

PILGRIM'S ENCOUNTER WITH WORLDLY WISEMAN



Mr. Worldly
Wiseman
meets with
Christian.

Now as Christian was walking solitarily by himself, he espied one afar off, come crossing over the field to meet him, and their hap was to meet just as *they were crossing the way of each other*. The gentleman's name that met him, was *Mr. Worldly Wiseman*, he dwelt in the town of *Carnal Policy*, a very great town and also hard by from whence *Christian* came. This man then, meeting with *Christian* and having some inkling of him (for *Christian's* setting forth from the City of *Destruction*, was much noised abroad, not only in the town where he dwelt, but also it began to be the town-talk in some other places) Master *Worldly Wiseman* therefore having some guess of him, by beholding his laborious going, by observing his sighs and groans, and the like; began thus to enter into some talk with *Christian*.

Talk between
Mr. Worldly
Wiseman
and *Chris-
tian*.

2. **World.** How now, good fellow, whither away after this burdened manner?

3. **Chr.** A burdened manner indeed, as ever, I think, poor creature had! And whereas you ask me, Whither away? 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.

4. **World.** Hast thou a wife and children?

5. **Chr.** Yes; but I am so laden with this burden, that I cannot take that pleasure in them as formerly:¹ methinks I am as if I had none.

I Cor. 7. 29.

6. **World.** Wilt thou hearken to me if I give thee counsel?

7. **Chr.** If it be good, I will; for I stand in need of good counsel.

8. **World.** I would advise thee then, that thou with all speed get thyself rid of thy burden; for thou wilt never be settled in thy mind till then: nor canst thou enjoy the benefits of the blessings which God hath bestowed upon thee, till then.

Mr. Worldly
Wiseman's
counsel to
Christian.

9. **Chr.** That is that which I seek for, even to be rid of this heavy burden: but get it off myself, I cannot; nor is there a man in our coun-

¹ A true concern for our eternal interests deadens the heart to all sublunary enjoyments.

*PILGRIM'S
ENCOUNTER WITH WORLDLY WISEMAN*

try, that can take it off my shoulders; therefore am I going this way, as I told you, that I may be rid of my burden.

10. **World.** Who bid thee go this way to be rid of thy burden?

11. **Chr.** A man that appeared to me to be a very great and honorable person; his name, as I remember, is *Evangelist*.

12. **World.** Beshrew him for his counsel! There is not a more dangerous and troublesome way in the world, than is that unto which he hath directed thee; and that thou shalt find, if thou wilt be ruled by his counsel. Thou hast met with something (as I perceive) already; for I see the dirt of the Slough of *Despond* is upon thee; but that Slough is the beginning of the sorrows that do attend those that go on in that way. Hear me, I am older than thou: thou art like to meet with, in the way which thou goest, wearisomeness, painfulness, hunger, perils, nakedness, sword, lions, dragons, darkness, and in a word, death, and what not? These things are certainly true, having been confirmed by many testimonies. And why should a man so carelessly cast away himself, by giving heed to a stranger?

13. **Chr.** Why, Sir, this burden upon my back is more terrible to me, than are all these things which you have mentioned: nay, methinks I care not what I meet with in the

way, if so be I can also meet with deliverance from my burden.

14. **World.** How camest thou by thy burden at first?

15. **Chr.** By reading this book in my hand.

16. **World.** I thought so; and it is happened unto thee as to other weak men, who, meddling with things too high for them, do suddenly fall into thy distractions; which distractions do not only unman men (as thine I perceive have done thee) but they run them upon desperate ventures, to obtain they know not what.²

17. **Chr.** I know what I would obtain; it is ease for my heavy burden.

² In the advice of Worldly Wiseman to Christian you have a true picture of self-righteous moralists, who are the greatest enemies to young converts. They represent conviction for sin as the effect of a distempered brain; the ways of God as rough, tedious, and unpleasant; and think that the practice of morality is sufficient to recommend them to the favor of God. A poor convinced sinner, may be for a time like Christian, led into a snare by their carnal reasonings, and may labor to establish his own righteousness; but the more he strives to obtain peace of conscience this way, the more it flies from him, and the faster the burden of sin is bound upon his shoulders. His legal efforts fail and the more tender his conscience is, the more he is convinced that "*by the works of the law shall no flesh living be justified.*"

Mr. Worldly Wiseman condemns Evangelist's counsel.

