

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

December 4th, 2016 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 7, Part 1 - He Throws Off The Mask And Cruelly Treats His Wife (pages 55-58)

When trouble comes in your life like it did for the wife of Mr. Badman, you need to ask yourself some questions like; why or how is the thief coming into my life or where have I not died to self? **John 10:10** says in the Amplified Bible; "*The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].*" As a Christian, have you picked up the cross today to deny everything and follow Christ? What is the cost of discipleship?

I Corinthians 5:9-13 is very clear about who you are to fellowship with or who your close friends are as it says; "*I wrote you in my [previous] letter not to associate with [sexually] immoral people— not meaning the immoral people of this world, or the greedy ones and swindlers, or idolaters, for then you would have to get out of the world and human society altogether! But actually, I have written to you not to associate with any so-called [Christian] brother if he is sexually immoral or greedy, or is an idolater [devoted to anything that takes the place of God], or is a reviler [who insults or slanders or otherwise verbally abuses others], or is a drunkard or a swindler—you must not so much as eat with such a person. For what business is it of mine to judge outsiders (non-believers)? Do you not judge those who are within the church [to protect the church as the situation requires]? God alone sits in judgment on those who are outside [the faith]. REMOVE THE WICKED ONE FROM AMONG YOU [expel him from your church].*" This friendship applies to every area of your lives including, marriage, business partnerships or any allegiances you may have. You're not to be unequally yoked. The ungodly or worldly business partner, spouse or friend will pull you their way and there will always be a conflict of interest.

If we go to the Old Testament in **Exodus 34:12-16**, God was very clear of how his people were to interact with the ungodly; "*Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.*" You're to unequivocally stay away from covenanting with the world. What kind of unequal covenants are people making today? It could be in the sports world, jobs, education, businesses etc. All of these, if they become idolatrous will become snares to you and your testimony will become tainted and loose it's power and influence and you may ultimately backslide.

God is jealous, He wants nothing to come between you and Him. **II Corinthians 6:14-18** also says; "*Do not be unequally bound together with unbelievers [do not make mismatched alliances with them, inconsistent with your faith]. For what partnership can righteousness have with lawlessness? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony can there be between Christ and Belial (Satan)? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said: "I WILL DWELL AMONG THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. "So COME OUT FROM AMONG UNBELIEVERS AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord, "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will graciously receive you and welcome you [with favor], And I will be a Father to you, And you will be My sons and daughters," Says the Lord Almighty.*" This is always used in the context of marriage, but it really applies to every area of your life. But in marriage, how often have you seen Christians marry with Buddhists, Muslims, agnostics, atheists etc.? This is precisely what happened with Mr. Badman's wife. She married outside of Christian covenant and she lived with its consequences. Remember that we mentioned last week that Badman was a wolf in sheep's clothing, so although she thought she was marrying a Christian, he was truly far from one. That's why wise council, prayer, fasting and the like are necessary in making decisions regarding the covenants you're making, whether it's marriage or any other kind. King David's son, Solomon, is a prime example of a man who was led away by his ungodly wives. He started building altars and temples to their gods, his heart was led astray and so evil was his backsliding that he participated in heathen worship.

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James is bold when he says in **4:4-5**; *"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. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, 'The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously'?"* It's not that you're not to be 'friendly' or love worldly people, of course you are! Otherwise how will you win them to Christ Jesus. It's talking about have close friends, allegiances, buddies, people you love to hang out with all the time, who are not Christians that you're to not be in close fellowship with. They'll have a hook in your mouth before you know it and you'll be thinking and acting like the world! What fellowship does light have to do with darkness? What about men or women who are doing the 'friendship evangelism dating game' trying to win them over to Christ? It doesn't work!

Badman's wife, as we said last week, had not surrounded herself with wise council. She didn't ask her pastors, leaders, preachers to pray about this man, she obviously didn't have friends to ask to pray about their relationship, no prayer and fasting. If she really would have been a close disciple of Christ, all kinds of red flags would have gone up about Badman. It shows that she was independent, in the flesh, loved the attention she was getting from this young flattering man. As the saying goes, 'love was blind'. As sad as the outcome was for her, it could have been very different. Jesus said that his sheep know his voice and the voice of a stranger they will not follow. Obviously, she didn't know the voice of Jesus did she? Otherwise she would have ran the other direction from Badman. Were her circumstances terrible? Of course they were, but she could have avoided it! We have to remember also that this doesn't apply just to men. Women can have evil intent in their hearts equally as men. Women can seduce men into their evil traps as much as men can. In essence, this young woman became an enemy of Christ by marrying Mr. Badman (as it alludes to in the scripture above).

