

“The Pilgrims Progress”
Just As I Am
(Pages 12b-14a)

Introduction:

1. Last Sunday - In Our Journey:
 - Through The Pilgrim’s Progress:
 - We Found Our Pilgrim:
 - Standing Under An:
 - Imposing Mountain:
 - That Was On The Way To:
 - A Village Called Morality!
 - But - Even Though:
 - That Mountain Was **On** The Way:
 - To That Village:
 - It Was Really:
 - **Out Of** The Way:
 - For Christian!
2. Because - **That** Way:
 - Pointed Out To Him By:
 - Mr. Worldly-Wiseman:
 - Was The Way Of:
 - **The Law!**
 - Christian Believed:
 - That There:
 - According To The Words Of Mr. Worldly-Wiseman:
 - He Would Get Relief:
 - From The Burden Of His Guilt & Sin!
 - But - When He Reached The Foot Of That Mountain:
 - We Were Told That:
 - “His Burden Now Seemed Heaver To Him, Than While He Was In His Way!”
3. This Is - After All:
 - What God Designed His Law To Do!
 - In Galatians 2:16 - The Apostle Paul Reminds Us:
 - “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified!”
 - And So - At Just The Right Time:
 - Before Christian Went “All In” On:
 - The “Works Of The Law”:
 - Once Again - God Was Merciful To Him:
 - And Sent Evangelist To Go & Find That Lost Sheep Who Went Astray!
4. And After Receiving Reassurance:
 - That God Could Forgive:
 - Even *Those* Two Great Sins That He Committed:
 - By - “[Forsaking] The Way That Is Good & [Treading] In Forbidden Paths!”
 - Christian Then:
 - Carefully Made His Way Back:
 - To The Path:
 - That Was The **Only** Path:
 - That Would Take Him:
 - To The Wicket-Gate!
 - And That Is Where Our Journey Continues!
 - Beginning At The 4th Line On Page 12:
 - We Read:
 - “*So, In Process Of Time, Christian Got Up To The Gate!*” – He Made It!
 - Read Through Pg. 14, Paragraph 2:
 - “*Then Christian Took Leave Of His Friend, And He Again Bid Him God-Speed!*”

5. Christian Finally Makes It:
 - To The Wicket-Gate!
 - The "Narrow" Gate & Door:
 - Where Evangelist Sent Him:
 - To Find The Help He Needed:
 - For The Heavy Burden That Was On His Back!
 - I'm Sure He Must Have Felt Some Sense Of Relief:
 - As He Read The Sign Above The Gate:
 - That Comes From The Gospels:
 - "Knock, And It Shall Be Opened Unto You!"
 - These Are The Words Of Jesus!
 - And In Luke 11:9-10 - He Adds:
 - "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find! / For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened!"
6. That Gate:
 - Was A Place Of Invitation!
 - There Was, In Those Words:
 - A Free Offer Of Salvation:
 - To Anyone Who Would Knock!
 - "Knock, And It *Shall* Be Opened Unto You!"
 - But - That Place Of Invitation:
 - Was Also - A Place Of Decision!
 - The Gate Represents A Boundary:
 - And Stands For A Decisive Choice!
 - There Are Two Parts:
 - To This Spiritual Journey!
 - There's A Before:
 - And There's An After!
 - There's A Beginning:
 - And There's An End!
 - And The Difference Between The To:
 - Is The Gate! The Door!
 - And So - Christian Had A Choice To Make!
 - He Didn't Know:
 - What Was Behind:
 - The Gate!
 - He Didn't Know:
 - Who Might Answer:
 - His Knock!
 - He Didn't Even Know:
 - If Evangelist Really Knew What He Was Talking About!
 - 7. But - What He *Did* Know:
 - Was That His Burden:
 - Wasn't Getting Any Lighter!
 - And - The Door Was Right Before Him!
 - When He Started On This Path:
 - All He Could See Was:
 - "Yonder Shining Light!"
 - But Now - The Light:
 - Shone Brightly Upon The Gate:
 - And Those Welcoming Words!
 - They Were Real After All!
 - And So - As John Bunyan Records For Us - On Page 12:
 - "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!*