Mr. Wordly Wiseman does not like that men should be serious in reading the Bible.

The frame of the heart of a young Christian.

*PILGRIM'S
ENCOUNTER WITH WORLDLY WISEMAN*

18. **World.** But why wilt thou seek for ease this way seeing so many dangers attend it? especially, since (hadst thou but patience to hear me) 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 these dangers, thou shalt meet with much safety, friendship, and content.

19. **Chr.** Pray, Sir, open this secret to me.

20. **World.** Why in yonder village (the village is named *Morality*) there dwells a gentleman, whose name is *Legality*, a very judicious man (and a man of very good name) that has skill to help men off with such burdens as thine is, from their shoulders; yea, to my knowledge, he hath done a great deal of good this way; ay, and besides, he hath skill to cure those that are somewhat crazed in their wits with their burdens. To him, as I said, thou may'st go, and be helped presently. His house is not quite a mile from this place; and if he should not be at home himself, he hath a pretty young man to his son, whose name is *Civility*, that can do it (to speak on) as well as the old gentleman himself: there, I say, thou mayest be eased of thy burden, and if thou art not minded to go back to thy former habitation, as indeed I would not wish thee; thou mayest send for thy wife and children to thee to this village, where there are

houses now stand empty, one of which thou mayest have at reasonable rates: provision is there also cheap and good, and that which will make thy life the more happy is, to be sure there thou shalt live by honest neighbors, in credit and good fashion.

21. Now was *Christian* somewhat at a stand; but presently he concluded, If this be true which this gentleman hath said, my wisest course is to take his advice; and with that he thus further spoke.

22. **Chr.** Sir, which is my way to this honest man's house?

23. **World.** Do you see yonder high hill?

24. **Chr.** Yes, very well.

25. **World.** By that hill you must go, and the first house you come at is his.

26. So *Christian* turned out of his way, to go to *Mr. Legality's* house for help;³ but behold, when he was got now hard by the hill. it seemed so high, and also that side of

³ A truly awakened conscience can never find relief from the law. The more he looks for peace this way, his guilt, like a heavy burden, becomes more intolerable when he becomes dead to the law (as to any dependence upon it for salvation) by the body of Christ, and married to him, who was raised from the dead; then, and not till then is his heart set at liberty to run the way of God's commandments.

Christian
snared by
Mr. Worldly
Wiseman's
words.

Mount Sinai.

Mr. Worldly
prefers
Morality
before the
Strait Gate.

PILGRIM'S
ENCOUNTER WITH WORLDLY WISEMAN

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 he wot 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, that made *Christian* afraid that he should be burned: here therefore he sweat and did quake for fear. And now he began to be sorry that he had taken Mr. *Worldly Wiseman's* counsel;⁴ and with that he saw *Evangelist* coming to meet him; at the sight also of whom he began to blush for shame. So *Evangelist* drew nearer and nearer; and coming up to him, he looked upon him with a severe and dreadful countenance, and thus began to reason with *Christian*.

Christian
afraid that
Mount Sinai
would fall on
his head.
Exod. 19. 18.
Ver. 16.
Heb. 12. 21.

Evangelist
findeth
Christian
under Mount
Sinai, and
looketh
severely
upon him.

Evangelist
reasons
afresh with
Christian.

27. *Evan.* What doest thou here, *Christian*? said he: at which words, *Christian* knew not what to answer; wherefore at present he stood speechless before him. Then said *Evangelist* further, Art not thou the man that I found crying without the walls of the City of *Destruction*?

28. *Chr.* Yes, dear Sir, I am the man.

⁴ The Lord could easily prevent those who seek him from committing such mistakes; but he permits them to wander sometimes from the right path, that they may be more sensible of the deceitfulness of their hearts, more dependent upon him, and more compassionate to others. But the good Shepherd still has his eye upon them, and in his own time brings them back.

