

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

December 11th, 2016 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 7, Part 2 - He Throws Off The Mask And Cruelly Treats His Wife (pages 58-62)

I'd like to start by highlighting a portion of the book from today's message on page 59 where it says; *"Now, all these advantages the children of ungodly parents lack, and so are more in danger of being carried away with the errors of the wicked. Ungodly parents neither pray for their children, nor do, nor can, heartily instruct them. They don't in a godly way restrain them from evil, nor do they keep them from evil company. They do not show disapproval, nor yet do they forewarn their children to beware of such evil actions that are an abomination to God and to all good men. They let their children break the Sabbath, swear, lie, act wickedly and vainly. They do not commend to their children a holy life, nor set a good example before their eyes. No, they do everything wrong, estranging their children from the love of God and all good men as soon as they are born. Therefore, it is a very great judgment of God upon children to be the offspring of worldly and ungodly parents. (Job 30:8)"*

If children are raised by ungodly parents, the parents will more than likely reap (or bring up) an ungodly child. But if parents are Christians, they reverence and honor God in all they do regarding the decision making of their children, they will reap (or bring up) godly children, if, that child submits to their parents teaching of the Bible. Badman however, was raised by Godly parents but rejected their teaching, rejected the Bible and any Godly influence in his life. You see, you're not physically born a Christian with a desire to do godly deeds. The Bible says you're born in sin and salvation is a choice you make when you comprehend and understand that you're a sinner who needs to be saved. Infant baptism will not save a child. You are saved by grace through faith, a conscientious decision we make according to **Ephesians 2:8. Galatians 6:6-10** says; *"Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."*

II Timothy 3:1-9 is a scripture verse that sums up the life of Mr. Badman and unfortunately, many of the same characteristics he instilled in his children. It says; *"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was."* So perverse was Badmans character, that he turned to be an 'informer' on his own wife and all her Christian brothers and sisters, the church of Christ Jesus. Now because he didn't want to 'look bad' in the eyes of his business associates so as to loose money, he became like a Mafioso and hired hit-men to bring persecution to the Christian church. As we know from John Bunyan's day, the evangelical church which was still very new, was being severely persecuted by the Catholic church who would go to great lengths to quench and snuff out any non-conformist churches or gatherings.

At times you may think that God doesn't see the injustices and persecution that Christians face every day. But He does, and as we'll read about in these next stories, God ultimately brought His hand of judgment upon them, just as He will do to those who still breath out threats and are persecuting Christians today, whether we physically see it with our eyes or not, God is not mocked and He has the final say. First thought, let's re-read what happened to the man mentioned in the book who was an informer and persecutor of the church (pg.61).

"WISEMAN. In our town, there was a certain W.S., a man living a very wicked life. When he found a reason for his action, he turned informer. Well, so he did, and was as diligent in the business as most of them could be. He

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would watch at nights, climb trees, and range the woods for days if possible to find out the church attenders when they were forced to meet in the fields. Yes, he would curse them bitterly, and swear most fearfully what he would do to them when he found them. Well, after he had gone on like bedlam [a lunatic asylum] in his course for a while, and had done some mischief to the people, he was struck by the hand of God, and in this way:

1. Although his tongue worked well normally, now he was taken with a fluttering in his speech, and for weeks on end could not speak except like a man that was drunk.
2. Then he was taken with drawling and slobbering at his mouth, so that his slobber would sometimes run from his mouth nearly half way down to the ground.
3. Then he developed a weakness in the back sinews of his neck so that often he could not look in front of him unless he clapped his hand hard on his forehead, and held up his head that way by strength of hand.
4. After this, his speech quite left him so that he could speak no more than a pig or a bear. Therefore, like one of them, he would grunt and make an ugly noise, according to how much he was offended or pleased, or wanted something to be done, etc.

In this state, he continued for the space of half a year or thereabouts, all the while well enough to go about his business, except once when he had a fall from the bell that hangs in our steeple, making me wonder why it did not kill him. But after that, he also walked about until God had made a sufficient spectacle of his judgement of his sin, and, all of a sudden, he had a stroke, and died miserably. That was an end of him and his doings."

Judas Iscariot, one of the chosen 12 disciples, who betrayed Jesus, sowed to the flesh and he reaped from the flesh. **Acts 1:18-20** says; "(Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)" "For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.'" This shows God's judgment on an 'informant' as Judas was. He betrayed Jesus which brought persecution and ultimately led to his crucifixion.

Saul of Tarsus, who later became the great Apostle Paul was an 'informant' who was brutal in his persecution of the early church. We read about his conversion in **Acts 9:1-5**; "Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." Saul was judged by God for his persecution against the Christians as he was struck down and became blind. Thankfully he repented and three days later as we read, a Christian brother came to him, laid hands on him, prayed and he received his sight back and was filled with the Holy Spirit. It does go on to say in **vs. 16**, "For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." Now there is much theological debate as to whether Jesus meant that as Saul persecuted others, he'd be persecuted or not. We won't comment on that but Saul's conversion was like none other in the history of the early church.

