

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

October 23rd, 2016 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 3 – Badman’s Apprenticeship to a Religious Master - Part 1 (pages 31-35)

Please view this short video clip entitled "[Plastic Jesus](#)".

At his wits end, Mr. Badman's father sent him off to a religious master to try to bring him to his (spiritual) senses so to speak. Many of you may be acquainted with boarding schools, Christian schools, missionary schools, overseas schools, military schools etc., where parents send their children to for specific educational purposes. The goal was to hopefully have this young son of his to get on track spiritually. Unfortunately that was not what transpired and as we read, he dug his heels in even harder even though his religious master was godly and did all the right things. Mr. Wiseman specifies five areas where education in Christian environments like this can go awry and discourage young people to either backslide or cause them to stumble. I know of people who have attended such educational systems and in many cases, what transpires inside the classrooms and dorms is no different than that of the world.

1. The apprentice is overworked - their curriculum is so full that it doesn't allow time for devotions in the Word of God, prayer, personal and corporate worship
2. The media - whether it be literature, TV, internet, social media, gaming etc., if not monitored, anything and everything will weasel its way into the lives of these young maturing people which will corrupt and steal all godly and holy teaching they're receiving
3. Bad company - where there is a mixture of good kids and kids bent on evil. **I Corinthians 15:33** says; "*Do not be deceived: Evil companionship corrupt good morals.*" Or other translations use 'manners, character or habits for morals.
4. Duality as a Christian - a teacher who has double standards. We recently watched a Christian movie where this was evident in one of the school teachers who was dealing drugs to his sports students. Saying they're Christian but whose lifestyle is contrary.
5. Also, duality as a Christian - outside of the school they have corrupt business practices like a bad salesman lying to their clients etc.

The story of Eli the priest in the Old Testament is a good example which shows the corruption of his sons who were being trained up in the Levitical priesthood. These sons had every opportunity to honour and serve God in purity and holiness, yet they rebelled. [I Samuel 2:12-36](#) , [I Samuel 3](#) , [I Samuel 4](#) . The people saw their wickedness, God saw their wickedness, Eli knew their wickedness and ultimately it lead to their death by the Philistines.

Mr. Badman too had everything available to him; good books, instruction, sermons, examples and school mates yet he mocked, scorned, made a by-word of and laughed at them all. **Proverbs 15:12** says; "*A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, nor will he go to the wise.*" **Proverbs 9:8** says; "*Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.*" How often have you seen that happen? A scoffer will turn on you. A very powerful example of people who mock their Christian teachers or leaders is found in **II Kings 2:23-24** where the prophet Elisha is being scoffed and mocked at; "*then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, 'Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!' So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the Lord. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.*" Holy judgement came on them for their mocking the man of God. **Galatians 6:6-8** 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.*"

In church services, Mr. Badman would fall asleep, lust after young girls or whisper, giggle or play with others until church was over. He wanted nothing to do with Christianity. **John 3:19-20**; "*And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*" **Matthew 13:14-16**, Jesus also says; "*And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their*

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eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear."

Do you think this story is just about the badness of Mr. Badman or does it apply to you, the Christian? Lets mirror his life in a Christian. Badman was just acting like his father the devil - in rebellion and disobedience - he wasn't even trying to be a Christian. As a Christian, what kinds of sins are you giving yourself over to and not fleeing from? You may have heard the analogy of a frog that's put in a pot of room temperature water. Slowly the temperature is turned up but it doesn't jump out to save itself, but dies as the water is now at a full boil. It got comfortable to the point of death! Did you used to love reading the Bible but now find it dry; ushering at church used to be fulfilling but now you do whatever it takes to skip out; you can't worship like you used to because your mind is somewhere else, you were a fervent prayer warrior but now you have no zeal, you were eagerly at church but now you can barely drag yourself to the house of the Lord or countless other examples. Has the devil blinded your eyes? Has your heart grown dull? Have you become hard of hearing or just blatantly closed your eyes to Jesus? Are you willfully turning from Christ and willfully sinning and loosing or have lost your passion for Jesus?

II Corinthians 4:1-5 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. But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake."* Paul says that if you can't perceive the Word or message being preached, it's because you have a veil on. The devil has blinded your mind so that you can't comprehend and see the light of truth. You're actually perishing and the light has been turned out in your heart and mind.

I know there are those who believe a Christian can't become spiritually blind, but I beg to differ. The more you willfully (and that is the key) choose sin over consecration to Jesus, you will slowly die in your sin as that frog died in the boiling water. Paul speaks to the Ephesian Christians when he says this in **5:1-7**; *"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them."* God's judgment does and will come on those who are willfully disobedient to Him as we talked about in last week's message. Don't tempt God to see how far He'll put up with your sinful willful antics.

