

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

January 29th, 2017 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 9 - Part 1 - "Badman's Fraudulent Dealings To Get Money" (pages 74-77, please read it first)

Weights, measures, balances and scales. In opening, let's read two Old Testament scriptures, the first in **Leviticus 19:35-36** says the following; " *You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume. You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.*" The second is **Deuteronomy 25:13-16**; "*You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a heavy and a light. You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small. You shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure, that your days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. For all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination to the LORD your God.*" So the argument would be that Badman wasn't a Christian, so you can't expect him to live by God's word, which is true, but again let's mirror it into the lives of Christians as it applies to us as much as it did the Jewish people who had just been liberated out of Egypt. God's word is true whether we believe it or not and His judgments are just and true whether we choose to believe it or not. Unjust weights and measures are another form of lying, they're untruths.

Wiseman says on page 76 the following:

"WISEMAN: Thus you see how fully and plainly the Word of God is against this sin and those that fall into it. Therefore, Mr. Badman, in that he used these things to rook and cheat his neighbours, is rightly rejected from including his name among the roll of the godly.

WISEMAN. Whether it is counted an evil or a virtue by men, it doesn't matter. You see in the Scriptures the judgement of God is upon it. It was not counted an evil by Mr. Badman, nor is it by any that still follow in his footsteps. But, I say, it is no matter how men count these things, but how they measure up to the judgement of God, and rather, because, when we ourselves have done weighing and measuring to others, God will weigh and measure both us and our actions. When he does so, as he will shortly, then woe to him to whom, and of whose actions, it shall be said by him: "TEKEL, thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting" (Dan. 5:27). God will then recompense their evil of deception upon their own heads when he shuts them out of his presence, favour, and kingdom, forever and ever."

Naivety would say that fraud, differing weights, measures, balances and scales are not practiced in today's evangelical church. On the contrary, it does. Let's read what happened to Jacob and how his father-in-law Laban cheated him in **Genesis 31:4-13**; "*So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock, and said to them, "I see your father's countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me. And you know that with all my might I have served your father. Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me. If he said thus: 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore speckled. And if he said thus: 'The streaked shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked. So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. "And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted. Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.'"*

In the midst of having someone defraud you, God sees and will justify and defend you as he did Jacob. You look at the persecuted church around the world today. In the natural, they are the ones who look like they're

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

defrauded, the cheated one or the underdog. Reality is though that they are - we are - the blessed ones! God defends the sins committed against us doesn't He. He sees the unjust measurements and balances dealt to us. The Bible reference above from **Daniel 5:27** says in the Amplified Bible; "*TEKEL - you have been weighted on the scales [of righteousness] and found deficient*;" Read the whole chapter to get the full context of the story, but it was the judgment that came on the King Belshazzar for his sin against God and His people. God is just in His measurements!

I thought of this is reading the chapter. How do you know if you're getting the 250gr. of a certain product, or do you know when you weigh the bananas you buy at the supermarket that the weigh scale is accurate, or when you put in 20 liters of gas in your vehicle that the pumps haven't been adjusted? So there are innumerable examples of weights and balances in our society, not wanting to be pessimistic, suspicious or jump to conspiracy theories. In almost all situations, we give the retailer the benefit of the doubt don't we, that they're not cheating us out.

Let's look at the fraudulent fundraising in churches and Christian media. Making untrue claims about numbers of first time salvations, healings, deliverances, etc., with no real substantial evidence of it being true with the objective of selling you a story that motivates you to invest in their ministry by donating money. A classic example of unjust weights in ministry would be the Minister selling you an exaggeration of the size of the altar calls at meetings, with pictures and video shots to reveal alter crowds, without showing the true number of people. It's amazing what you can do with a camera to make the crowds look huge.

Re-running life changing testimonials on a new TV show from previous shows without informing the viewer that it's an old testimony. Better yet testimonies from the past, but presently the individual is backslidden, or they are no longer healed, or valid claims they made at the time of testimony are no longer valid in their lives presently months later... the list goes on and on. Fraudulent because they're not showing or telling the truth for the monetary gain from the viewing audience.

Another example would be the yearly raising money that is designated for a present one time project, stating that **all** of your money is going to a specific ministry need to help the poor but in reality only one out of the ten dollar donation covers the project need and the other nine dollars covers various ministry expenses for the rest of the year, with the end justifying the means.

