

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

January 22nd, 2017 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 8 - Part 3 - Badman Goes Bankrupt, And By It Gets "Hatfuls of Money" (pages 71-73)

"In everything, put God first in your finances, 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." That's how we ended last week's review and in ending this chapter we'll see how our heavenly father can and will do the miraculous in your finances to supernaturally provide for you!

We start by this quote from the story on page 71;

"ATTENTIVE: I repeat, if Mr. Badman were here to object to you, what would be your reply?"

WISEMAN. What? Why I would say, "I hope no good man, no one in good conscience, no one that either fears God, or regards the credit of religion, and the peace of God's people, or the salvation of his own soul, could do this." Such professors, perhaps, there may be; and who on earth can help it? Disreputable men there are of all colours. If men profess, and make their profession a stalking-horse to deceive their neighbours out of their estates, as Mr. Badman himself did, when he deceived the woman that is now his sorrowful wife, what can we do about it? The churches of old were pestered with such people, and therefore no wonder we live in such perilous difficult times today."

Wiseman says that "the churches of old were pestered with such people." Mr. Badman was fraudulent in all respects, but here, Wiseman alludes to the same practice in the early church right up until his day and still continue in 2017. We've read **II Timothy 3:1-5** numerous times already, but to drive it home again it says; *"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 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!"*

II Corinthians 6:1-11 says; *"Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren! Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."*

The Apostle Paul has a firm admonition for Christians taking each other to court on account of debt. I underlined where it says that you should accept the wrong done and let yourself be cheated instead of going to court. Paul's firm reprimand says that there should be people filled with God's wisdom to rule on matters in the church...not needing to go to the secular courts and do things the way the world does. Reading this scripture is such a jolt from the reality of how we live today isn't it. Our 'worldly wisdom' says that you just can't forgive

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someone and take a loss, and that you have to take it to the courts to settle the dispute. But Paul couldn't be any clearer saying that you're not to go to the courts against your brother or sister (fellow Christian). We need wiser council - Godly council in the church today. Jesus was so articulate in the Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 5:38-42** when he says; *"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away."* Also in **Luke 6:34-36**, *"And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."* Be merciful to those who you lend too. You think getting reward points from your credit card or favorite store is awesome...just think of the rewards laid up in heaven for you when Almighty God rewards you for the mercy you've shown! Nothing in this world can light a match to it - hands down!

Have you had someone in your life who has wanted to borrow from you; whether it's money, a vehicle, an item of some sort? Have you thought it through, calculating whether you should or shouldn't? Have you said, 'well, just let me pray about it first.' If the things of this earth really have no hold on you, you'll say without missing a beat, 'of course you can', knowing that you may never see what they've borrowed again. That's what Jesus said isn't it. Usually the greater earthly value of something the harder it is to let it go out of your hands knowing it might not get re-paid or come back into your hands, right. You may have given something away of prized possession, it may have been something that you received as an award for your excellent work achievement, academic achievement etc., only to find out that what you gave away to the individual, they in turn gave it away to someone else of greater need than themselves at the time. And after hearing about it you were offended that the gift you had given was given away to someone else. Obviously you ever gave it in the first place because otherwise it would not have had that kind of attachment to you and you wouldn't have been offended. And by the way, when you give something, it's no longer yours. That's the way Jesus taught us to give.

Wiseman goes on to say; *"But their false profession we can't do anything about. What can we do if men ascribe to themselves the title of holy ones, godly ones, zealous ones, self-denying ones, or any other glorious titles? And while they call themselves this, they may be very rogues for all evil, sin, and villainy imaginable, and who can help it? True, they are a scandal to religion, a grief to the honest-hearted, an offence to the world, and a stumbling-stone to the weak; and these offences have come, do come, and will come, whatever the world can do about it. But woe to those through whom the offences come."* As we said in a previous review, Badman was like a chameleon and to the Christian, he showed himself as a Christian. This is from Jesus teaching in **Matthew 18:6-8** where he says; *"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!" "If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire."*

The Lord knows how to deal with those who cause Christians to stumble. A professing Christian who lives in duality is unacceptable. That's who Wiseman is referring to in the quote above, 'a holy one, godly one, zealous one, self-denying one or any other glorious title.'" On a side note, you might ask what the word "woe" means. Jesus uses it more than any other writer in the Bible. In Greek it is the word 'ouai' and has the meaning of

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impending doom, condemnation or the wrath of God. So when Jesus uses woe in this verse, it has serious consequences.