8. And Then - He Waited!
 - For A Little While, It Seems - But Not Too Long!
 - Because - Then We Read:
 - "At Last There Came A Grave Person To The Gate, Named Good-Will!"
 - And This Man Is:
 - The Keeper Of The Gate!
- We Discover More Clearly:
 - From Part 2 Of The Pilgrims Progress:
 - That The Gate-Keeper Is None Other Than The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - But - There Are Enough Hints On These Pages:
 - To Show Us That This Is Who He Represents!
- He Is - After All - "Named Good-Will!"
 - Even As The Angels Announced His Birth:
 - In Luke 2:14 - When They Sang:
 - "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!"
 - Jesus Is God's Good-Will & Favor Come Unto Men!
- He Is Also - Not Only The Keeper Of The Gate:
 - But The Gate Itself!
 - Even As He Says In John 10:7-9 - "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. / All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. / I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture!"
9. So - The Conversation We Are Privy To On These Pages:
 - Is A Conversation Between:
 - A Rebel & The Redeemer! Between:
 - A Sinner & His Savior! And Between:
 - A Lost Sheep & A Loving Shepherd!
- And - As We Look At These Two Characters:
 - In Our Story - I Think We Will See:
 - What Will Happen When:
 - *Anyone* Knocks At His Gate:
 - By Faith!

* First - When Christian Came To The Gate - He Knocked As:

1. A Hungry Man!

- When He Finally Decided To Knock:
 - He "Knocked . . . More Than Once Or Twice!"
 - He Knocked As A Hungry, Desperate Man Would Knock:
 - When He Realized That Behind The Door Was The Life & Soul-Sustaining Food:
 - That He Needed - Freely Available - Just For The Asking!
- He Knocked:
 - With Urgency:
 - Because He Knew That There Was No Other Way:
 - To Be Rid Of His Burden!
- And - When He Knocked - What Did He Find?
 - He Found A Man "Named Good-Will" Who Was:
 - Good In His Work!
 - Did You Notice The Demeanor Of Our Gate-Keeper?
 - Bunyan Called Him "A Grave Person" - Someone Who Was Serious & Solemn About His Business!
- And - Isn't This The Picture We Are Given About Jesus:
 - In Both The Old & New Testaments?
 - Even At Age 12 - He Asked His Earthly Parents - Luke 2:49 - "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"
- The Business Jesus Was Involved In:
 - And Still Is - Is Serious Business!
 - It Is A Matter Of Life & Death!
 - Eternal Life & Death!

- It Is No Light-Hearted Matter!
 - And This Is Why The Prophet Isaiah Described Him As “A Man Of Sorrows, And Acquainted With Grief!”
- But - Even Though He Is:
 - A Serious Savior - He Is Also:
 - A Sufficient Savior!
 - What He Does:
 - He Does Well!
- And So It Is For You!
 - When You Come And Knock:
 - On The Door Of Christ - As A Hungry Person!
 - You Will Find That He Is Good:
 - In His Work!
 - His Work To Save You & To Satisfy Your Mouth With Good Things!
(Psalm 103:5)
 - Because - Matthew 5:6 - “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled!”

* Second - When Christian Came To The Gate - He Knocked As:

2. *An Honest Man!*

- When The Gate-Keeper Finally Came To The Gate:
 - He Asked Some Questions:
 - To See If Christian Was Qualified:
 - To Enter!
 - He Asked - “Who As There? And Whence He Came? And What He Would Have?”
 - And - What Did Christian Do?
 - He Answered Honestly & Completely!
 - “Here Is A Poor Burdened Sinner” & He Sought To “Be Delivered From The Wrath To Come!”
 - He Didn’t Try To Impress The Gate-Keeper!
 - He Didn’t Try To Bribe The Gate-Keeper!
 - He Didn’t Try To Force The Gate-Keeper!
 - He Simply Answered The Gate-Keeper With Words:
 - That Would Probably Have Disqualified Him From Entering Any Other Door Or Gate!
 - He Simply Confessed Who He Was:
 - In His Depravity:
 - As A “Poor Burdened Sinner!”
 - In His Destiny - As A:
 - Citizen Of “The City Of Destruction!”
 - And - In His Desire:
 - To Be “Delivered From The Wrath To Come!”
 - And So - He Knocked! And - What Did He Find?
 - He Found A Man “Named Good-Will” Who Was:
 - Good In His Will!
 - Because - When Christian Wanted To Kow If He Was:
 - “Willing To Let [Him] In!”
 - Good-Will’s Reply:
 - Was Full Of Heart & Hope!
 - He Said - “I Am Willing With All My Heart!”
 - “And With That He Opened The Gate!”
 - I Love The Note That Bunyan Made:
 - In The Margin - “The Gate Will Be Opened To Broken-Hearted Sinners!”
 - And So It Is For You!
 - This Is The Kind Of Savior:
 - You Will Find - As A Sinner:
 - In Jesus Christ!
 - In John 6:37 - Jesus Said - “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and