29. *Evan.* Did not I direct thee the way to the little Wicket-gate?

30. *Chr.* Yes, dear Sir, said *Christian*.

31. *Evan.* How is it then that thou art so quickly turned aside? for thou art now out of the way.

32. *Chr.* I met with a gentleman so soon as I had got over the Slough of *Despond*, who persuaded me, that I might, in the village before me, find a man that could take off my burden.

33. *Evan.* What was he?

34. *Chr.* He looked like a gentleman, and talked much to me, and got me at last to yield;⁵ so I came hither; but when I beheld this hill, and how it hangs over the way, I suddenly made a stand, lest it should fall on my head.

35. *Evan.* What said that gentleman to you?

36. *Chr.* Why, he asked me whither I was going? and I told him.

37. *Evan.* And what said he then?

⁵ Beware of taking men by their looks. They may look as gentle as lambs, while the poison of asps is under their tongue; whereby they infect many souls with pernicious errors, and pestilent heresies, turning them from Christ, and the hope of full justification and eternal life through him only to look to, and rely upon their own works, in whole or in part, for salvation.

*PILGRIM'S
ENCOUNTER WITH WORLDLY WISEMAN*

38. **Chr.** He asked me if I had a family? And I told him. But, said I, I am so laden with the burden that is on my back, that I cannot take pleasure in them as formerly.

39. **Evan.** And what said he then?

40. **Chr.** He bid me with speed get rid of my burden; and I told him it was ease that I sought: and, said I, I am therefore going to yonder gate, to receive further direction how I may get to the place of deliverance. So he said that he would show me a better way, and short, not so attended with difficulties, as the way, Sir, that you set me in; which way, said he, will direct you to a gentleman's house that hath skill to take off these burdens: so I believed him, and turned out of *that* way into *this*, if haply I might be soon eased of my burden. But when I came to this place, and beheld things as they are, I stopped for fear (as I said) of danger: but I now know not what to do.

41. **Evan.** Then (said *Evangelist*) stand still a little, that I may show thee the words of God. So he stood trembling. Then said *Evangelist*, See that ye refuse not him that speaketh: for if they escaped not, who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven. He said, moreover, Now the just shall live by faith; but if any man draws back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. He also did thus apply them; *Thou art*

the man that art running into this misery; thou hast 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.

42. Then *Christian* fell down at his foot as dead, crying, *Woe is me, for I am undone!* At the sight of which, *Evangelist* caught him by the right hand, saying, *All manner of sin and blasphemies shall be forgiven unto men; be not faithless, but believing.* Then did *Christian* again a little revive, and stood up trembling, as at first, before *Evangelist*.

43. Then *Evangelist* proceeded, saying, Give more earnest heed to the things that I shall tell thee of. I will now show thee who it was that deluded thee, and who it was also to whom he sent thee.

—◆—
When Christians unto carnal
men give ear,
Out of their way they go, and
pay for't dear.
For Master Worldly Wiseman
can but show
A saint the way to bondage
and to woe.
—◆—

45. The man that met thee, is one *Worldly Wiseman*; and rightly is he so called; partly, because he favoereth only the doctrine of this world (therefore he always goes to the town of *Morality* to church) and partly, because he loveth that doctrine best; for it saveth him from the cross: and because he is of this car-

Mat. 12.
Mark. 3.

Mr. Worldly
Wiseman
described by
Evangelist.
1 John 4, 5.

Gal. 6. 12.

Heb. 12. 25.

*Evangelist
convines
Christian of
his error.*

Heb. 10. 38.

PILGRIM'S
ENCOUNTER WITH WORLDLY WISEMAN

nal temper, therefore he seeketh to pervert my ways, though right. Now there are three things in this man's counsel that thou must utterly abhor.

Evangelist
discovers the
deceit of
Mr. Worldly
Wiseman.