I'd like to add this commentary from Matthew Henry's Commentary on James 4:4;

"Worldly people are here called adulterers and adulteresses, because of their perfidiousness of God, while they give their best affections to the world. Covetousness is elsewhere called idolatry, and it is here called adultery; it is a forsaking of him to whom we are devoted and espoused, to cleave to other things; there is this brand put upon worldly-mindedness—that it is enmity to God. A man may have a competent portion of the good things of this life, and yet may keep himself in the love of God; but he who sets his heart upon the world, who places his happiness in it, and will conform himself to it, and do anything rather than lose its friendship, he is an enemy to God; it is constructive treason and rebellion against God to set the world upon his throne in our hearts. Whosoever therefore is the friend of the world is the enemy of God. He who will act upon this principle, to keep the smiles of the world, and to have its continual friendship, cannot but show himself, in spirit, and in his actions too, an enemy to God. You cannot serve God and mammon, Mt. 6:24. Hence arise wars and fightings, even from this adulterous idolatrous love of the world, and serving of it; for what peace can there be among men, so long as there is enmity towards God? Or who can fight against God, and prosper? "Think seriously with yourselves what the spirit of the world is, and you will find that you cannot suit yourselves to it as friends, but it must occasion your being envious, and full of evil inclinations, as the generality of the world are."

So if you fight against God and what His word commands, how can you expect to prosper in anything? You've become His enemy. Badman became his wife's enemy as he mocked and scorned her and withheld her from Christian friends and fellowship. In **John 15:18-25** Jesus talks about what your relationship to the world is; *"If the world hates you [and it does], know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love [you as] its own and would treat you with affection. But you are not of the world [you no longer belong to it], but I have chosen you out of the world. And because of this the world hates you. Remember [and continue to remember] that I told you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these [hurtful] things to you for My name's sake [because you bear My name and are identified with Me], for they do not know the One who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have [the guilt of their] sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. The one who hates Me also hates My Father. If I had not done among them the works (attesting miracles) which no one else [ever] did, they would not have [the guilt of their] sin; but now [the fact is that] they have both seen [these works] and have hated Me [and continue to hate Me] and My Father as well. But [this is so] that the word which has been written in their Law would be fulfilled, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'"*

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The truth of the matter is this, discipleship is costly. It costs you your independent decision making, it demands accountability for business ventures and partnerships, marriage, education and every other life decision. There is no other way. You're to pick up your cross, deny yourself and follow Jesus. Jesus himself said it this way in **Matthew 16:24**; *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me]."*

If you are truly disciples, you would do everything that Jesus loved and did. The Pharisees of the day argued with Jesus that they were unequivocally following Abraham's example but Jesus said this to them in **John 8:38-48**; *"I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father." They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. 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. Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."* They were the farthest from being true disciples of Jesus, loving God or being Abraham's children because they did not believe him and love his teaching.

I John 2:15-17 says; *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."* It would look like Mrs. Badman was really loving the world in being swept off her feet by 'false' love, she was still loving the world.

So how do you make the right decisions every day in all that we've talked about regarding true discipleship? You need wisdom don't you but not any wisdom, you need God's wisdom. **James 3:13-17** reveals God's wisdom, *"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."*

- Is your decision making out of envy? For example are you envious of a secular educational institute which has outspoken atheist views, and because of the prestige of it send your child there, instead of to a Christian educational institute where they can get the exact education but with Christian influence? You 'want to keep up with the Jones'' so to speak. There could be other examples.
- Is your decision making out of selfish motives? You want to marry a person for their name, not because they're a Christian? Or you'll take the job regardless of the requirements because of the status it will give you?
- If your decisions are made in envy and selfishness you can expect confusion and every evil work

If you're really laying your life down, living for Jesus, you will know what to do. You won't hesitate in making wise decisions. Jesus clearly says in **Matthew 16:24-25**; *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.'"*

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Salvation is free, but it will cost you your life.

Please watch this excellent video, [The Cost of Discipleship](#).