

# The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

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## March 5th, 2017 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman Chapter 11 – Instructions For Righteous Trading

Let's look at the definition of the words 'filthy lucre'. It means; money, especially when gained in a dishonest or dishonorable way. It seems like a quaint archaic word, old fashioned or out of date. It refers to a deadly trap though in the Bible and is used four times in the King James Bible.

Each time it references a grave temptation for those who minister the gospel (but is not excluded to them). These references are [I Timothy 3:3,8](#); [Titus 1:7](#); and **I Peter 5:1-4** where it says; "*The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain (or filthy lucre)but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*"

The true riches in the crown is not money, but has to do with something that is eternal, not temporal and that is the jewel of the crown. The true riches are spiritual in other words. The apostles were very aware of the temptation of money playing into the factor of ministry and that it could easily be abused for dishonest gain.

So what's at the heart of the teaching in this chapter? It's the love of money. **1 Timothy 6:6-10** says; "*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.*" Living a happy, satisfied godly life is 'great gain'!

We read the story of King Solomon in [I Kings 3:3-15](#) where God appears to him in a dream and asks him what he would like. Instead of asking for money, he asked for understanding and wisdom...and God provided over and above in wealth that as to this day, no one was or has been as wealthy as King Solomon. So I'd like to ask a soul searching question, what would you ask for if God presented the same scenario to you? Now since He sees and knows your heart, you have to be truthful. I think it's safe to say most would err on the side of 'the wish list' and not understanding or wisdom to know how to live or to minister, right. So it's not money...but the love of having it, two different perspectives and standpoints.

Mathew Henry's commentary on **1 Timothy 6:7** says this; "*We brought nothing with us into this world, and yet God provided for us, care was taken of us, we have been fed all our lives long unto this day; and therefore, when we are reduced to the greatest straits, we cannot be poorer than when we came into this world, and yet then we were provided for; therefore let us trust in God for the remaining part of our pilgrimage. We shall carry nothing with us out of this world. A shroud, a coffin, and a grave, are all that the richest man in the world can have from his thousands. Therefore why should we covet much? Why should we not be content with a little, because, how much soever we have, we must leave it behind us?*" Think of the wealthiest person you may know and visualize all the assets they have, look at your own life, house and home and all the assets that are precious to you. None of it goes with you when you die. You leave naked as you came into the world.

**Ecclesiastes 5:15-16** says; "*As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return, To go as he came; and he shall take nothing from his labor which he may carry away in his hand. And this also is a severe evil— Just exactly as he came, so shall he go. And what profit has he who has labored for the wind?"*

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Matthew Henry's Commentary goes on to say in verse 10 of the same chapter, "*The apostle affirms that the love of money is the root of all evil, 1 Tim. 6:10. What sins will not men be drawn to by the love of money? Particularly this was at the bottom of the apostasy of many from the faith of Christ; while they coveted money, they erred from the faith, they quitted their Christianity, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. Observe, [1.] What is the root of all evil; the love of money: people may have money, and yet not love it; but, if they love it inordinately, it will push them on to all evil.*"

Remember in last week's message on the 12 Apostles, we saw how the kingdom of God worked in their lives, how they lived and ultimately how they died? It's sad that many in churches today counter and refute this as, 'that was them, this is us today'. They believe that the early church held on to money and wealth lightly as they truly believed that Jesus was returning asap and therefore, they weren't store up anything because they couldn't take it with them. But shouldn't we be living the same way? We should have the mindset that no one knows the day or hour of Jesus return, so not to clutter our lives with loving money, wealth and things. The kingdom of heaven is at hand!

The Apostle Paul says in **Philippians 4:12-13**; "*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.*" **Hebrews 13:5** in the Amplified Bible says; "*Let your character [your moral essence, your inner nature] be free from the love of money [shun greed—be financially ethical], being content with what you have; for He has said, "I WILL NEVER [under any circumstances] DESERT YOU [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], NOR WILL I FORSAKE or LET YOU DOWN or RELAX MY HOLD ON YOU [assuredly not]!"*" That's wonderfully encouraging isn't it! But look where it says to be 'financially ethical'...that's what this chapter is talking about.

When you became a Christian, you gave up the lifestyle of an unbeliever, you laid it at the cross of Jesus. Through sanctification, you're to daily change and to be conformed into His likeness and image. You're not to act like the world any longer and through the power of the Holy Spirit in you, you can overcome. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** says; "*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*" Your temple or you're physical body (which is spirit, soul and body or flesh) isn't to lust after money and filthy lucre. You have a dwelling place where Jesus through the Holy Spirit lives in. So we're to live holy as He is holy, you don't belong to yourself any more.

When Jesus cleansed the temple, he was driven with passion that it be kept for prayer and holiness, not for filthy lucre, a place of buying and selling. How many church foyers are places of merchandising the gospel today? If Jesus would visit your church, would he unplug the debit and credit card machines...and everything that is going, 'ka-ching'? **John 2:13-17** says the following; "*Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."*" Do you have this same zeal not only for your personal walk with Christ in your personal temple and also for the church at large?

Mathew Henry says this about this scripture; "*1.] What were the corruptions that were to be purged out. He found a market in one of the courts of the temple, that which was called the court of the Gentiles, within the mountain of that house. There, First, They sold oxen, and sheep, and doves, for sacrifice; we will suppose,*

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*not for common use, but for the convenience of those who came out of the country, and could not bring their sacrifices in kind along with them; see Deut. 14:24-26. This market perhaps had been kept by the pool of Bethesda (John 5:2), but was admitted into the temple by the chief priests, for filthy lucre; for, no doubt, the rents for standing there, and fees for searching the beasts sold there, and certifying that they were without blemish, would be a considerable revenue to them. Great corruptions in the church owe their rise to the love of money, 1 Tim. 6:5, 10 Secondly, They changed money, for the convenience of those that were to pay a half-shekel in specie every year, by way of poll, for the service of the tabernacle (Exod. 30:12), and no doubt they got by it."*

I'd like you to watch this short video from this scripture. [Jesus Cleanses the Temple](#).

Are you guilty of taking advantage of the foreign missionary who labours in your church in the name of "volunteerism" but with no compensation? Do you give tithes and offerings only to Christian organizations that can provide you with a yearly tax receipt? Have you turned your church lobby into a market place, teaching only a small teaser of the much needed illuminations, inspirations and revelations of the Holy Bible, leaving the remainder to be heard by purchasing it? When you hold Bible seminars do you charge a registration fee instead of receiving offerings? Are you fair in all your buying, selling and trading in and outside of the Church or has the Love of Money taken root in you?

It would be good to examine your heart and see where the love of money has led you to unrighteous trading, buying and selling to take place in the courts of your Church and your own personal body the temple that houses the Holy Spirit.

