

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

February 5th, 2017 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 9 - Part 2 - "Badman's Fraudulent Dealings To Get Money" (pages 77-79, please read it first)

Continuing on with weights, measures, balances and scales from last week, let's study Mr. Badman's brazen hypocritical lifestyle. A quote from the book on page 77 says; "*WISEMAN. Yes, he had many ways to blind people, but he was never good at it by making a show of religion, though he cheated his wife in this; especially those who lived near him, for he was too well-known to do that, though he would bungle as well as he could. But there are some that are arch villains in this way; they view the whole of life religiously, and yet are guilty of the most horrible sins. Yet religion in itself is never the worse, nor yet the true believers of it. But, as Luther says, in the name of God begins all mischief. Hypocrites have no other way to bring their evils to maturity but by using and mixing the name of God and religion together. Thus they become whitened walls; for under this cover — the whitewash of religion — the dirt of their actions is hidden.*" Do you notice that? God's name is used in hypocrisy as an 'in' for clients, businesses, or the public at large for his mischievous ways!

Easton's Bible Dictionary defines *hypocrite* as the following; "*One who puts on a mask and feigns himself to be what he is not; a dissembler in religion. Our Lord severely rebuked the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy (Matthew 6:2, 5, 16). 'The hypocrite's hope shall perish' (Job 8:13). The Hebrew word here rendered 'hypocrite' rather means the 'godless' or 'profane,' as it is rendered in Jeremiah 23:11, i.e., polluted with crimes.*"

ATS Bible Dictionary defines *hypocrite* as; "*One who, like a stage-player, feigns to be what he is not. The epithet is generally applied to those who assume the appearance of virtue or piety, without possessing the reality. Our Savior accused the Pharisees of hypocrisy, Luke 12:1.*" Let's read a few of the verses where Jesus talks about this hypocrisy.

Let's read a few of the verses where Jesus talks about this hypocrisy. **Luke 12:1-3** says; "*In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops."* **Matthew 23:27** says; "*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.*" **Matthew 23:25** says; "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.*"

Everyone around the world handles money or a form of currency in one way or another. Buying, selling, bartering, exchanging goods and services with something. Wiseman goes on to say the following; "*Some plead custom for their cheating, as if that would acquit them before the tribunal of God. Others say that his goods cost them so much, and, therefore, another must pay so much, though it was light both as to weight and measure. But, in all these things, there is a juggling; or if not, they must know that "that which is altogether just" they must do. (Deut 16:20) Suppose that I myself am cheated with a brass half-crown; must I therefore cheat someone else in return? If this practice is bad in the whole, it is also bad in the parts. Therefore, however you are dealt with in the buying, you must deal justly in the selling, or you will sin against your soul and become like Mr. Badman. And know that an appeal to custom is worth nothing. It is not custom, but a good conscience that will serve us well at God's tribunal.*" (A brass half-crown was a form of currency in which this was written.)

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In essence, you're not to pass on your misfortune of how you were taken advantage, robbed or incurred a loss of to your neighbour or in your business. You're still to do justly - because God sees your transactions and your heart! Do you have a good conscience, is your conscience clear or has it been seared over time because of corrupt dealings and taking advantage of others misfortunes? Your conscience is described as; '*an inner feeling or voice viewed as acting as a guide to the rightness or wrongness of one's behaviour.*' In this case as a Christian it would be God's voice or the Holy Spirit acting as your guide.

Jesus goes on to say in **Matthew 6:1-4**; "*Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 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.*" Many reading may know the story in the Book of Acts about Ananias and his wife Sapphira. Please read this scripture in [Acts 4:36-5:11](#).

