

# The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

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## May 14th, 2017 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 16 - His Pious Wife Dies Broken-Hearted --- Her Death-Bed Charge To Her Family (pages 101-103)

Many of us have had mothers whom we have loved, who have loved us, who have prayed over us, and who were Godly examples for our lives, maybe not always in word but in actions and deeds. Today, we'll see the characteristics of Mr. Badman's wife, and how she continually chose forgiveness and love over who own rights and desires.

Let's highlight Attentive's and Wiseman's conversation to start with. *"ATTENTIVE. And how did his good wife take it when she saw that he had not mended his ways, but returned like the dog to his vomit? WISEMAN. Why, it broke her heart. It was a worst disappointment to her than the cheating he engaged in to get her in marriage. At the least she took it to heart, and could not deal well with it. You must think that she had sent up many a prayer to God for him before, even all the time he had behaved so badly towards her; and now, when he was so frightened in his sickness, and wanted to live and get better, poor woman, she thought that the time had come for God to answer her prayers."*

Any dog owner can identify with the Proverb that is referenced here and how it is utterly repulsive and unimaginable that a dog would eat what it has just vomited. This is how Badman is being compared to as he returns to his former sins and lifestyle. **Proverbs 26:10-12** says; *"The great God who formed everything gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages. As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly. Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him."*

Wiseman goes on to say; *"Indeed, she didn't show her gladness, and whisper it out among her friends (see Is. 43:13), but, when she saw herself disappointed by her husband turning rebel again, she could not bear up under it, but fell into a lingering fever, and, in a few weeks, gave up the ghost."*

Regardless of all the trouble she reaped from a Godless husband and children, she kept the faith and set her face as a flint towards heaven. In the natural it didn't seem fair or just, that she should be the one dying, it should have been the reverse, her husband instead. But she was dead to self, and alive to Christ, she, like Paul could say in **Hebrews 12:1-2**; *"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* Mrs. Badman had a cross and also chose the cross to bear, with her husband and children.

We see the reward though that is waiting for her in **Hebrews 12:22-24**; *"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."*

Also, **1 Corinthians 15:54-56** says this of death; *"So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law."*

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In the natural, this wife didn't look victorious did she? She had suffered verbal abuse, persecution of her Christianity, adulteries too numerous to count from her husband and much suffering from her children, that left her heart-broken and on her death-bed. But according to the Word, she's victorious and she bore her cross to death.

**Revelation 21:3-4** says; "*And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."* In her case, there would be no more adulteries, persecution, broken-heartedness, anguish of soul or pain, because all passed away when she died and went on to eternal life.

How many Christian wives are out there today as Badmans wife? Having married the wrong man, being unequally yoked and have become a mother of children, with the majority of them Godless having followed in the footsteps of their earthly father, serving the devil instead of the Lord Jesus. How many wives and mom's are in this exact situation today...on Mother's Day? Innumerable to count I'm sure.

**Matthew 10:35-37** says; "*For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*"

This is a heavy word! You'd think it should be the reverse, but Jesus is very clear that if anything gets in the way of your relationship with Him and the call and the election on your life, is sin.

It seemed like Jesus called this wife to die...to die to self and He calls all of us to do the same. I think Badmans wife is a great example of a Godly wife who had every right to divorce her husband on the grounds of numerous adulteries, but chose not to with the hope of seeing her husband and children come to the Lord. She lived a crucified life as a wife and mother, with her mind set on things above, the hope of eternal life. That's where her heart was.

Badmans wife is in the marriage she's in because of her wrong decision making to marry Badman in the beginning, having not discerned through biblical council, which would have exposed that he was masquerading as a Christian to marry her for her riches. He hoodwinked, bamboozled and tricked her. How many women today are courting Badman, men who are masquerading as Christians to get to their money? Something worthy to ponder on.

This following scripture references false teachers and one like Badman, who wore his religion like a cloak, putting it on and taking it off as it pleased him for his own advancement. **2 Corinthians 11:14-15**; "*And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.*" Mr. Badman will have had an end according to his works.