It can't be clearer than what Jesus said to the Pharisees in **John 8:43-45**; *"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. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me."* We've heard the saying; 'read my lips!' That's what Jesus was saying. Jesus was talking to the religious leaders, those who were leading the Jewish people. They were the big guys, the prominent leaders, the untouchable. Jesus couldn't be clearer. Mr. Badman was acting like his father the devil as I said earlier, but if you willfully walk in sin when you know it's sin....you're acting like your father the devil. You're not living like your heavenly father has told you to live. One of the laws given to Moses in the Old Testament was incredibly clear in dealing with rebellious children and I might say I'm glad it's not in practice today. The parents were allowed to have their child stoned to death because of rebellion and stubbornness! [Deuteronomy 21:18-21](#). But it shows how much God hates rebellion and stubbornness. We read on rebellion last week but it serves to mention it again. King Saul became stubborn and rebellious against God and in **I Samuel 15:23** the prophet rebukes him by saying; *"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king."* Are there people right now in your life who are praying for you and exhorting you to turn from your sin? To change your

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ways? To return to your first love in Jesus? **Proverbs 29:1** says; "*He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.*" I urge you, don't fall into a state where you're without remedy.

How about fellowshiping with darkness or sinners? **II Corinthians 6:14-17** says; "*Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial [or the devil]? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."* We know Paul is referring to marriage, but it really goes beyond that.

Really, how deep can your fellowship with the world be as a Christian? How deep of a conversation or friendship can you have where you're connecting with that person if they are not a brother or sister in Christ? Guaranteed that once you start talking about how wonderful and fulfilled you are in Christ and all he's done for you, you're worldly friends may start dropping off the grid like never before. If they are inclined to keep on going down the road of destruction, they won't want your friendship or fellowship, just like Mr. Badman who fled from Christian influences. If you really enjoy your friendship with the world, beware. **James 4:4** says; "*Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*" Maybe you like your friendship because with them, you can secretly continue walking in the lusts of your flesh and you can shut out the voice of the Holy Spirit. Don't willfully make yourself an enemy with God. If you're really concerned about the spiritual condition of your family, friends, co-workers, fellow sports enthusiasts, school buddies etc., preach the gospel of Jesus Christ so that as James continues to say in **James 5:19-20**; "*Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*" They will thank you when you get to heaven for preaching the gospel to them! If a person is being drawn by the Holy Spirit of God to become a Christian, they want the real deal! They don't want the hypocritical lifestyle that they've already seen by those who are walking lukewarm lifestyle. Obviously we're to love sinners! That's why we're still in the world, to preach the gospel to them. Don't buy into the lie of the friendship evangelism approach which is just another way that gives Christians the ability to live their life as a Christian but continue in a worldly lifestyle that ultimately breeds compromise and jeopardizes their walk with God. If you become so concerned about establishing a friendship that you think will gain access that you will eventually be able to share the gospel with them, invite them to church etc., leading to salvation, but, what if they die before you share the gospel? I can only imagine what would be on their minds when they're burning in hell for eternity. They would be saying, why didn't my good Christian friend tell me about Jesus?

Jesus says to the church of the Laodiceans in **Revelation 3:14-22** who were called The Lukewarm Church; "*And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne." "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."'" Being spit out of God's mouth must just be horrible. Matthew Henry's Commentary says this; "*I Kings 18:21, '...how long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.' But the people answered not a word." Here is no room for neutrality. An open enemy shall have a fairer quarter than a perfidious neuter; and there is more hope of a heathen than of such. Christ expects that men should declare themselves in earnest either for him or against him. A severe punishment threatened: I will spue thee**

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out of my mouth. As lukewarm waters turn the stomach, and provokes to a vomit, lukewarmness professors turn the heart of Christ against them. He is sick of them, and cannot long bear them. They may call their lukewarmness charity, meekness, moderation, and largeness of soul; it is nauseous to Christ, and makes those so that allow themselves in it. They shall be rejected, and finally rejected; for far be it from the holy Jesus to return to that which has been thus rejected."

In conclusion, Mr. Badman was bad, ice cold to God. One would say that God preferred that instead of a lukewarm Christian! Where are you in the temperature spectrum? Hot and on fire for Jesus? Or are you lukewarm? Jesus is knocking at your heart right now and if you need to repent of being lukewarm, pray right now for Jesus to forgive you.

Here's an excellent short video entitled, "[I Am Sin](#)".