In all of these examples, the righteous thing or just thing to do would be to inform members or viewers the truth, right! What has happened is fraud. They've communicated one thing to but are doing another. Not **all** the money is going to where they promised it would go to. They're visually showing one thing, but the opposite is true. They're raising more money than what the project is actually worth. The ends do not justify the means, it's an unjust weight, measure and balance. And...the Lord sees and will judge accordingly if there isn't repentance.

Judas Iscariot was a prime example of a 'corrupt fundraiser'. He had no care or compassion for the poor as we read in **John 12:3-6**; "*Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it." Judas' ultimate love for money destroyed his office as treasurer.*

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Unjust weights affect the length of your life. **Deuteronomy 25:13-16** says; "*You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a heavy and a light. You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small. You shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure, that your days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. For all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination to the LORD your God.*"

We've read the word 'abomination' a few times now. It means; 'that which is exceptionally loathsome, hateful, sinful, wicked or vile.' God is using the strongest word possible to express how He feels about this topic. Extortion of the poor will not only affect you physically but also spiritually. Let's read **Amos 8:4-12**; "*Hear this, you who swallow up the needy, and make the poor of the land fail, saying; "When will the New Moon be past, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may trade wheat? Making the ephah small and the shekel large, falsifying the scales by deceit, that we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals— even sell the bad wheat?" The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their works. Shall the land not tremble for this, and everyone mourn who dwells in it? All of it shall swell like the River, heave and subside like the River of Egypt. "And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord GOD, "That I will make the sun go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in broad daylight; I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist, and baldness on every head; I will make it like mourning for an only son, and its end like a bitter day. "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it."* Spiritual famine. Ministers who can't even hear the word of the Lord any more due to their sins of exploiting the poor by falsifying the scales by deceit.

Malachi 1:6-14; "*A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts to you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' "You offer defiled food on My altar, but say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' by saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.' And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. "But now entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. "Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, so that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; in every place incense shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering; for My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts. "But you profane it, in that you say, 'The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.' You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the LORD of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD. "But cursed be the deceiver who has in his flock a male, and takes a vow, but sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished— For I am a great King," Says the LORD of hosts, "And My name is to be feared among the nations."*

Would your Prime Minister, President or Royalty in your country receive your 2nd or 3rd best? No, he would expect the best of the best. Why do you think Almighty God, creator of all things, deserves 2nd or 3rd best? You're deceiving yourselves if you think it's ok. Are you giving God ALL your best? A pure sacrifice and not 2nd best? Are you weary, bored and yawning in serving God and fulfilling your righteous obligations in serving Him? Give to Him what He's asking and what you've promised. Keep your word and do as you say you will.

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Proverbs 20:10; "Diverse weights and diverse measures, they are both alike, an abomination to the Lord."

Micah 6:11; "Shall I count pure those with the wicked scales, and with the bag of deceitful weights?"

True repentance is shown in the life of Zacchaeus when he restored fourfold of what he had fraudulently acquired by unjust weights, balances, measures and scales as he says in **Luke 19:8**; "*Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.'*" Let's say for example that he had one million dollars. \$500,000.00 of that immediately he gave to the poor, and then anything else he had gained by fraud he'd give back four times as much! If there is true repentance in our lives, our actions will show it. There will be a 180 degree turn from the direction we've gone or are going.

In closing today, let's read **Ephesians 4:11-16**; "*And [His gifts to the church were varied and] He Himself appointed some as apostles [special messengers, representatives], some as prophets [who speak a new message from God to the people], some as evangelists [who spread the good news of salvation], and some as pastors and teachers [to shepherd and guide and instruct], [and He did this] to fully equip and perfect the saints (God's people) for works of service, to build up the body of Christ [the church]; until we all reach oneness in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, [growing spiritually] to become a mature believer, reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ [manifesting His spiritual completeness and exercising our spiritual gifts in unity]. So that we are no longer children [spiritually immature], tossed back and forth [like ships on a stormy sea] and **carried about by every wind of [shifting] doctrine, by the cunning and trickery of [unscrupulous] men, by the deceitful scheming of people ready to do anything [for personal profit].** But speaking the truth in love [in all things—both our speech and our lives expressing His truth], let us grow up in all things into Him [following His example] who is the Head—Christ. From Him the whole body [the church, in all its various parts], joined and knitted firmly together by what every joint supplies, when each part is working properly, causes the body to grow and mature, building itself up in [unselfish] love."*

That's why we go to church. To be equipped and built up, to become mature believers and to be instructed how to avoid cunning and crafty doctrines. This is a weighty word today, we know, but we have to show ourselves above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation where we shine as lights as it says in Philippians 2:15.