been taken by the Giant Despair and yet have escaped out of his hand. Who knows, but that God may cause that Giant Despair to die? Or that he may forget to lock us in? I am resolved to try my utmost to get from under his hand. I was a fool that I did not try to do it before. Let us be patient; the time may come that may give us a happy release but let us not be our own murderers." With these words, Hopeful encouraged his brother; so they continued together that day, in their sad condition.

Towards evening, the Giant goes down into the dungeon again to see if his prisoners had taken his counsel; by now they were so weak they could do little but breathe. Again Christian almost gave in to the hopeless of the situation, but Hopeful encouraged him, reminding him of all the obstacles he had overcome.

Then the Giant's wife advised, "Take them into the castle-yard tomorrow, and show them the bones and skulls of those that you have already despatched, and make them believe, before a week comes to an end, that you will tear them in pieces, as you have done their fellows before them. So that is what he did.

They lay, therefore, all day on Saturday in a lamentable case, as before.

Well, on Saturday, about midnight, Christian and Hopeful began to pray, and continued in prayer till almost break of day. Then Christian suddenly cried, "What a fool am I, to lie in a stinking dungeon, when I may as well walk free! I have a key called Promise that I believe will open any lock in Doubting Castle!"

Hopeful said, "That is good news, good brother. Try it."

Christian pulled it out and began to try at the dungeon door; the door flew open with ease, and Christian and Hopeful both came out. Then he went to the outward door that leads into the castle-yard and with his key, opened that door also.

After, he went to the iron gate; that lock was hard, yet the key did open it.

Finally, they made it back to the King's highway, and so were safe; and they put up a sign to warn future travellers.