him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out!”

- So - When You Come And Knock:
 - On The Door Of Christ - As An Honest Sinner!
 - You Will Find That He Is Good:
 - In His Will! And:
 - His Will Is To “Save Them To Uttermost That Come Unto God By Him!” (Hebrews 7:25)

* We Can Also See - When Christian Came To The Gate - He Knocked As:

3. ***A Hesitant Man!***

- Right Under That Gate Was:
 - The “Threshold Between Two Worlds!”
 - The Old World:
 - That He Knew So Well:
 - Even Though He Knew It Was Destined To “Melt With Fervent Heat, The Earth Also And The Works That Are Therein Shall Be Burned Up!” (2 Peter 3:10)
 - But - There Was Also:
 - A New World:
 - For A New Creature!
 - With The Promise Of A New Heaven & A New Earth! (Revelation 21:1)
 - And So - There Was Still:
 - A Bit Of Hesitancy In This Pilgrim!
 - So - As He “Was Stepping In” And Through The Gate:
 - He Probably Wondered What It Would Mean For Him:
 - “Old Things Are Passed Away; Behold, All Things Are Become New!”
- But - As He Crossed That Threshold - What Happened?
 - He Found That Man “Named Good-Will” To Be:
 - Good In His Watch-Care:
 - Over Him!
 - Bunyan Wrote That - “When Christian Was Stepping In, The Other Gave Him A Pull!”
- So - Even If There Was:
 - A Bit Of Doubt & Hesitancy:
 - Still In The Heart Of Christian:
 - There Was No Hesitancy:
 - In The Heart Of Christ!
 - Though Christian Believed:
 - Yet, Good-Will Still Helped Him:
 - With His Unbelief!
- So We See That:
 - For Christian - It Wasn’t Primarily:
 - His Knock That Saved Him:
 - But The Pull!
- And So It Is For You!
 - When You Come And Knock:
 - On The Door Of Christ - Even As A Hesitant Sinner:
 - Still Full Of Wonder & Questions:
 - And Maybe Even Some Doubt!
 - You Will Find That He Is Good:
 - In His Watch-Care Over ***You!***
 - We Need To Remember That:
 - “Salvation Is Of The Lord!” (Jonah 2:9)
 - And - He Is The One That Has:
 - Drawn You & Pulled You:
 - To The Door:
 - All Along!

- Just Like He Awakened Christian:
 - To The Burden On His Back:
 - He Awakened You:
 - To Your Need Of Salvation As Well!
- Just Like He Sent Evangelist:
 - To Help Christian - And To:
 - “Preach The Gospel Of Peace, And Bring Glad Tidings Of Good Things!”
 - He Did The Same For You!
 - Through Parents & Preachers & Friends:
 - To Lead You To Christ!
- And - Just Like He Opened The Door:
 - When Christian Knocked:
 - He Will The Door For You!
 - The Knock Of Faith Is No Surprise To Him!
 - He Waits For It:
 - Because He Is Watching & Listening For It & For You!
- Even As Jesus Said:
 - In John 6:44 - “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day!”
- And That Watch-Care Is So Important:
 - Because - Even At The Last Possible Moment:
 - The Soul Of The Sinner:
 - Is In Danger!
 - Beelzebub - The Devil Himself:
 - Keeps Shooting Arrows At Them:
 - “If Haply They May Die Before They Can Enter In!”
- But - Christian Was Pulled Through The Gate:
 - By The Hand Of Good-Will Himself!
 - And - From That Moment On:
 - He Was Safe!
 - And - You Will Be Too:
 - The Moment You Turn To & Trust In Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Savior From Sin!
- Because - Jesus Himself Says:
 - John 10:28-29 - “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. / My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand!”
 - So - Christian Was Now A Christian!
 - Not Just In Name - But:
 - In Nature!

