

How does Chaucer present good clergymen in 'The Prologue'?

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Geoffrey Chaucer (1340-1400) shows that not all churchmen are corrupt. Some are truly good, pure, and faithful. In "The General Prologue", he praises the Parson, the Clerk of Oxford, and the Ploughman. Through them, Chaucer presents true religion, honest work, and humble service to God.

The Parson: The Parson is the best example of a good priest. He is poor in money but rich in faith. He loves God with all his heart. Chaucer says about him,

"Riche he was of hooly thoght and werk."

(He was rich in holy thought and work.)

He teaches the Bible in a true way. He does not run after gold or fame. He stays in his village and cares for his people. He walks to visit the sick and sad. He is kind, gentle, and humble. He never speaks proudly. He does his duty with honesty. Among all the pilgrims, he is the most holy and pure. His life shows what a real priest should be.

The Clerk of Oxford: The Clerk of Oxford is poor but good. He loves studying more than money. He spends all he has on books. He learns with great care and teaches with joy. So, Chaucer says,

"And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche."

(And gladly would he learn and gladly teach.)

He speaks little but always speaks wisely. His life is simple and pure. He is not proud or greedy. He prays through learning and lives with peace. He shows that true knowledge is also a way to serve God.

The Ploughman: The Ploughman, brother of the Parson, is a good Christian worker. He loves God with all his heart and loves his neighbour too. He works hard and helps others without pay. He pays his taxes honestly. He rides in simple clothes on a small horse. His pure heart shows that a poor man can also be holy.

Through the Parson, Clerk, and Ploughman, Chaucer shows real faith and goodness. They are honest, wise, and kind. In a world full of greed, they shine like true servants of God.

LxNotes