

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

March 26th, 2017 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 12 - Part 2 – Badman's Pride, Atheism, Infidelity and Envy (pages 88-91)

Pride is pride, it's not determined by if you're rich or poor, it's no respecter of worldly status. Pride, I believe, must be one of the worst blinding sins any have to deal with. As deceptive as it was to Lucifer, so he uses it to blind mankind; Christian and non-Christian alike. Spiritual pride is almost an oxymoron - pride is of the flesh and spiritual is of the Holy Spirit. They can't co-habit. Maybe it should be said 'pride in spiritual matters' or 'proud in your spirituality or religiosity'. We're talking about spiritual pride or pride in Christians this week and Wiseman says this about it in today's review; *"I think it is one of the most senseless and ridiculous things in the world that a man should be proud of what has been given him with the purpose of covering the shame of his nakedness."*

The Apostle John says this to Christians in **1 John 2:15-17**; *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."*

If you were to be honest with yourself, more than likely you would associate pride with the sinner, the well off or wealthy, those who you think don't have a care in the world and have more than enough and might walk around with their nose in the air ...but not so. You can be prideful as a Christian; in living in moderation, in wealth and yes even in poverty. Pride will say you are self sufficient with what you have.

We read in the script today about the outward apparel being a source of pride in the church. Depending on where you live, you've seen religious denominations or communities who are extremely modest dress apparel (for women and men) so much so that they look like their living in a different decade and century, plus living in the most modest of homes - or in communal living. Not that that in and of itself is wrong, but for the most part, it has become a source of pride for them, thinking that they're righteous because of it. It has almost a Pharisaical look doesn't it? You also can swing the pendulum to the other side where there is no restraint on Christians in their outward apparel and there is no modesty at all. Both are wrong because in both cases, there is spiritual pride in their abstinence and spiritual pride in their worldly appeal to draw the unsaved into their churches. Wiseman says this; *"Is it because they would honour God? Because they should adorn the gospel? Because they would beautify religion, and make sinners fall in love with their own salvation? No, No!"* I hope you understand what I mean. You may draw the world into your church, but for all the wrong reasons. John Bunyan nails spiritual pride in Christians behaving just like the world; they're dressing up the gospel by beauty and materialism to be alluring to draw in friends, family and co-workers.

But does pride only have to do with the external; things, clothing, houses, wealth, etc? The scribes and Pharisees who loved money, were looking perfect on the outside but Jesus saw their hearts and called them white washed tombs. We've said it many times in our messages; Jesus was and is always addressing the heart, this is what he's referring too in the following scripture, **Luke 12:15-21**; *"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."*

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Spiritual pride or material possessions - which is worse? This man was both. But what was his sin? It wasn't the fact that he had been blessed with abundance, but that he wasn't rich toward God. He laid up everything for himself and that's what made him a fool Jesus said. You need to remember, this isn't an 'anti-prosperity' or 'anti-blessing' message. If God's blessing is manifest in your life, it is meant to be generous toward God and man. God gives us power to get wealth to establish his covenant, his purposes and plans. If you are asking for his kingdom and his will to be done in your life, then you've laid aside your will and your purpose, right? If your barns and vats, or in today's terms your bank accounts, investments and savings are full - are you using them for the furtherance of your local church, non-profit ministries and the preaching of the gospel etc.? We know the love of money is a root of all evil, so is money a distraction to you? It COULD be a distraction yes. Are material possessions a distraction? They COULD be a distraction, yes. It's a matter of your heart and that is continually what your heavenly father is looking at. It's easy for men like Badman to point their finger at the church because they're so much like the world and use it as an excuse to stay out of church.

Revelation 3:14-22 talks about the lukewarm church (religious Christians) and where their heart was at regarding wealth and pride, *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.””*

Did you see that? The shame of their nakedness. So even though they were externally clothed with the latest and greatest, the exterior looked fantastic, they were showing up for church...but they were lukewarm, full of pride because they didn't need anything, and were wretched, miserable, poor and blind! Those are weighty words for the church today.

MATTHEW HENRYS quotes this in his commentary on this scripture in Revelation 3:17; *“Here observe, What a difference there was between the thoughts they had of themselves and the thoughts that Christ had of them.*

(1.) The high thoughts they had of themselves: Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing, rich, and growing richer, and increased to such a degree as to be above all want or possibility of wanting. Perhaps they were well provided for as to their bodies, and this made them overlook the necessities of their souls.

Their state was wretched in itself, and such as called for pity and compassion from others: though they were proud of themselves, they were pitied by all who knew their case. For, [1.] They were poor, really poor, when they said and thought they were rich; they had no provision for their souls to live upon; their souls were starving in the midst of their abundance; they were vastly in debt to the justice of God, and had nothing to pay off the least part of the debt.

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

[2.] They were blind; they could not see their state, nor their way, nor their danger; they could not see into themselves; they could not look before them; they were blind, and yet they thought they saw; the very light that was in them was darkness, and then how great must that darkness be!

[3.] They were naked, without clothing and without house and harbour for their souls. They were without clothing, had neither the garment of justification nor that of sanctification. Their nakedness both of guilt and pollution had no covering. They lay always exposed to sin and shame.