Matthew Henry's Commentary has a very good review which I'd like to share; "*Now their sin was, 1. That they were ambitious of being thought eminent disciples, and of the first rank, when really they were not true disciples; they would pass for some of the most fruitful trees in Christ's vineyard, when really the root of the matter was not found in them. They sold a possession, and brought the money (as Barnabas did) to the apostles' feet, that they might not seem to be behind the very chief of believers, but might be applauded and cried up, and stand so much the fairer for preferment in the church, which perhaps they thought would shortly shine in secular pomp and grandeur. Note, It is possible that hypocrites may deny themselves in one thing, but then it is to serve themselves in another; they may forego their secular advantage in one instance, with a prospect of finding their account in something else. Ananias and Sapphira would take upon them a profession of Christianity, and make a fair show in the flesh with it, and so would mock God, and deceive others, when they knew they could not go through with the Christian profession. It was commendable, and so far it was right, in that rich young man, that he would not pretend to follow Christ, when, if it should come to a pinch, he knew he could not come up to his terms, but he went away sorrowful. Ananias and Sapphira pretended they could come up to the terms, that they might have the credit of being disciples, when really they could not, and so were a discredit to discipleship. Note, It is often of fatal consequence for people to go a greater length in profession than their inward principle will admit of. 2. That they were covetous of the wealth of the world, and distrustful of God and his providence: They sold their land, and perhaps then, in a pang of zeal, designed no other than to dedicate the whole of the purchase-money to pious uses, and made a vow, or at least conceived a full purpose, to do so; but, when the money was received, their heart failed them, and they kept back part of the price, ([Acts 5:2](#)), because they loved the money, and thought it was too much to part with at once, and to trust in the apostles' hands, and because they knew not but they might want it themselves; though now all things were common, yet it would not be so long, and what should they do in a time of need, if they should leave themselves nothing to take to? They could not take God's word that they should be provided for, but thought they would play a wiser part than the rest had done, and lay up for a rainy day. Thus they thought to serve both God and mammon—God, by bringing part of the money to the apostles' feet, and mammon, by keeping the other part in their own pockets; as if there were not an all-sufficiency in God to make up the whole to them, except they retained some in their own hands by way of caution-money. Their hearts were divided, so they were found faulty, [Hos. 10:2](#). They halted between two; if they had been thorough-paced worldlings, they would not have sold their possession; and, if they had been thorough-paced Christians, they would not have detained part of the price. 3. That they thought to deceive the apostles, and make them believe they brought the whole purchase-money, when really it was but a part. They came with as good an assurance, and as great a show of piety and*

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devotion, as any of them, and laid the money at the apostles' feet, as if it were their all. They dissembled with God and his Spirit, with Christ and his church and ministers; and this was their sin."

Is it any wonder then that they were struck dead? Their hypocrisy was self-serving as they used it for their gain, prestige and showing they were generous. They couldn't pull the wool over the all seeing eyes of the Holy Spirit though. They wanted to serve both God and mammon like Mr. Badman did. It's very possible that they split hell wide open - it's food for thought. With such a grievous sin it's highly unlikely that they're in heaven. A good lesson for the church today...don't lie to the Holy Spirit! God wants to prosper you, bless you, increase you in every way - spirit, soul and body...when you do it His way. There is a blessing in living justly. It's His promise. We read in **Deuteronomy 16:20**; "*You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the Lord your God is giving you.*" Jesus clarifies the deception of mammon in **Mark 8:36**; "*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?*"

Wiseman continues to say; "*Men aim at blessedness in their getting — I mean temporal blessedness; but the one who strives to get will not have that. For though an inheritance of this sort may be hastily taken up at the beginning, yet its end will not be blessed. They gather it indeed, and think to keep it too; but what does Solomon say? God casts it away. "The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish; but he casteth away the substance of the wicked"* Selling goods with an unjust measurement due to hidden costs like gas, travel, customs, duties, passing on tariffs and government taxes still does not make a wrong deal right. A good example might be here in the province where we live, the government recently started taxing oil companies for carbon emissions. But the oil companies pass on all those taxes to the consumer. The consumer pays for what the oil company was to pay for. Unjust weights and balances. We know there are common practices to make a profit in companies, but this whole chapter deals with doing it justly, not taking advantage of, not passing your misfortunes on to the consumer or fellow business colleague.

