

The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

July 9th, 2017 - The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Chapter 20 – Without Godly Repentance, The Wicked Man's Hope and Life Die Together (pgs.118-120)

Today is the finale of this amazing book by John Bunyan. We have studied and learned so much haven't we. I'd like to first quote what John Bunyan himself said about Mr. Badman in this book; *"Yes, I trace him through his life from his childhood to his death, so that you may, as in a mirror, see with your own eyes the steps that lead to hell; and also discern, while you're reading of Mr. Badman's death, whether you yourself are treading this path. Let me entreat you to stop evading the truth by mockery, for that, I say, is how Mr. Badman died, but rather, solemnly inquire concerning yourself by the Word whether you are one of his family or not; for Mr. Badman has left many of his relatives behind him."*

It says in **Hebrews 9:27**; *"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."* Death is a one-time event. There is no second chance, no reincarnation, and no purgatory to wait to see if your sentence will change.

Wiseman says; *"The opinion, therefore, of the common people concerning this kind of dying is frivolous and vain, for Mr. Badman died like a lamb, or, as they call it, like a chrisom-child [a child anointed with oil at baptism], quietly, and without fear. And thus they may die like a chrisom-child outwardly, but indeed like one who, by the judgement of God, is bound over to eternal damnation; and who also by the same judgement is kept from seeing what they are, and where they are going, till they plunge down among the flames."*

This is how those watching Badman's death viewed him - peaceful. They were probably shocked not to hear some cry or shout for God's mercy and asking for forgiveness and confession of sins. But it was not so. Badman could not see where he was going, he saw no need or had no heart for repentance, he couldn't hear God's voice any longer as he was dead in spirit but peaceful in his mind. That was the great deception he and those by his side were in and maybe you're in.

2 Corinthians 4:1-6, *"Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."* Badman's heart was veiled even though he had heard the gospel all of his life.

Jesus gives a parable of the wedding feast in **Matthew 22:1-14** where it says; *"And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."'" But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they*

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found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "For many are called, but few are chosen."

The king here represents Jesus himself and he's given you the invitation to receive him as your personal Lord and Saviour to join Him in the heavenly banquet. As those invited refused him - as Badman did - have you refused Him? Have you made light of His invitation to you, scoffing and mocking it as something frivolous and inapplicable to your life? Are you too busy about your worldly business and refuse to see that you're a sinner that needs to be saved? After all the hundreds of times that the gospel of the love of Jesus has been preached to you, have you calloused your heart like Badman and now Jesus has turned you over to be destroyed? The judgement of God is on the sinner without the Saviour Jesus Christ where they will be thrown out into outer darkness. Jesus is going to lengths unlimited to bring you in to his arms of love and mercy so that you too can celebrate at the wedding feast. The one who thinks he can slip in without the wedding garment on - salvation - is cast out of the banquet.

Matthew Henry's Commentary says this about Matthew 22:14. *"Lastly, The parable is concluded with that remarkable saying which we had before (Matt. 20:16), Many are called, but few are chosen, Matt. 22:14. Of the many that are called to the wedding feast, if you set aside all those as unchosen that make light of it, and avowedly prefer other things before it; if then you set aside all that make a profession of religion, but the temper of whose spirits and the tenour of whose conversation are a constant contradiction to it; if you set aside all the profane, and all the hypocritical, you will find that they are few, very few, that are chosen; many called to the wedding feast, but few chosen to the wedding garment, that is, to salvation, by sanctification of the Spirit. This is the strait gate, and narrow way, which few find."*

Jesus references the straight and narrow in **Matthew 7:13-14**; *"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."* It almost seems unfair doesn't it that only a few find the way to life. But it's not as every possible opportunity is being given to you by Almighty God. Are you one of the few that have found salvation?

Wiseman says; *"And as it is a very great judgement of God on wicked men that die in this way, for it cuts them off from all possibility of repentance, and so of salvation, and so it is as great a judgement on those who are their companions that survive them; for by the manner of their death, they dying so quietly, so like chrisom-children (as they call it), they are hardened, and take courage to go on in their course. But I say, at this, their survivors take heart to tread their steps, and continue to live in breach of God's law. Yes, they carry on stately in their villainies; for so it follows in the Psalms: "There are no bands in their death, but their strength is firm", and "therefore pride compasseth them (the survivors) about as a chain, violence covereth them as a garment" (Ps. 73:6). Therefore, as they take courage to do evil, so they pride themselves in their iniquity. Therefore, wherefore...? Why, because their fellows died, after they had lived long in a most profane and wicked life, as quietly as lambs as if they were innocent."*

Those by Badman's side at his deathbed were spurred on to continue in their evil life as they didn't see or hear any repentance from Badman. They saw his confidence and peace, there was no struggle and as they didn't hear any repentant words, they thought God must have welcomed into heaven. Unfortunately they were all bamboozled and tricked.

