

September 18th, 2016 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 2 – Part I

Why do people lie? Why is it when you ask a little child if he pulled the dogs tail or pulled the leaves off your plant or scribbled on the walls with crayons or whatever scenario that may come to your mind; the answer is almost always and emphatically ‘no’? Because our innate nature is sin and lying is one of the sins that manifests itself from the earliest part of our lives. The book of **Jeremiah** says very clearly in **17:9**; “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?*” Listen to what Jesus says about the heart in **Luke 6:45**; “*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*” Mr. Badman, it says, did not learn this practice of lying from his parents nor from other children who could set the example for him, but it was as I said, innately part of his nature, or in other words he was born with it, it was natural and instinctive. Now before you think to yourself that you don’t need to proceed with this review because you don’t lie, I’d ask you to stay with me until the end, because the truths that will be revealed to you will set you free. One might think that this message is just for non-Christians, but we’ll see sufficient scriptures to indicate that Christians fall prey to the same temptation.

Let’s look at some definitions and synonyms of the word lie as there are numerous meanings and applications.

- Lie or lying; saying something that isn’t true because you want to deceive; to craft a false notion; to say something that isn’t truthful; to speak something inaccurate in order to misguide.

Mr. Badman from a small child was a ringleader in using these words. He influenced his friends to do likewise. Maybe you grew up with or know of a small child that when they’re playing with others, their vocabulary is continually spewing out lies. If so, you already will know what is in their heart, because it’s coming out of their mouth as we just read in Luke 6:45.

- Prevaricate, equivocate, palter, fib – all of these imply not being truthful. Prevaricate is a softer word signifying to confuse the subject; equivocate would be to use vague language so as to hide the truth and be noncommittal; palter suggests to not be sincere in a promise; fib is not being truthful and is seen as a petty lie.

Do any of those words strike a chord with you? How many have heard that it’s ok to tell a little white lie? No lie is white, clean, pure or holy. Mr. Badman, from a small child, was addicted to, invented and was so bold that he stood fast by his lies. It says that his lies were symptoms of a hard heart. Jesus says in Mark 7:20-23; “*And He said, ‘what comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.’*” We see here already, that his heart was being hardened by his actions. It is sad to see, as is alluded to by Mr. Wiseman, that lack of good education and living in poor conditions or poverty can lead children into bad behaviour, research shows that. But even with all the good education as Mr. Badman had and even very godly education, he yielded himself to evil. **Revelation 21:8** speaks unmistakably about the ultimate destination of unrepentant liars when it says; “*But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*” **Revelation 22:14-15** also says; “*Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers, and whoever loves and practices a lie.*” That’s pretty powerful and fearful if you are a habitual unrepentant liar. You fall into the same category as a murderer, outside of heaven!

- Deceit or deception is the action or the practice of attempting to deceive someone; trick is a characteristic of deceit

Have you heard the expression of someone who could lie through their teeth? Some applaud a person who can so audaciously lie or they get a kick out of it or find it amusing. That's very sad. Mr. Badman's state of heart was so hard even as a child, that even through the rod of correction from his parents he refused to repent. In our society as it stands in most of the western world, if you use the rod of correction on your child – especially in public, be it with a spanking or verbally - you're almost certain to have someone report you to the authorities. Now **Proverbs 22:15** and **23:13-14** are not endorsing, promoting or encouraging physical or verbal abuse when they say; *“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.”* and *“Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.”* Many children are disciplined with stern words, but the Bible clearly teaches the need for parents to discipline their children. Why? It's clear, so that they are delivered from hell. That they don't go down the road of destruction from one sin leading to another and another and so on. Sad to say, Mr. Badman's parents were full of grief because even with correction, he chose to continue in his lies. But parents don't be dissuaded, discouraged or lose faith that your child won't turn around if he is on the road to destruction. God answers prayers and you are to continue to teach them and train them in the way they should go.

- Deceive is to falsify, defraud, beguile, to be ensnared by, to cheat, to make to accept as true or valid something that is false or invalid.

