

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

January 8th, 2017 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 8 - Part 1 - Badman Goes Bankrupt, And By It Gets "Hatfuls of Money" (pages 66 - 69)

How can a person go bankrupt not once, but numerous times, yet in the process make a boatload or as the story says, 'hatfuls' of money? Seems odd doesn't it? Through craftiness and evil manoeuvrings, that's what Badman did. As we've been doing throughout this book, we're not only reading verbatim the acts of Mr. Badman which makes a person shake their head almost with disbelief and either pity him or be angry with him; but we've been pointing to the root of his wickedness and how these characteristics can beguile their way into the lives as Christians. If you detach yourself from Mr. Badman and emphatically say, 'that's not me and it doesn't apply to my life', you can miss a very powerful lessons to avoid.

Most of what we've read up until now and including this chapter, has to do with the power of money. Money dominates and influences every part of our societies whether you like it or not. Some boast in it while others bewail it. **I Timothy 6:10** in the Amplified Bibles says; "*For the love of money [that is, the greedy desire for it and the willingness to gain it unethically] is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves [through and through] with many sorrows.*" Paul's warning here to Timothy shows that Christians will even backslide in their faith because of it. That's sobering!

James 5:1-5 also in the Amplified Bible says the following; "*Come [quickly] now, you rich [who lack true faith and hoard and misuse your resources], weep and howl over the miseries [the woes, the judgments] that are coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted and is ruined and your [fine] clothes have become moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. You have stored up your treasure in the last days [when it will do you no good]. Look! The wages that you have [fraudulently] withheld from the laborers who have mowed your fields are crying out [against you for vengeance]; and the cries of the harvesters have come to the ears of ^[a]the Lord of Sabaoth. On the earth you have lived luxuriously and abandoned yourselves to soft living and led a life of wanton pleasure [self-indulgence, self-gratification]; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.*" **Leviticus 19:13** says, "*You shall not oppress or exploit your neighbor, nor rob him. You shall not withhold the wages of a hired man overnight until morning.*" Wiseman says on page 68, "*The serpent beguiled me*", *said Eve. Mr. Badman beguiled his creditors. The serpent beguiled Eve with lying promises of gain; and so Mr. Badman beguiled his creditors. The serpent said one thing and meant another when he beguiled Eve; and so did Mr. Badman when he beguiled his creditors.*"

Let's apply it now to the church. How many Christians end up with personal credit card debt to a pledge made to a church, ministry or organization (with the understanding that they would receive a 30, 60 or 100 fold return from God) without having a secured income to pay the credit card off? It's like the cart before the horse isn't it. While the ministry they've given to has made some lavish purchase on a home, car, airplane etc., with the ministry money? As Badman beguiled his creditors or the serpent beguiled Eve with a promise of gain, so is this type of teaching; beguiling for gain. It's called 'seed faith', but if you don't have the faith that you know you'll get back what your giving plus the increased return, you stay in debt to your credit card and creditors come looking for you if you can't pay it back. Really the only one who is getting the best deal is the bank because they get interest on what you've put on your credit card and that interest continues to pile up if you don't pay it off!

I must says it's very disconcerting how many Christians use their credit cards like this. Giving money that they don't have. Now to clarify, if you KNOW you have money in your bank account to pay off what you're pledging, you can pay your credit card off right away. I'm talking about not even having the money to put toward your pledge on credit card. **Proverbs 3:9-10** says; "*Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the*

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine." It says 'with your possessions' and 'with the firstfruits', meaning something you already have. Credit in our society has been very abused and is now in our churches around the world. Are we not to be different from the world?

Luke 12:13-21 reads like this; *" Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

What do you think is more important to pay off first? Your debts to God or your debts to man? Many a Christian is trying hard to maintain a good credit rating, but owe GOD tithes and ministry pledge offerings! Many Christians don't believe tithing is even a New Testament principal so they give nothing or sparingly. The natural mind will say without batting an eye that you have to have to pay man off first, make sure your bank manager is happy. You see, in the Bible you don't pick and choose what you like or don't like, what you want to practice in your life or don't want to practice in your life. You see even Zacchaeus the tax collector when he came to know Jesus personally, said he'd even repay fourfold to those whom he had beguiled, **Luke 19:1-10!**