Elymas the sorcerer. We read about him in **Acts 13:6-12**; "Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord." The judgment of God came on Elymas because of his

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persecution of the early Christians. Again, God isn't mocked. Judgment will come upon any today who are persecuting Christians. Mr. Badman again had his ultimate judgment coming, God saw all of his actions towards his family and the church.

Jezebel from the Old Testament is a perfect example of an 'informant' or persecutor of the children of God. She was a heathen princess who married one of the Kings of Israel, Ahab. It says that Ahab was the most evil of all the Kings of Israel. I'd like to reference here a quote from Easton's Bible Dictionary regarding Jezebel.

"Jezebel - chaste, the daughter of Ethbaal, the king of the Zidonians, and the wife of Ahab, the king of Israel (1 Kings 16:31). This was the "first time that a king of Israel had allied himself by marriage with a heathen princess; and the alliance was in this case of a peculiarly disastrous kind. Jezebel has stamped her name on history as the representative of all that is designing, crafty, malicious, revengeful, and cruel. She is the first great instigator of persecution against the saints of God. Guided by no principle, restrained by no fear of either God or man, passionate in her attachment to her heathen worship, she spared no pains to maintain idolatry around her in all its splendour. Four hundred and fifty prophets ministered under her care to Baal, besides four hundred prophets of the groves [RSV, 'prophets of the Asherah'], which ate at her table (1 Kings 18:19). The idolatry, too, was of the most debased and sensual kind." Her conduct was in many respects very disastrous to the kingdom both of Israel and Judah (21:1-29). At length she came to an untimely end. As Jehu rode into the gates of Jezreel, she looked out at the window of the palace, and said, "Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?" He looked up and called to her chamberlains, who instantly threw her from the window, so that she was dashed in pieces on the street, and his horses trod her under their feet. She was immediately consumed by the dogs of the street (2 Kings 9:7-37), according to the word of Elijah the Tishbite (1 Kings 21:19). Her name afterwards came to be used as the synonym for a wicked woman (Revelation 2: 20). It may be noted that she is said to have been the grand-aunt of Dido, the founder of Carthage." It is said that they only found her skull, feet and palms of her hands and could not bury her, which was also a fulfillment of Elijah's prophecy against her.

This is a very clear example of God's judgment against those who persecuted his people - the Israelites - but also for any today who do the same. This same spirit of Jezebel is operative today in the world and unfortunately in the church too. In itself, it is neither male nor female so it can operate through a man or a woman. Again, Mr. Badman was an excellent example of one who was controlled by a Jezebel spirit.

I'd like to list 10 characteristics of the Jezebel spirit that are given by *Kimberly M Snyder*.

- 1. It seeks to gain popularity and favor with people of influential and high positions of leadership.*
- 2. It will seek out other individuals they feel are "weaker" to become followers of them.*
- 3. It is never humble. Whenever this spirit receives praise, it always responds in false humility.*
- 4. It is defensive and combative whenever confronted about anything.*
- 5. It loves to teach and seeks to gain control in every situation.*
- 6. It wants to be seen as the most spiritual and powerful one~typically loves to pray elaborate long prayers*
- 7. It will not submit to authority.*
- 8. It loves to pray and impart evil demonic spirits into others especially in the church.*
- 9. It hates the voice of the prophet and seeks to control and destroy those who operate in the prophetic.*
- 10. It will never repent!"*

How many people around the world are dying or terrible things are happening to them today because they're being judged by God for persecuting the Christian church, it's prophetic word - the Holy Bible - which is more sure word of prophecy? If God didn't spare any of those we've just read about, He's still very involved and active of doing the same today I believe. **II Peter 1:16-21** says, *"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private*

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interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

In the midst of persecution, it would be easy to react in the flesh, take matters into your own hands for your own defense. But as it says in **Romans 12:9-21**, that vengeance belongs to God alone. That's encouraging. *"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." **Hebrews 10:26-31** also says; "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*

It may seem that Mr. Badman is getting away with his wickedness, but He isn't. He will reap what he's sown. It may seem that your persecutors are getting away with their evil deeds, but they aren't. You have to continue in prayer for those who persecute you, who are 'informants' about you to speak evil and false accusations, who maliciously lie and gossip. God isn't blind, He sees everything. Now at Christmas we're usually reflecting on the beauty of Jesus being born, the celebration and praise, which is beautiful, but we must remember this. It wasn't but a short time after his birth - up to two years - that King Herod massacred all the male children in Bethlehem because he saw Jesus the Messiah as a threat to his kingdom. Persecution happened shortly after Jesus was born. You can read about it in [Matthew 2](#). Jesus said that if they hate you, it's because they hated Him first. God has given us the powerful weapon of prayer. If you find yourself in a place of persecution, pray now for your persecutors, forgive them and ask that Jesus be revealed to them and that they'd repent like Saul did. Ultimately, God is not willing that any perish but that all come to repentance.

This is an excellent video on the persecuted church. [Early Christians Persecution](#). Warning; Violent Scenes.