

THE BULWARK

LESSONS LEARNED IN BARNES & NOBLE

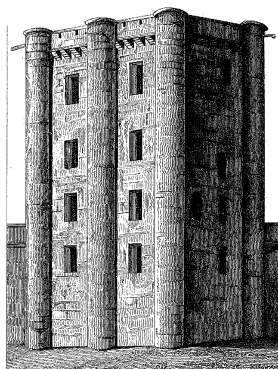
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*“Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following”*
Psalms 48:13

*“Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes,
and look on the fields, that they are white
for harvest.”* (John 4:35) Jesus oft times
used slices of everyday life to teach a
spiritual lesson; such was the case in this
instance while in the region of Samaria.
Life flies by all so quickly and with it
delicious slices thereof seemingly are lost
because we don’t *“lift up our eyes”*.

When my wife went to see a friend, she
suggested I wait for her at Barnes & No-
ble, which I was more than happy to do.
After all, what man in his right mind
wants to be the “third wheel”, especially
when they are talking about plants and
whatnot. Having browsed around the
store, and selected a couple of books, I
went to the in store Starbucks. Placed my
order, got my cup of de-caf and found a
place to sit and just observe. It didn’t take
too long before something caught my
eye. I saw a little girl of about three, who
was running as fast as her little feet
would carry her. Her father, fast on her
heels trying his best to catch up. She
knew exactly where she was going.
There was a lighted sign that caught her
eye, and when she got there, she stopped,
turned and smiled at her father, who was
clearly out of breath. But, when he
caught his breath, he was captivated by
her smile, and his face broke out into a
wide smile.

Wouldn’t it be amazing if all were that
drawn to the Light? Jesus made the fol-
lowing statement that is found recorded
in John 8:12. *“I am the light of the world;
he who follows Me shall not walk in*

darkness; but shall the light of life.” That
little girl wouldn’t be denied, until she
reached the light. When she did, all was
well.

In the second vignette that played out in
front of me, once again it centered around
a little girl, who was not older than two.
Both of her parents went different direc-
tions, the little girl was left stranded. The
look on her face was one of absolute fear.
She began to cry and then cried out first
for her mother, then for her father. It was
heart breaking. After what seemed to be
an eternity, her father came, grabbed her
by the hand and then quick stepped her
down one of the aisles.

The author of Hebrews reminds the chil-
dren of God of the following, which is
found in chapter thirteen and verse five.
*“I will never desert you, nor will I ever
forsake you.”* What comfort. While my
heart broke for the little girl, even after
her father came back and retrieved her, it
got my mind thinking. While God remains
a constant; yet how many of His children
have turned their backs on Him? In the
sixteenth chapter of Ezekiel, there is the
moving illustration of God’s loving care
for Israel and her open rejection of Him.
Yet, God remained ever watchful for the
return of the wayward child (see verses 61-
63) Is He watching for your return?

Indeed there are any number of lessons
that can be seen each and every day, if we
will simply lift up our eyes. *“Having
eyes, do you not see?...”* (Mark 8:18) (wbe)