The Apostle Peter gives a clear admonition to women here, and to be honest, in the pulpits it isn't preached much because of feminism and women's rights that is prevalent in our society and has also crept into Christians lives. But this is exemplary in Badman's wife. **1 Peter 3:1-6**; "*Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden*

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*person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror."*

You may think that this wouldn't apply to Badman's wife as she had every right to divorce him on the grounds of adultery. We're talking about the 'go-to' phrase in our generation which is 'my rights' here.

**Matthew 19:1-10** says the following about marriage and divorce. *"Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these sayings, that He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there. The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" He said to them, "Moses, because of the **hardness of your hearts**, permitted you to divorce your wives, **but from the beginning it was not so**. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry."*

Jesus makes it clear here that the only reason Moses gave the right to divorce was because of a **hard heart**. And Jesus ups the ante when he talks about forgiveness in **Matthew 18:21-22** where He says; *"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."*

Is a wife any different than a brother or sister in the Lord to forgive all the time? Not at all. Mrs. Badman was fulfilling this scripture in forgiving her husband plus, laying down her life. She had all the grounds and right to divorce, even as Jesus said. She probably had a lot of people surrounding her giving her council to divorce him because according to the Bible, she could. In the midst of being persecuted by her husband who often kept her from going to church, unable to tithe and give, her children persecuting her following their father's bad example, for all of these reasons and more, she could have divorced. She forgave him, submitted herself to God's word. I think when it comes down to our biblical rights to divorce on grounds of infidelity, it's still very important listen to the Holy Spirits advice in your situation regarding an unfaithful husband. Again, remember Jesus reiterated the hardness of heart was the only reason Moses gave them the 'right' to divorce. The choice is yours.

Let's go on to see what Jesus talks about regarding adultery. **Matthew 5:27-28**: *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."*

You've already committed the act of adultery because you've lusted in your heart and mind. You're guilty. Now remember this can go both ways with either man or woman.

So if this is the case, then there's really no difference with Christian marriages where both spouses are genuine Christians but the husband, with or without his wife's knowledge, is committing adultery in his heart on a regular basis by lusting after numerous women without acting it out. Jesus ALWAYS brought everyone back to the heart. You could be the most God fearing couple in your city, but if your husband is walking around lusting

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after women, flirting with them at the gas station or looking at them as they're walking down the street; what's the difference between him committing adultery in his mind or doing the act? There is no difference, Jesus is clear about that.

When quoting the Laws of God found in the Ten Commandments, Jesus always dealt with the heart of man. I think Badmans wife chose the live out the Christian walk in her marriage instead of merely exercising her legal rights found in the Ten Commandments. As a Christian, she chose to live out her Christianity before her husband. Through that, she knew that her husband could possibly be won over to the Lord. The easy road would have been to leave him, she chose the road of the cross.

We have to keep in mind that Badman was not a Christian, and she was tricked into marrying him, but after his Christian mask came off she chose to live out her life as a Christian as found in 2 Peter 3:1-6.

In the natural she would not be the poster girl for women's rights, but in the eyes of the Lord she needs to be commended for being a great example of a Christian wife and mother to the very end of her life. Anyone concerned about 'rights' would have said she was absolutely crazy to stay with him, take your women's rights. But she chose not to do that.

Mr. Badman and those of their children that didn't serve the Lord as their mother did, are without excuse on the day of judgment, because of their mothers Christianity being taught and lived out in the home as well as in the Church. Jesus gave her the choice, take one road that will be easier, or take the other road which will be more difficult to bear and carry the cross. Either way she was blessed. She chose the hard road and endured the cross, suffered the shame and reproach just like Jesus did according to Hebrews 12:2.

I think this message is for a lot of mothers that are in this situation. For them to be commended and applauded for keeping a Godly standard in their home, and not being told that they're foolish for staying in a difficult marriage. Who knows, it might be that their ungodly husband and children turn to Christ! Every situation is different and there could be numerous other reasons for a Christian wife to leave. We're focusing on what transpired in this story and the grace and mercy that was given to Mrs. Badman to stay in her marriage.