

HTPC Sunday School

Opening Assembly

November 3, 2019

Memory Verse: Psalm 121:1-4

Recite these verses from memory.

REVIEW: Psalm 121:1-4

1. I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
2. My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth
3. He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
4. Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

NEW: Psalm 121:5-6

5. The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on
your right hand.
6. The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

NEW Song:

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

1. He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
What e'er I d, Where e'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain: He leadeth me, he leadeth me:
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful foll'wer I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought (cont.)

2. Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis his hand that leadeth me.

Refrain: He leadeth me, he leadeth me:
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful foll'wer I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

Children's Classes Dismissal

With the Shepherds on the Delectable Mountains

- As the company approaches the Delectable Mountains they are welcomed by a group of Shepherds.
- The Shepherds say, “This is a pleasant group. We welcome you here, for we have provisions for those who are feeble, as well as for those who are strong. Our Prince is concerned about what is done for the least of these, so infirmities can in no way limit or hinder our hospitality.”
- This calls to mind Christ’s command to care for the least of His people.
- Great-heart states that this shows that they have really been touched by the grace of God, as they bear fruit of His work in their lives.

Sight Seeing on the Mountains

- The Shepherds took the opportunity to show them some of the same sights they showed Christian.

The Man of Faith

- The man of faith is tearing down mountains, and this is to show that one's faith can face any challenge that comes their way. This is because ultimately they labor in the Lord's strength.

The Man in White

- The man in white represents the one who has a pure life.
- Though many seek to attack him by throwing dirt at him, the dirt falls off of his clothes.
- The world hates those who are righteous and will do anything to bring them down, but the Lord preserves them.
- Ultimately the righteous are clothed in Christ's righteousness, but if that is the case God continues to make them more holy and give them a pure life.
- If one attacks the righteous it will be done in vain, and in fact, it's quite dangerous to attack a righteous man.
- It's also a call to us to seek to live honorably. 1 Peter 2:12 says, "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."

The Generous Man

- “Next they took them to Mount Charity where they showed them a man who had, lying in front of him, a bundle of cloth. From this cloth he made coats and garments for the poor, who were standing around him. Yet his bundle of cloth never diminished in size. ‘What does this mean?’ asked the pilgrims. One of the shepherds replied, ‘This is to show you that he who has a heart to help the poor will never run out of resources.’
- Proverbs 11:25: Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

The Black Man and the Fools

- They see now two men that are attempting to wash an Ethiopian to make him white.
- This is seen as foolish, as they are trying to make him like themselves.
- “A fool will attempt to change a person to make him like himself, not realizing that God is the originator of our differences. True righteousness has nothing to do with the outward appearance but is of the heart. Every effort to effect change in a person that disregards the need for change in the inner nature of the heart results in frustration and even greater unrighteousness. So it was with the Pharisees, and so it continues to be with all hypocrites.”

The Terrifying By-Way to Hell

- Mercy gets a glimpse into the by-way to hell, where she hears the cries of anguish from those who are lost.
- Romans 3:15-16: Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery.

Mercy receives the looking glass

- Mercy has long desired the looking glass.
- It is said to be “of great value” as it shows “Him to those who earnestly seek Him.”
- Do we long to see Christ in this way? She wanted the looking glass so much that it hurt--do we have this same burning desire to have a glimpse of our Savior?

The Shepherds send them on their Way

- The Shepherds send them out knowing that Great-heart is a good guide.
- Their song is a reminder that the world to come is their true home

Remembering Turn-away

- They come to a place where Christian met Turn-Away who lived in the land of apostasy.
- This was someone whose heart was so hardened that even when Evangelist sought to rescue him, he still kicked against it.
- It is said that he refused to listen to counsel, but when he was falling no one could stop it. This is a grave and serious warning--apostasy starts slowly, but when begun it is rapid.
- This calls to mind the warnings in the book of Hebrews--it is a fearful thing to turn from God.

Valiant-for-truth and His Conflict

- Valiant-for-Truth had to stand firm against those who would disrupt his journey
- He was told he could join those attacking him, turn back or die. So he fought, after calling on the Lord who helped him.
- The attackers retreated.
- We are shown that his sword represents the Word of God.
- Hebrews 4:12 is referenced.

Valiant-for-truth tells how he became a pilgrim

- Valiant-for-Truth talks about how he had been in Dark-land, near the City of Destruction when a missionary came and told him the Good News about Christian.
- Reminder of the importance of evangelistic and missionary work.

The Joy of Loved Ones Reunited in the City

- It is told that Christian's story has gone far and wide
- But the question is raised as to whether or not believers will know and recognize their relatives in the Celestial City. Great-heart answers that they will, even though the earthly family relations are dissolved. There will be a great gladness to see them there.

Arguments Made Against Valiant-For-Truth's Pilgrimage

- Valiant-for-Truth's parents sought to dissuade him from his journey by leveling many arguments, from the hardships of the Christian life to the plights of others who had struggled in the Christian life.
- This is understandably difficult as one who wants to honor his parents would want their approval.
- There is still an element here of seeking the approval of God more than man. Even parents can lead their children to destruction.

He Remains Undaunted

- His faith kept him trusting in the midst of this opposition.
- 1 John 5:4 says, “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.”

On the Enchanted Ground

- As they come to enchanted ground they faced many obstacles, including the temptation to rest.
- There was an Arbor called “the Slothful’s Friend,” and its purpose was to allure, if possible, some of the pilgrims into resting when they became weary.”
- They resisted this temptation, however, and pressed through.

Great-heart's Map

- Great-heart has to use his map at this point to keep his company from losing their way or drowning in mud
- This map is God's Word
- The Word of God is necessary in a Christian's daily life

The Two Sleepers

- They come across Heedless and Toobold.
- They were asleep.
- No matter what they did, they were unable to wake these two up.

They are Helped

- After they pray, the Lord allows the air to become clear.
- They are able to see better one another as well as their path.
- Is prayer a regular part of our pilgrimage?
- This along with the Word of God lit their path (2 Peter 1:19)

They Meet Stand-fast

- They meet and join Mr. Stand-fast, a man they saw praying a long the way.
- Mr. Stand-fast is shown to be right with the Lord as he fears the Lord.
- He fears God rather than men.

The Danger of the Enchanted Ground

- Mr. Stand-fast had been praying because of the dangers of the road he was on.
- The death of the Enchanted Ground is not obvious, but it begins with pleasure.
- Sin often appears soothing even until the end but brings about destruction.

Stand-fast's Struggle with Madame Deception

- A woman named Madame Deception is said to be the Mistress of the World and makes men happy
- The only way he found to escape her was through prayer.
- We must pray that the Lord would lead us not into temptation, as the world is deceptive and alluring

The Truth About this Woman

- This woman who represents the world is said to a witch who leads many to hell and destruction.
- Do we think about the world this way?
- James 4:4 speaks about friendship with the world being enmity with God. How many worldly things do we seek to baptize and even redeem so that we can attempt having both God and the world?

Discussion Questions

- Why is it important to show hospitality to the least of these? What does it reveal about our hearts when we do not?
- Mercy longed to see Christ. What keeps us from this same longing?
- Apostasy often begins in a subtle manner, but once begun proceeds rapidly. How are we to keep watch against apostasy? What is the connection between sound doctrine and staying firm in the faith?
- How do we often think about the world? What kinds of warnings do we see from Stand-fast? How do we fight the world's temptations?
- Prayer is seen as vital throughout these chapters. Is prayer part of your daily diet? Why or why not? Why is it so important?