1. His turning thee out of the way.
2. His laboring to render the cross odious to thee.
3. And his setting thy feet in that way that leadeth unto the administration of death.⁶

Luke 13. 24.
Mat. 7. 13,
14

46. **First,** Thou must abhor his turning thee out of the way; yea, and thine own consenting thereto; because this is to reject the counsel of God for the sake of the counsel of a *Worldly Wiseman*. The Lord says, *Strive to enter in at the strait gate; the gate to which I sent thee; for strait is the gate that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.* From this little Wicket-gate, and from the way thereto, hath this wicked man turned thee, to the bringing of thee almost to destruction: hate, therefore, his turning thee out of the way, and abhor thyself for hearkening to him.

Heb. 11. 25,
26.

47. **Secondly,** Thou must abhor his laboring to render the cross odious unto thee; for thou art to prefer it before the treasures in Egypt. Be-

⁶ To seek after salvation by the works of the law, is turning from Christ, who is the only way. It is to fly from the cross; which all that will live godly in Christ Jesus must lay in their account. And lastly, the law is the ministration of death and condemnation; condemnation for sin, and binding the sinner over to eternal death.

sides, the King of glory hath told thee, *That he that will save his life shall lose it.* And, *He that comes after him, and hates not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.* I say therefore, for a man to labor to persuade thee that that shall be thy death, without which, the truth hath said, thou canst not have eternal life: This doctrine thou must abhor.

Mark 8. 35.
John 12. 25.
Mat. 10. 39.
Luke 14. 26.

48. **Thirdly,** Thou must hate his setting of thy feet in the way that leadeth to the ministration of death. And for this thou must consider to whom he sent thee, and also how unable that person was to deliver thee from thy burden.

49. He to whom thou wast sent for ease, being by name *Legality*, is the son of the bondwoman which now is, and is in bondage with her children, and is in a mystery this Mount *Sinai*, which thou hast feared will fall on thy head. Now if she with her children are in bondage, how canst thou expect by them to be made free? This *Legality*, therefore, is not able to set thee free from thy burden. No man was as yet ever rid of his burden by him; no, nor ever is like to be: ye cannot be justified by the works of the law; for by the deeds of the law no man living can be rid of his burden. Therefore Mr. *Worldly Wiseman* is an alien, and Mr. *Legality* a cheat; and for his son *Civility*, notwithstanding his simpering looks, he is but a hypocrite, and

Gal. 4. 21,
22, 23, 24,
25, 26, 27.
*The bond-
woman*

PILGRIM'S
ENCOUNTER WITH WORLDLY WISEMAN

cannot help thee. Believe me, there is nothing in all this noise that thou hast heard of these sottish men, but a design to beguile thee of thy salvation, by turning thee from the I way in which had set thee.

Gal. 3. 10. 50. After this, *Evangelist* called aloud to the heavens for confirmation of what he had said; and with that there came words and fire out of the mountain under which poor *Christian* stood, that made the hair of his flesh stand up. The words were thus pronounced, *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.*

51. Now *Christian* looked for nothing but death, and began to cry out lamentably; even cursing the time in which he met with Mr. *Worldly Wiseman*; still calling himself a thousand fools for hearkening to his counsel. He also was greatly ashamed to think that this gentleman's arguments, flowing only from the flesh, should have that prevalency with him as to cause him to forsake the right way. This done, he applied himself again to *Evangelist* in words and sense as follows:

Christian enquires if he may yet be happy.

52. **Chr.** 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?

53. **Evan.** Then said *Evangelist* to him, Thy sin is very great, for by it thou hast committed two evils; thou hast forsaken the Way that is good, to tread in forbidden paths. 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,⁷ lest thou perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little.

Evangelist comforts him.

54. Then did *Christian* address 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; nor if any asked him, would he vouchsafe them an answer. He went like one that was all the while treading on forbidden ground, and could by no means think himself safe, till again he was got into the way which he left to follow Mr. *Worldly Wiseman's* counsel. †

Psalm 2. Last verse.

Notes:

⁷ *Evangelist* cautions *Christian* to take heed that he turn not aside again, as there is nothing so dangerous to a convinced sinner as a legal spirit, because under a pretense of holiness, it would frustrate the grace of God.