Malachi 3:8-12 in the Amplified Bibles says; *" Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings [you have withheld]. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, this whole nation! Bring all the tithes (the tenth) into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you [so great] a blessing until there is no more room to receive it. Then I will rebuke the devourer (insects, plague) for your sake and he will not destroy the fruits of the ground, nor will your vine in the field drop its grapes [before harvest]," says the LORD of hosts. "All nations shall call you happy and blessed, for you shall be a land of delight," says the LORD of hosts."*

The secular thought in the church today is to hold on to what you have, buy your new vehicle, take that much needed vacation or hold on to your seed (money) for as long as you can because you just don't know what's ahead. But God could not be any clearer from what He just said in Malachi. Wouldn't you rather live in the blessings of the latter part of that verse than with the curses in the former? Curses can come in many ways, droughts, floods, sickness, calamities, accidents....they're numerous. God is so bold that He even encourages you to test him with your giving! Or maybe you're giving to charitable organizations but not giving to your local church, the same principle applies. You see, in the Old Testament, special storehouses were made in the temple where the tithe of the produce from the harvest could be brought which was then used to feed and support the priests and their families. If the tithes weren't brought in, the priests could not serve or perform their duties and God's hand was lifted from their crops for their lack of tithing. You're to tithe to where you're spiritually being fed at - your local church.

Haggai 1:1-11 also gives a strong message about the neglect of tithing, it's as follows; *"In the second year of Darius the king [of Persia], on the first day of the sixth month (Aug 29, 520 B.C.), the word of the LORD came*

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'These people say, "The time has not come that the LORD's house (temple) should be rebuilt.'" Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, "Is it time for you yourselves to live in your [expensive] paneled houses while this house [of the LORD] lies in ruins?" Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways and thoughtfully reflect on your conduct! You have planted much, but you harvest little; you eat, but you do not have enough; you drink, but you do not have enough to be intoxicated; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns wages earns them just to put them in a bag with holes in it [because God has withheld His blessing]." Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways and thoughtfully reflect on your conduct! Go up to the hill country, bring lumber and rebuild My house (temple), that I may be pleased with it and be glorified," says the LORD [accepting it as done for My glory]. You look for much [harvest], but it comes to little; and even when you bring that home, I blow it away. Why?" says the LORD of hosts. "Because of My house, which lies in ruins while each of you runs to his own house [eager to enjoy it]. Therefore, because of you [that is, your sin and disobedience] the heavens withhold the dew and the earth withholds its produce. I called for a drought on the land and the hill country, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil, on what the ground produces, on men, on cattle, and on all the labor of your hands."

Mr. Badman went bankrupt 2 or 3 times, making a lot of money doing it. He wasn't a tither, in fact he made his wife pay back any money she gave to the church. How many Christians have declared numerous bankruptcies with God, while hoarding up riches and material possessions that have been gained by money that they've robbed by not paying tithes and offerings, only to end up under the curses described in the books of Haggai and Malachi? It's a sowing and reaping principle. Remember the scripture that we've quoted many times before in **Galatians 6:7** where the Apostle Paul says this; "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked [He will not allow Himself to be ridiculed, nor treated with contempt nor allow His precepts to be scornfully set aside]; for whatever a man sows, this and this only is what he will reap." If you sow thievery, you reap thievery; if you sow beguiling people, you'll be beguiled; if you sow mockery, you'll be mocked; if you sow wheat, you'll reap wheat, if you sow generously you'll reap generously. You see the principle, it's pretty simple.

Metaphorically, if we'd see God like our banker, we may think twice about trying to rob Him. On page 69, Wiseman says this; "*I answer: his surest way is still to think that this is the fruit of some sin, though possibly not a sin in the management of his calling, but some other sin. "God casteth away the substance of the wicked" (Prov. 10:3). Therefore, let him still humble himself before his God because his hand is on him, and say, "What sin is this, for which the hand of God is upon me?" (1 Pet. 5:6). Let him be diligent in finding out the truth, whether some sin is the cause of this judgement; for God "doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men" (Lam. 3:33). Either his heart is too much set on the world, or religion is too much neglected in the family, or something else. There is a snake in the grass somewhere, a worm in the gourd. Some sin is in your bosom, for the sake of which God is thus dealing with you." (The underlined is my part).*

When we become a Christian, we live by God's principles laid out in the Bible. We're not to continue on in our own ways. If this message applies to you, ask Jesus to forgive you and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to change, to make a lifestyle change and He will. Maybe like Zacchaeus, God will put it on your heart to repay God the tithes and offerings, pledges and commitments that you've robbed from Him.