

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

November 27th, 2016 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 6 - Badman's Hypocritical Courtship and Marriage to a Pious Rich Young Lady (pages 51-54)

I Peter 5:8 says; "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*" This would epitomize Mr. Badman; he wanted to devour all the good that this young Christian woman had for his selfish lusts and gain. He was the greatest of pretenders, showmen, hypocrites and was a whitewashed tomb as Jesus referred to the religious leaders in **Matthew 23:27**; "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.*" Harsh words for those who were to be shepherding the flock of God!

I believe this chapter is a prophetic word to the body of Christ today like never before. Beware of wolves in sheep's clothing. There are many in pulpits around the world who are fleecing the bride of Christ - the church, like this young lady was; to get her money, her innocence, her calling, to leave her abandoned, separated from all godly wise council, shipwrecked in every sense of the word. These men and women (wolves in sheep's clothing) have studied the vulnerabilities of bride, have offered flattering words, they may know the Bible inside and out and may even prophesy so as to speak with God's authority over you. **II Corinthians 11:13-15** says; "*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.*" Religious leaders who swindle gullible Christians. Badman followed the advice of his councillors, likewise, wolves in sheep's clothing surround themselves in their pulpits with board members, marketing teams, financial consultants to also swindle the church. Befriending and seducing so as to exploit their gift. It may be the gift of the musician or singer, evangelist or teacher or the wealthy businessman whose money they can use for their own gain. It goes on all the time.

II Timothy 3:3-9 describes pretenders as this; "*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.*"

Jesus knew the intent of the those who masqueraded as religious leaders and he calls them ravenous wolves in **Matthew 7:15-20**; "*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*"

Badman didn't want intimacy and love from this young lady, he wanted her money, nothing else. How many young talented singers have been lured into church worship teams with the promise of becoming great only to be exploited and used for their gift. It's no different than how the world operates. The leaders use savvy words like, 'I've never heard anyone like you', 'the angels show up when you sing', 'stick with me and you'll become famous', 'we want to develop your gift to the fullest potential' etc. For wolves like these, they're fleecing the gift so they can get the money off the recording label and use it for their own glory. Sadly it happens in churches whose leadership consists of men and women like Badman who are exploiting their sheep for their own glory and wealth. How many church building programs have been built on manipulating people to give their all, (gifts, talents, money etc.) and either the building program goes south or the leadership disappear with the wealth?

You see this young woman in the story didn't surround herself with wise godly counsel and many close friends. She was somewhat of a loner or a sitting duck with no accountability to anyone and became like a wandering sheep who became

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

easy prey to Badman's tactics. **II Peter 2:17-19** says; *"These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage."*

You may have heard the story of the shepherd who, after his little lamb keeps running off, will break it's leg, put it on his shoulders and keep it there close to him until it heals. In doing this, the sheep bonds with the shepherd and doesn't want to keep running away. Not sure of the reality of that, but what is true, is that those who know the shepherds voice, Jesus who is the great shepherd, does not want to run away but wants to stay in close fellowship and closeness to him. This young woman wandered off, being seduced by a great flatterer and suffered the consequences of it. Nothing of this is new. If throughout the New Testament we're being warned of such people, it's because it's been going on over the 2000 years of church history. **II Peter 2:1-3** also says; *"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber."*

How many churches have fleeced the bride of Christ, the church, and taken their money to pay for their debts or present expenses incurred thru exorbitant building programs, bad investments in corrupt ponzi schemes, lavish personal lifestyles, etc.? It's a heart-rending reality. As happened with Mr. Badman, the mask came off and his wife sees him for what he is. He's cut off all her friends, her church world and any godly influence she had. He's manipulated, coerced and fleeced her to isolate and control her. How many ministers have after fleecing the bride and body of Christ, have isolated them from good Christian fellowship outside their church thru various means of control and manipulative corrupt Bible teaching, only in the end to reveal the true wolf underneath the sheep's clothing! Again, it's heartbreaking.

Jude 12-19 states the following; *"These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit."*

Are we to go to a local church? Yes. Are we to use the talents and gifts has given us in the local church? Yes. Are we to tithe and give of our financial income to the local church? Yes. Are we to have pastors speak into our lives? Yes. This message today talks about the abuse of leadership. Can you relate in any way to this? It may strike a chord in your heart because it has happened or is happening to you right now. Draw close to Jesus again, bond with Him, learn to hear and be obedient to His voice, allow Him to heal your wounds and circumstances. Pray and seek out godly leadership. Don't follow a man, a ministry, a denomination, a pastor, a teacher, a prophet or an apostle only. Follow Jesus, hear his voice and the voice of a stranger you will not follow as he says in **John 10:1-18**, *"Jesus said: I tell you for certain that only thieves and robbers climb over the fence instead of going in through the gate to the sheep pen. But the gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and he goes in through it. The sheep know their shepherd's voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out. When he has led out all of his sheep, he walks in front of them, and they follow, because they know his voice. The sheep will not follow strangers. They don't recognize a stranger's voice, and they run away. Jesus told the people this story. But they did not understand what he was talking about. Jesus said: I tell you for certain that I am the gate for the sheep. Everyone who came before me was a thief or a robber, and the sheep did not listen to any of them. I am the gate. All who come in through me will be saved. Through me they will come and go and find pasture. A*

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy. I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest. I am the good shepherd, and the good shepherd gives up his life for his sheep. Hired workers are not like the shepherd. They don't own the sheep, and when they see a wolf coming, they run off and leave the sheep. Then the wolf attacks and scatters the flock. Hired workers run away because they don't care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and they know me. Just as the Father knows me, I know the Father, and I give up my life for my sheep. I have other sheep that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them together too, when they hear my voice. Then there will be one flock of sheep and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I give up my life, so that I may receive it back again. No one takes my life from me. I give it up willingly! I have the power to give it up and the power to receive it back again, just as my Father commanded me to do."