

# The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

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November 20th, 2016 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 5 - Badman In Business, The Tricks Of A Wicked Tradesman (pages 48-50)

Child rearing. I can't imagine how many Christian books have been written on this topic combined with the secular perspective, but since the beginning of time, this topic has been challenging. Most everyone has their own opinion on the matter and certainly we all have the experience of being parented. I'm sure most questions that parents face are; am I too strict, not strict enough, am I spoiling my child or not, is my discipline according to the Bible or not, etc. We see inside the heart of Badman's parents and how they chose to behave towards their young adult boy. It reflects, as we read, on how our Heavenly Father is towards us.

The issue that's being discussed is money. How far should Badman's father have gone or not gone in helping his son financially. It's all too familiar of a topic. Let's look at what Jesus says about loving our enemies, because in some respect, Badman was an enemy to the cross of Jesus and only wanting to use his father's generosity and love. **Matthew 5:43-48** says; "*You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*" Jesus was again, raising the bar from the Old Testament and setting a new standard by a new example of love. Don't just love those who love you, but love the unlovely, unruly, unjustified, unholy and unlovable. This isn't done by your own strength, but by the Holy Spirit in you, pouring out grace and mercy to others. **I John 4:9-10** also says, "*In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*" God's love towards us is so great, he gave his best gift to us - Jesus - to redeem us back to himself! Jesus is our pure and holy example of how we're to love.

Jesus gives us the parable of the lost prodigal son, it's a long story so please click the link to read it first. [\*\*Luke 15:11-32\*\*](#). We need to remember that Badman has had and again has opportunity to repent of his sins like this prodigal son did, but he is choose not to and just like this story, he has squandered everything his generous loving father had given him. But did his father withhold from him because he wasted what had been freely given to him? No. On the contrary, like the father in the parable he's generous toward him. How many a parent would have withheld or maybe it's happened to you where your parents were stingy toward you? Badman's father knew that at the end of each day, he had done what he could for his son, hoping and praying that he would repent and make his life right. That is how Jesus is with us, continually reaching out to us in love, unrelenting in His pursuit of us.

**Romans 5:7-9** says; "*For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*" **Romans 8:31-39** continues in saying; "*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"

God's love is unconditional. It's not a roller coaster going up and down depending on the day or circumstances. He isn't in love and then out of love with his children. Remember, to the sinner He is CONTINUALLY seeking them out. Maybe that's you. If you're not born again, He is reaching out to you in unconditional love. All you need to do is respond to that

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love and receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour and He will come into your heart by the Holy Spirit and make you His own. You will then be in right standing with Almighty God and be his son or daughter.

**Philippians 2:5-11** says; "*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*" **John 3:16** is the most well known verse in the Bible about God's love to us, "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*"

**I John 3:16-23** shows us how to love; "*By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*" This love is more than talking the talk, it's walking the walk. How many of you are ruled by your calendar or agenda? You've got your day, week and month locked in like a grid, like clockwork. For the most part you don't want surprises or unscheduled events disrupting your life. But the love of God may want to interrupt or upset this rigid format in order for you to colour outside the lines of your day because He wants you to love like Him. Love your enemies, make room for the unwanted relative or long lost friend. You may not pick up the phone when you see who's calling or delete the email or text from someone that you just don't want to touch base with at the moment. But what does God say about that? Maybe it's time to step up and get beyond yourself and reach out. God's love is bold, it reaches beyond our comfort level, goes the extra mile and believes, hope and thinks the best of others.

I'd like to review this portion of the chapter as it may sound abrasive to some and may be challenging to understand.

*"I remember that I heard of a good woman, who had, like this elderly man, a bad and ungodly son. She prayed for him, counseled him, and treated him in a motherly fashion for several long years; but still he remained bad. At last, after a time, after she had been at prayer, as was her custom, for his conversion, she comes to him, and, in effect, begins again to admonish him. "Son", says she, "you have been and are a wicked child. You have cost me many a prayer and tear, and yet you remain wicked. Well, I have done my duty. I have done what I can to save you. Now I am satisfied that if I shall see you damned at the day of judgement, I shall be a long way away from being grieved over you, and shall rejoice to hear the sentence of your damnation at that day. And these words converted him!"*

*I tell you, if parents behave lovingly towards their children, mixing their mercies with gracious rebukes, and their gracious rebukes with fatherly and motherly compassion, they are more likely to save their children than by being stubborn and severe towards them. But if they do not save them, and if their mercy does them no good, yet it will greatly ease them at the day of death to consider, "I have done by love as much as I can to save and deliver my child from hell."*

We must always remember that there are consequences to our choices, good or bad. Love at times requires admonishing and reproofing. That's what we see has happened with this mother. We have to remember what Jesus said in **Matthew 10:34-39**, "*Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'* He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

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Even though Jesus IS the Prince of Peace, families will be divided when not all of them are serving him as Lord and Saviour. **I Corinthians 1:18** says; "*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us are being saved it is the power of God.*" Paul the Apostle speaks similarly to this mother when he says in **I Corinthians 5:5**; "*deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*" He was referring to a son having sexual relations with his father's wife which he strongly condemned.

This mother, just as Paul, could say these strong words so as to provoke the fear of God in her son, because God is just, holy and right in His determination of sin and its consequences. The son of this woman was saved as a result of her siding with Jesus in saying that his sentence was just, holy and right that he be sentenced to hell. Maybe we should be more bold in this politically correct charged society that we live in to be bold in admonishing those who are continually, day after day, year after year, rebelling against and rejecting the gospel and who are persecuting us for our faith. Obviously this is done not in anger or the heat of the moment, but with wisdom and a caring heart to admonish them. **II Timothy 4:2**; "*Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*" **John 5:21-31**

What are the enemies of the cross that you're dealing with that continually taunt and provoke you, they natter in your mind and ears to get you to walk in fear and unbelief? Is the devil wanting you to quit praying for your wayward child? What's the enemy that aims to keep you out of receiving the love of Jesus? **Ephesians 1:19-23** says; "*and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*" Jesus has put everything under his feet - EVERYTHING! We, as Christians, are seated with Jesus in heavenly places too according to **Ephesians 2:6-7**. We know our battle isn't against flesh and blood (people) but against the demonic realm that influences them according to **II Corinthians 10:3-5**.

Write down on little pieces of paper what or who your enemies of your Christian walk are. For example; fears, anger, unbelief, doubt, infirmity, temptations, lack of peace, persecution, religious discrimination, caused by family, friends or co-workers, who are enemies of Christ. Put them inside a footstool or ottoman and sit down and rest your feet on it. It's a visual to show you that these enemies are under your feet. Jesus already conquered all the evil spirits who influence people and circumstances, and He wants you to realize that in Him, they were defeated at the cross. Enter into the rest of what Jesus already did at the cross, shedding His blood, defeating the devil as it says in Colossians 2:15; "*Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*" Will this stop persecution or the enemies fiery darts? It's an ongoing battle against the devil while we live. But you can rest in what Jesus already did on the cross. **Luke 10:19** says; "*Behold, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*" Your problem and enemy of the cross is under your feet. That's Jesus' positional authority in heaven right now and in you right now if He lives in you, Christian.

To close, please watch these two short videos.

**The King's Decent**

**The Greatest Promise**