The Apostle Peter denounces the depravity of those to whom Wiseman is speaking about when he says in **II Peter 2:12-17**; *"But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet." These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.* Peter says that these people are in the church! They're enticing unstable or weak Christians! But they will be rewarded or in this case, punished for their unrighteous actions in the end.

Both **II Corinthians 7:1-2** and **Romans 13:8-10** give guidelines on how we're to live with as Christians; *"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Open your hearts to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one." "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."*

The early church as we read in the Book of Acts had everything in common. They held on to their belongings loosely. They understood the teaching of Jesus that they were to share, give, lend, be generous without holding on tightly to earthly treasures. Our society says "ya...but...", we rationalize everything, hold on to our things like our life depends on it, humming and hawing as to whether we should be obedient to Jesus' words or not! The wonderful story of the good Samaritan is to be read in [Luke 10:25-27](#). The Samaritan (the one the Jews did not associate with) gave out of his own resources to help the man who was robbed and left for dead by the thieves, while the religious skirted around him. He showed mercy knowing he would not be paid back. **I John 3:16-17** says; *"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?"*

In the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples, Jesus says; *"Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."* **Matthew 6:11-15**.

Our story goes on to talk about those who are righteous but find themselves in debt and how God miraculously provided for them. This is amazing as we read the scriptures that follow! Page 72 & 73 says the following:

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"ATTENTIVE. But suppose God should blow upon a professor in his estate and occupation, and he should fall into difficulty before he is aware, must he be counted in the same company as Mr. Badman, and lie under the same reproach as he?"

WISEMAN. No; not if he has done all he could to avoid it. It is possible for a ship to sink at sea, despite the most faithful orders of the most skilful pilot under heaven. And thus, as I suppose, it was with the prophet that left his wife in debt, risking the slavery of her children to the creditors. (2 Kings 4:1-2) He was not a wasteful man, nor one given to defraud, for the text says that he feared God. Yet, as I said, he was in debt more his wife could pay."

II Kings 4:1-7 tells the story mentioned above of Elisha and the Widow's oil, "A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves." So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil." Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones." So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out.⁶ Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest."

The key point in this story is putting God first. The widow was commanded to FIRST of all give as God commanded her to do through the prophet. When she did her part...God did the miracle for her! She got out of debt! Another miraculous story of provision is from [I Kings 17:1-15](#). It's the story of another prophet, Elijah, who had just prophesied about an imminent drought due to the sin of King Ahab and his wife Jezebel in Israel. First of all, God used scavenger birds - the ravens - to feed him! They brought him meat and bread every morning and evening for THREE years! Imagine that! As scavengers their innate nature is to eat anything they can, especially meat, so the fact that they didn't eat what they were bringing to Elijah is a miracle in and of itself! Who knows, maybe the ravens picked the food off the dining table of Ahab and Jezebel and brought it to Elijah! After the brook had dried up, Elijah was commanded to go to a widow in Zarephath. Now imagine that. The widow, whom he should have been helping out as she was the needy one, is going to help him! But the blessing was for the widow because she was about to die of famine and God knew that. But again we see, the widows OBEDIENCE to put God first predicated the provision that would come into her house. When she was obedient to the prophet, a miracle was performed and she had flour and oil until the rain came on the land and they lived!

What destitute position do you find yourself in? If you're walking uprightly or righteously before God, you can expect that He can and will perform miracles of provision for you too. Look at the debt that Peter and Jesus owed for the temple taxes. **Matthew 17:24-27** says; "When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?" He said, "Yes." And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?" Peter said to Him, "From strangers." Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you." Can you imagine the look on Peter's face when Jesus said that? He was probably hoping that no one saw him open the fishes mouth! Another supernatural way God

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provided to pay a debt. The list really is endless in the Bible where the supernatural occurs. Read [Luke 5:5-11](#) and [John 6:1-14](#).

Matthew 7:7-12, " Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

In closing, let's read **Matthew 6:24-34**, "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. "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."