Now we get to the author or beginning of where the act of lying comes from. Jesus is very clear as to where lies come from in **John 8:43-44** where he says; *“Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”* Everything about the devil consists of lying. He is the father of lies. But he needs someone through whom he can propagate his lies – and that would be mankind. The father is the devil and the mother is the heart. The heart is where the seed of the lie can be conceived and then given birth to. A heart not yielded to Jesus Christ is a heart whose father is the devil himself. Jolting words aren't they. I didn't say it...Jesus did!

- Deceive, mislead, delude, and beguile intend to lead one off course by being underhanded. Mislead is the act of causing someone to be lead astray intentionally; delude is imposing a misleading belief on someone; beguile uses charm or enchantment on someone for the purpose of deceiving.

Ananias and his wife Sapphira in the book of Acts are examples given here as they intentionally lied and God saw their hearts motive. **Acts 5:2-5** says; *“And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you received this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.’ Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.”* These two people were professing Christians who were at the very beginning of the early churches power with signs and wonders, yet the devil seduced them into lying and as a result they were made an example of to you and I so as not lie!

- Dishonest implies lack of truth, lack of being honest or trustworthy; it's unfair and deceptive.

Mr. Badman was growing closer and closer with the devil as a young boy and the evidence of it was his propensity to lie.

- Dishonest, deceitful, mendacious, lying, untruthful all mean undeserving of trust or conviction. Mendacious may seem less obvious than outright lying, it may imply mediocre or even harmless naughty deceit, used of people who habitually don't tell the truth.

So how do we know if we're observing God's word and that we truly know Jesus and are not acting like these words describe? **I John 2:3-5** says; *“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.”*

He who says, 'I know Him', and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him." So, plainly enough, we're liars if we say we're Christians and yet don't keep God's commandments. Ouch!

- Flattery is another word describing the word lie. It is hypocritical or excessive praise, usually to get something out of someone.

Proverbs 12:22 says; *"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight."*

Psalms 78:36; *"Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, and they lied to Him with their tongue."*

Proverbs 7:21; *"With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him."*

Proverbs 29:5; *"A man who flatters his neighbour spreads a net for his feet."* **Romans 16:18**; *"For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple."* **I John 4:20**; *"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"*

- Feign is to pretend to be affected by. It's fake, inventing a reason, give a false impression, it's a sham a bluff and a masquerade.

Ephesians 4:25 says; *"Therefore, putting away lying, 'let each of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another."* Here the Apostle Paul is admonishing Christians of their behaviour – to put away lying!

- Vanity has everything to do with one's self; excessive pride in appearance, accomplishments, and achievements; it has the quality of being worthless or futile.

II Corinthians 4:1-2 says; *"Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."* Basically – bottom line – whatever is not of God's truth is a lie. Jesus is truth, **John 14:6**; *"...I am the way, the truth and the life..."* When we personally know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we know truth, and that is the truth we need to walk and live in. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble and pride comes before destruction.

- False is not being genuine, it isn't loyal or faithful. A false person is imprudent, unwise and faithless.

I Peter 3:10 says; *"For he who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit."* Do you want to love life? Do you want to see good days? The answer is very clear isn't it!

All of these words describe Mr. Badman. In this book we're encouraged to look at ourselves to see if we're following on the same road to destruction as he was. So the question is; are you?

From another perspective we can look at the word lie like this; since the devil is the father of lies:

- What has he been lying to you about in your marriage, family, children, parents, job, health, school, sports or hobbies?
- Has he lied to you like he did to Eve in the Garden of Eden, getting you to question what God has spoken to you about?
- Has he lied to you that you don't need to be born again?
- Has he lied to you that God doesn't really love you, care for you or that he'll provide for you?
- Has he lied to you that you don't need to go to church and be in fellowship with other Christians?
- Has he lied to you that you don't need the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues to receive power to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ?

- Has he lied to you that the gifts of the Holy Spirit were only for the early church and apostles and are not for today?

The list of lies is endless. You could be a saint or a sinner and this message could be applicable in some way or another. I'd ask you to pray and if you're not a Christian, to ask Jesus first of all to come into your heart to be your Lord and Saviour, to forgive you of your sins and to become his child. If you are a Christian, you can repent and ask for forgiveness. The lifestyle of lying can end today! Ask the Holy Spirit to help you throughout the day when the devil sends temptations to lie and he will help you! Your heavenly father will deliver you from all temptations.