The riches of the body will not enrich the soul; the sight of the body will not enlighten the soul; the most convenient house for the body will not afford rest nor safety to the soul. The soul is a different thing from the body, and must have accommodation suitable to its nature, or else in the midst of bodily prosperity it will be wretched and miserable."

What is the cost then of becoming a disciple or follower of Jesus? His answer is in **Matthew 16:24-26**; "*Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me]. For whoever wishes to save his life [in this world] will [eventually] lose it [through death], but whoever loses his life [in this world] for My sake will find it [that is, life with Me for all eternity]. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world [wealth, fame, success], but forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"* - Amplified Bible. Jesus is challenging the Christian to set their mind on things above, the heart motive of all that is said and done.

1 Corinthians 4:6-13; "*Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other. For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us—and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you! For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now."*

As I said earlier, a person can be puffed up or proud, if he has possessions or a lack of them. These Corinthian church leaders were full of spiritual pride. Wiseman says in our reading today the following; "*We shall have*", says he, "*great amendments in living now, for the devil has become a corrector of vice; for no sin reigns more in the world*", says he, "*than pride among the religious. And who can contradict him? Let us give the devil his due, the thing is too apparent for anyone to deny.*" And I don't doubt that the same answer was ready in the mouths of Mr. Badman's friends; for they may, and do, see pride display itself in the clothing and lifestyles of those that profess the faith - one might say, almost as much as among any people in the land, more's the pity!"

Jesus exposed the pride of the Pharisees in **Matthew 23:1-12**; "*Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, saying: "The scribes and Pharisees have seated themselves in Moses' chair [of authority as teachers of the Law]; so practice and observe everything they tell you, but do not do as they do; for they preach [things], but do not practice them. The scribes and Pharisees tie up heavy loads [that are hard to*

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

bear] and place them on men's shoulders, but they themselves will not lift a finger [to make them lighter]. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries (tefillin) wide [to make them more conspicuous] and make their tassels long. They love the place of distinction and honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues [those on the platform near the scrolls of the Law, facing the congregation], and to be greeted [with respect] in the market places and public forums, and to have people call them Rabbi. But do not be called Rabbi (Teacher); for One is your Teacher, and you are all [equally] brothers. Do not call anyone on earth [who guides you spiritually] your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Do not let yourselves be called leaders or teachers; for One is your Leader (Teacher), the Christ. But the greatest among you will be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be raised to honor." Everything it seems was external about these spiritual leaders, they had it altogether on the outside; they were the wisest of the wise, the most knowledgeable of all those in Israel...yet they were full of pride, they wanted only to be seen by men and Jesus saw through their facade and their heart.

Matthew 5:20 says; "*For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*" So how do you exceed in righteousness? it's only through the blood of Jesus and our righteousness being in him only. All our righteous appearance on the exterior does not make us righteous. We have become the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus, (2 Corinthians 5:21) and now we have the Holy Spirit living in us to help us live the righteous life!

I'd encourage you to read [Matthew 23:13-33](#) in the Amplified Bible as Jesus pronounces eight woes on the religious prideful leaders in Israel and are still applicable today. One of the first martyrs in the New Testament is Steven and in **Acts 7:51-53** he also rebukes the religious prideful leaders when he says this; "*You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.*"

1 Corinthians 2:6-16; "*However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man. The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ."*

Resisting the Holy Spirit reveals that a person is still walking in pride in the 'natural man'. You may be born again but are you filled with the Holy Spirit continually? Are you settling for the salvation of your soul and yet not willing to open up to the baptism of the Holy Spirit in your life which will open up a whole new manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit with signs, wonders and miracles following? If you think you don't need to be filled with the Holy Spirit you end up relying on your own self righteous works. God has so much for you but you're settling for second best. You could be in the game but you're sitting on the sidelines.

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

God wants to equip you with the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are needed to fulfill the call on your life. To stubbornly resist the work of the Holy Spirit in your life is rooted in spiritual independent pride. This kind of person doesn't want their self righteous program to be messed around with like the Pharisees. After all, it might affect their social or religious status, their community associations and friendships, their finances and priorities and their power of influence. Are you grieving the Holy Spirit by not yielding to him? Are you still of the natural, self-sufficient, common sense, independent mind-set? The flesh will tell you to resist the Holy Spirit, but if you do, you fall back into the religious system and become just like the Pharisees.

Zechariah 4:6 says; *"So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts."* So it's not by the work of the flesh, not by power or by a denominational or pharisaical mentality, BUT by the Holy Spirit. Spiritual pride hinders and is far worse than anything. It is fake spirituality.

James 4:6 says; *"But He gives us more and more grace [through the power of the Holy Spirit to defy sin and live an obedient life that reflects both our faith and our gratitude for our salvation]. Therefore, it says, "God is opposed to the proud and haughty, but [continually] gives [the gift of] grace to the humble [who turn away from self-righteousness]."*

The working out of your salvation is not about applying righteous works of the law, it's about allowing yourself to be continually dependent and in need of the Holy Spirit to help you fulfill the righteous requirements of the laws of God on a daily basis.