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Isaiah 5:18-20 says; "*Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as if with a cart rope; that say, "Let Him make speed and hasten His work, that we may see it; and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come, that we may know it."* **Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!**" This really emanates our society right now doesn't it. What used to be called evil - is now good and visa versa. Nobody wants to offend anyone so they don't take a stand to call sin as sin. It's all relevant on a person's personal opinion of a matter.

Psalms 73:1-19 is a powerful psalm that encourages us when we see the 'apparent' wealth, goodness and peace of the ungodly, it is only in God's presence do we see and know the truth of their destiny. It says; "*Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no pangs in their death, but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men, nor are they plagued like other men. Therefore pride serves as their necklace; violence covers them like a garment. Their eyes bulge with abundance; they have more than heart could wish. They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walks through the earth. Therefore his people return here, and waters of a full cup are drained by them. And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?" Behold, these are the ungodly, who are always at ease; they increase in riches. Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence. For all day long I have been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I had said, "I will speak thus," behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me—until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors."*

Wiseman continues saying; "*Now, "Castedst them down" — that is, suddenly, or, as the next words say, "As in a moment they are utterly consumed with terrors". Yet these terrors did not seize them on their sick-bed, for they had "no bands" in their death. The terrors, therefore, seized them afterwards, where also they are held by them forever. This, therefore, is a great judgement of God, both on the one who dies in his sins, and also on his companions who see him die in that way. He sins, he dies in his sins, and yet dies quietly."*

An interesting concept of what eternity or forever might be like, is if you string a fish line to the moon and send an ant on the line to go and bring back one grain of the moon back to earth. Well, by the time he has all the moon on the earth, eternity has just begun. Hell is eternal and forever. It never ceases and as you're an eternal spirit being, either heaven or hell will be forever for you. It's your choice.

Matthew 7:21-23 "*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

Lawlessness is equated to sin and a sinful life. So in the midst of having the outward appearance of salvation with signs, wonders, miracles, altar calls, missions work, Bible college or you may even have your PhD in Biblical Studies, if you continue in sin and a sinful lifestyle, God will say to you 'depart from Me'. I'd urge you today to turn from your sins and walk holy and uprightly before Almighty God.

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Again, Matthew Henry's Commentary says this about the verse we just read. "1.) *That it will not suffice to say, Lord, Lord; in word and tongue to own Christ for our Master, and to make addresses to him, and professions of him accordingly: in prayer to God, in discourse with men, we must call Christ, Lord, Lord; we say well, for so he is (John 13:13); but can we imagine that this is enough to bring us to heaven, that such a piece of formality as this should be so recompensed, or that he who knows and requires the heart should be so put off with shows for substance? Compliments among men are pieces of civility that are returned with compliments, but they are never paid as real services; and can they then be of an account with Christ? There may be a seeming importunity in prayer, Lord, Lord: but if inward impressions be not answerable to outward expressions, we are but as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. This is not to take us off from saying, Lord, Lord; from praying, and being earnest in prayer, from professing Christ's name, and being bold in professing it, but from resting in these, in the form of godliness, without the power.*

(2.) *That it is necessary to our happiness that we do the will of Christ, which is indeed the will of his Father in heaven. The will of God, as Christ's Father, is his will in the gospel, for there he is made known, as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: and in him our Father. Now this is his will, that we believe in Christ, that we repent of sin, that we live a holy life, that we love one another. This is his will, even our sanctification. If we comply not with the will of God, we mock Christ in calling him Lord, as those did who put on him a gorgeous robe, and said, Hail, King of the Jews."*

Wiseman coming to an end says; "*But, above all, Mr. Badman's death, and as to the manner of dying, is full of snares and traps to wicked men. Therefore, those who die as he are the greatest stumbling-block to the world. They go, and go; they go on peaceably from youth to old age, and from there to the grave, and so to hell, without noise. "They go as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks" (Prov. 7:22); that is, both senselessly and securely."*

Romans 1:18-25 says; "*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."*

God gave them over to their sinful ways. He gave them over to the devil. If this is what you want, God says, I'll give you over, but there is no way back.

In conclusion, God has given you every chance in the world to repent of your sinful lifestyle - if this applies to you - are you now willing to choose life and not death? Are you now willing to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour and repent of your sins? Please don't choose eternal separation from God because of your sins. Hell in the lake of fire is the worst torment, more than the worst nightmare you could possibly imagine. Badman chose to turn a deaf ear to the gospel and love of Jesus. He didn't see the need of repenting of anything and he had no conviction of sin, although he had the hope of heaven and salvation, it was contradictory. Hell was Badmans end. Was it God's will? Absolutely not. Was it God's doing? Absolutely not. God will give over anyone who chooses to put the world, the flesh and the devil over Him. A little leaven will leaven the whole

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lump of dough. A little sin that's unrepented of will eventually leaven your whole life until it's too late. What's your choice today? Choose Jesus Christ to be your only Lord and Saviour.

Please watch this video, [The Rich Man and Lazarus](#).