

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

January 15th, 2017 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 8 - Part 2 - Badman Goes Bankrupt, And By It Gets "Hatfuls of Money" (pages 69-71)

Putting God first in your finances. Last week as you read, you saw the curses, or bad things, that can happen to Christians if they don't tithe, according to Malachi 3:8-12. I'd like to clarify a few things though. The persecution of Christians is not the result of being under that curse for them not paying tithes, but are simply the hallmark of the ministry and being a Christian. The curses of not tithing and persecution are two different things. Let's look at **II Corinthians 6:1-10**: *"We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."*

In the natural it would look like they were under that curse mentioned in Malachi, but Jesus himself said that as He was persecuted, so as disciples you'd be persecuted. Persecution can present itself as we've read above, or in religious discrimination, bullying or countless other ways.

II Corinthians 4:8-12 goes on to say; *"We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you."*

It is the anti-Christ spirit that's at work in persecution. But, the devil twists the truth and lies to you saying that your tithing doesn't work because of the persecution your facing. That's the farthest from the truth. Unfortunately there is a teaching in the churches today that says that if you're persecuted, you're doing something wrong or you're not tithing. Jesus said in the sermon on the mount in **Matthew 5:10**, *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* We're not talking about being persecuted for just anything either. It's specifically for righteousness sake, standing up for Jesus living a Christian life with conviction. It's not because you're in the flesh, or acting worldly and doing things you ought not to be doing as a Christian.

Paul goes on to say in **II Corinthians 11:22-29**; *"Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?"*

Now only you know in your heart whether or not your tithing. If you're not, you'd want to take care of that first as we talked about last week. **Philippians 4:10-13** talks about being content in whatever state of life you find yourself, *"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you*

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lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Wiseman says on page 69 in the third point; *"when all is done, let that man again consider in himself: "Perhaps God is now changing my condition and state in the world. He has let me live in fashion, in plenty, and in abundance of worldly glory; and I was not as grateful as I should have been for his good dispensation to me. But when I lived in full and fat pastures, there I lifted up the heel." (Deut. 32:15) Therefore, he will now turn me into the hard commons that, with leanness, and hunger, and humbler means, and want, I may spend the rest of my days. But let him do this without murmuring and complaining. Let him do it in a godly way, submitting himself to the judgement of God. "Let the rich rejoice in that he is made low" (Jas. 1:9-10). This is a duty, and it can be thought of as a privilege to those who are under the hand of God. And for your encouragement, apply yourself to this hard work — for it is hard work."*

Here Wiseman is talking about someone having everything, yet because of sin, God has allowed him to be humbled. If you find yourself in a situation as such, Jesus will forgive you if you ask Him and then change your ways. A place of humility is when you draw close to the Father and allow the Holy Spirit to do a deep work in you, like the potter and the clay he's molding. Being a poor person is not a result of not paying tithes, for the poor are rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom, because they're constantly relying on God to provide everything for them. Paying tithes does not make you rich; you're only fulfilling your duty as a Christian and as a result, you're blessed in whatever position you are in, be it poor, middleclass, rich or opulently rich. You see, when God looks at you, he's not looking at you as a poor person or a rich person. He's looking at your heart. There is no cast system in Christ. Man puts those distinctions on people, not God. As a matter of fact, many times it happens that you'll hear someone say, 'they must have done this and that to be in that state'. It's presumption and judging that person. If you're a poor person and are tithing, the blessings that are going to overtake you (as it says in Malachi) will look different probably than the rich person who tithes. One is not greater than the other but they are both blessed because they tithed.

James 2:2-6 is very bold about this when he says; *"For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?"*

Exactly what we said, man putting social distinctions on, not God. How many times have we heard the trumpets sound in churches, fundraisers, telethons or photo shoots when the rich give a big 2' x 5' million dollar cheque, yet what impressed Jesus was the poor widow who gave everything she owned! **Luke 21:1-4** *"And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."*

Matthew 6:2-5; *"Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward."*

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We have to note here too that a person can tithe but not live a Godly life. Sad, but true. Jesus called the Pharisees and scribes out on it in **Matthew 23:23**, "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*" It was right that they were tithing, but they were neglecting the things Jesus was looking for. **I Corinthians 13:3** even says; "*...and if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor...but not have love, it profits me nothing.*"

The teaching of Wiseman in the story on how to deal with his creditors is good in that it challenges a person to deal with the debt, no matter the results, ultimately placing themselves at the mercy of God who can turn the heart of the creditor whichever way He wills. If we trust in God to turn the heart of our creditors in our favour when paying off debts, why is it that we don't give God the first fruits of our income before making arrangements to pay off our creditor? What's worse; a sinner as Badman bankrupting his creditors for personal gain or Christians not trusting God to help them with debts and creditors by not paying what they owe God in the first place - the tithe? The tithe rebukes the devourer - the devil who wants to steal, kill and destroy you. If you try to do things in the flesh to appease your creditor, you're acting independently from God and His word.

Wiseman says; "*But whoever does otherwise remains in his sin, refusing to be disposed of by the providence of God, and choosing a high estate, though not attained in God's way, when God's will is that he should descend to a low condition. Yes, he desperately says in his heart and actions, 'I will be my own chooser, and that in my own way, whatever happens or is the consequence of my actions.'*" It comes down to where the treasure in your heart lies.

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 says; "*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" "*No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*" **II Corinthians 9:7**, "*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*" Again, it's a heart matter. Our giving and tithing does not depend on whether we're rich or poor, it's simply being obedient. **I Timothy 6:6-10**; "*Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*"

You can be a tither, budgeting your money, paying your debts, very frugal in all of your spending with an exceptional credit rating and still have a spirit of poverty operating in your life! This spirit has you spit polished on the outside yet on the inside you're collecting and hoarding all kinds of material possessions that you can't get rid of because you're walking in fear about the future, you're storing up for a rainy day, you can't throw it away or give it away because it gives you a sense of security and the list goes on. In **Matthew 18:21-35** Jesus talks about dealing with your creditor this way; "*Then Peter came to Him and said, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?'*" Jesus said to him, "*I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'*" Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. "*But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'*" So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, "*Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'*" And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, "*You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had*

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compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.””

God wants to be in the very first place in your life. So what causes you to worry? Jesus admonishes his disciples in **Luke 12:22-34** about this when he says; *"Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?"* *“And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

Why are you worried, storing up your treasures in your bank accounts, investments, almost having an excessive compulsive behaviour about the future and your money? I know our western church mentality pushes us in that direction, but we're in this world but not of it. Having loans for houses, vehicles or businesses and credit cards etc., is part of our lives, but put God first in your financial matters, don't rob from Him. He says that when He's #1, He's got you back and will take care of EVERYTHING ELSE. Place your treasure in God first.