God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah this prophecy in the following verses; **Jeremiah 15:13**; "*Your wealth and your treasures I will give as plunder without price, because of all your sins, throughout your territories.*" **17:3**; "*O my mountain in the field, I will give as plunder your wealth, all your treasures, and your high places of sin within all your borders.*" **Proverbs** also says in **10:2-3** also says; "*Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, but righteousness delivers from death. The Lord will not allow the righteous soul to famish, but He casts away the desire of the wicked.*"

"WISEMAN: The time, as I said, that they enjoy its fruits will do them no good at all; yet they long to have it to be sure. For God will either take it away in their lifetime, or else in the generation following, as Job said : "He (the wicked) may prepare it, but the just shall put it on, and the innocent shall divide the silver" (Job 27:17). Consider also what is written in Proverbs: "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just" (Prov. 13:22). What then does he get from it when he gets it by dishonest means? Why, he gets sin and wrath, hell and damnation; and now tell me how much he gets!"

Proverbs 28:8; "*One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion gathers it for him who will pity the poor.*" You've heard the word extortion right? There is no prosperity in extortion.

"WISEMAN. Extortion is screwing from men more than is right by the law of God or men; and it is committed sometimes by those in office for fees, rewards, and such like. But it is most commonly committed by traders who, without a conscience, when they have the advantage, make a prey of their neighbour. And thus was Mr. Badman an extortioner; for although he did not exact and force away, like bailiffs and clerks used to do, yet he seized his opportunities with much cruelty so that he would often, in his way, be extorting and forcing money

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out of his neighbour's pocket." By the looks of what we continue to read about Badman, he gloried in his unrighteous acts towards others. Truly, a man with a seared conscience before God.

The Apostle Paul writes clearly to the Corinthian Christians about their lifestyle, ways and practices in **I Corinthians 5:11**; "*But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a **BROTHER**, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an **extortioner** - not even to eat with such a person.*" In the politically correct charged society we're living in, no wonder churches don't want to touch this topic with a 10' pole! How many 'so-called Christians' would actually even be filling church pews and chairs? People who do not want to repent and change their lifestyle to be true disciples of Christ Jesus yet continue to go to church week after week. Wiseman goes on to say; "*For everyone that makes a prey of his advantage on his neighbour's needs, forcing from him more than is reasonable and in good conscience, and according to the present prices of things for goods, may very well be called an extortioner, and judged for someone that has no inheritance in the kingdom of God.*" Paul again says in **I Corinthians 6:9-10**; "*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.*"

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia defines extortion as this; "*This particular word occurs twice in King James Version: Eze 22:12 (*osheq*), and Mt 23:25 (*harpagē*), and indicates that one who is an extortioner is guilty of snatching away from another by strife, greed and oppression that which does not lawfully belong to him. The element of covetousness and usury is involved in the meaning of this word; for it is greedily gotten gain. The publicans were considered as being specially guilty of this sin; this is clear from the Pharisee's deprecatory remark: "I am not an extortioner as this publican" (Lu 18:11). Paul classes extortion (*pleonexia*, literally, "over-reaching") among a category of the grossest crimes known to humanity (1Co 5:10-11); indeed, so grievous is it that it closes the door of heaven in the face of the one guilty of it (1 Co 6:10)."*

In closing let's read **Isaiah 33:15-16**, "*He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, He who despises the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil: he will dwell on high; his place of defense will be the fortress of rocks; bread will be given him, his water will be sure.*" Your life is secure in Christ Jesus if you live like this. You could be young or old, married or single, rich or poor and walk in usury, bribes, extortion, unjust weights and balances. I'd urge you to ask the Lord if any of these things we've talked about today are a part of your life. If they are, you can repent and ask Jesus to come into your life, wash your sins away from you and he will. Then He'll say to you, go and sin no more. Leave behind the ungodly lifestyle and be yoked to Father God.