* And That Is Why - Within The Gate - Christian Was Still:

4. A Humble Man!

- He Just Couldn’t Believe That:
 - The Door Of The Gate:
 - Could Be Opened To:
 - Such A Sinner As He!
 - In The Conversation Between:
 - Good-Will & Christian:
 - Good-Will Asked Him About His Journey!
 - About Who He Left & Who He Met!
 - So - Christian Told Him:
 - About His Family & About Obstinate & Pliable:
 - About Mr. Worldly-Wiseman & Even Evangelist!
 - But - When He Told Him About:
 - Pliable Turning Back:
 - When He Got Out Of The Slough Of Despond:
 - Christian Had To Add - “If I Should Also Say All The Truth About Myself, It

Will Appear There Is No Betterment Betwixt Him And Myself!”

- This Is The Kind Of Humility:
 - That God Promises To Honor!
 - As James Tells Us:
 - In James 4:10 - “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up!”
- And So - Even Within The Gate:
 - He Found That Man “Name Good-Will” To Be:
 - Good In His Welcome!
 - As Christian Told Him About Pliable:
 - His Response Was One Of Compassion & Concern!
 - “Alas, Poor Man!” - He Said!
 - “Is The Celestial City Of So Small Esteem With Him, That He Counteth It Not Worth Running The Hazards Of A Few Difficulties To Obtain It?”
 - Even Though Pliable Turned Back:
 - The Wicket-Gate Was Still In Its Place!
 - The Sign Was Still Over The Door!
 - And The Gate-Keeper Was Still At His Post!
 - So That - Whenever The Knock Should Comes:
 - He Is Ready - And When He Opens The Door:
 - “No Man Can Shut It!” (Revelation 3:8)
 - And So It Is For You!
 - When You Knock & Enter Through:
 - The Door Of Christ - As A Humble Person:
 - You Will Find That He Is Good:
 - In His Welcome!
 - In Spite Of:
 - All That You Were & All That You’ve Done:
 - The Lord Says:
 - “We Make No Objections Against Any, Notwithstanding All That They Have Done Before They Come Hither!”
 - And - This Is Possible Because:
 - “Where Sin Abounded, Grace Did Much More Abound!” (Romans 5:20)

* And That Is Why - With Christian Safely Within The Gate - He Was Finally:

5. A Happy Man!

- When He Made It Through The Gate:
 - He Said - “I Rejoice And Tremble!”
 - So - Even Though There Was Still:
 - A Bit Of Fear - There Was Much More:
 - Joy & Rejoicing In His Heart!
 - He Could Sing:
 - As King David Did:
 - In Psalm 13:5-6 - “But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. / I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me!”
- And So It Can Be For You!
 - When You Knock & Enter Through:
 - The Door Of Christ!
 - You Can Now Be A Truly Happy Person:
 - Because You Will Find Him To Be Your Friend!
 - Even As Jesus Said:
 - In John 15:15 - “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you!”

Conclusion:

1. So - When You Come - Like Christian:
 - To The Gate Of Salvation:

- Just As You Are!
 - As A Hungry, Honest, Hesitant, But Humble Sinner!
- You Will Find At That Gate:
 - Someone Who Is:
 - Truly Good!
 - Good In His Work!
 - Good In His Will!
 - Good In His Watch-Care!
 - And - Good In His Welcome!
- 2. And Through Him:
 - You Can Become:
 - Truly Happy!
 - Because - As Jeremiah 17:7 Tells Us:
 - “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is!”
- 3. And - All You Must Do Is:
 - “Knock, And It Shall Be Opened Unto You!”
 - So - Knock:
 - Just As You Are!

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