



# ADULTERY

The Snare of an Affair



June Hunt



HOPE  
for the Heart

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JUNE HUNT



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Dear friend,

How would you feel if your husband sent you out of state to your mother's home for a month? He had already shipped off three of your children to summer camp and the 17-year-old 1,000 miles away to a summer job.

Then you return home only to realize, "Someone's been eating my porridge!" You wish it were a child's fairy tale like *Goldilocks and The Three Bears* or just a bad dream, but this shock is reality. "Someone's been wearing my clothes, someone's been using my perfume, someone's been sleeping in my bed." This was all true. This happened to my mother.

Nothing is more devastating than adultery. Nothing wounds a woman's worth like infidelity. I know. I saw my mother's sense of value drop to rock bottom. I grew up in a home where betrayal knew no bounds.

My mother, who admitted making a series of wrong choices, became emotionally drawn to a man double her age. Ultimately, she married my dad. But it wasn't until my teenage years that I saw the devastation of adultery first hand.

Words are inadequate to express the anger, pain and anguish I carried deep within my soul as I discovered my father was having one affair after another, with woman after woman. I felt


violated by my father's sexual involvements. I felt a strong sense of betrayal on behalf of our whole family. And I felt I was my mother's personal protector—yet as hard as I tried, I couldn't protect her.

As devastating as this experience was, I also saw my mother drawn into a deep dependence on the Lord. She took to heart the Scripture, "*Your Maker is your husband—the LORD Almighty is his name*" (Isaiah 54:5).

If you have been betrayed by your mate—or if you have been caught in the *snare of an affair*—I want you to know that in God there is hope for you and your situation. Although this is a difficult road, you are not traveling alone. The Lord says, "*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you*" (Psalm 32:8).

May God use the truths in this book to bring healing to your heart and hope to your soul.

Yours in the Lord's hope,



June Hunt

# ADULTERY

## The Snare of an Affair

Look at how that long, lingering stare subtly becomes the snare. But how could this happen to *him*? He is their fearless warrior—determined and disciplined. And he is their king—held in highest esteem.

Yet one fateful evening, when he should be overseeing his army, he becomes mesmerized at the sight of a beautiful woman, consumed with lust for this *married* woman. Although he, too, is married, he forsakes his wedding vows and behind closed doors commits adultery.

Somehow this one, solitary evening of selfish pleasure has just opened the door to other unthinkable sins. Indeed his own sexual compromise leads to unimaginable consequences.

Has your life been gripped by the agony of adultery? Has your life been forever changed by the snare of an affair? Since marriage was designed by God to be a lifelong covenant commitment, He will judge those who break the marriage covenant.

The Bible states clearly that ...

**“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”**  
(Hebrews 13:4)



## DEFINITIONS

*“But David remained in Jerusalem”* (2 Samuel 11:1). These ominous words foreshadow far more than a king who fails to join his army. It’s springtime. Weather conditions are favorable. Army provisions are ample. It’s the customary time for kings to go to war. But not King David! Instead, he sends his commander while his troops wage war without him. Meanwhile, he stays home, walking the halls of his palace. This scenario is most unusual because David’s history reveals he doesn’t hold back from battle, but rather runs toward it.

As a young shepherd boy, when an entire army cowers, David accepts an impossible challenge: He comes against the arrogant Goliath and kills the Philistine giant. Soon he is leading King Saul’s army into one victory after another. Then later as God’s next anointed king, he bravely goes to battle to consolidate the kingdom. Yet now with his military battling many miles away, King David finds himself in an entirely different battle *and his defenses are dangerously down.*

Interestingly, those who walk through the door of adultery assume, *I won’t get caught. No one will know. It’s no big deal.* Oh, how blind they are. They simply do not see how their own



selfish choices will reap severe results. The Bible even warns ...

**“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”**  
**(Galatians 6:7)**

## **WHAT IS** Adultery?

The king has been restless this particular evening, walking aimlessly around the roof of his palace. From the corner of his eye David notices light casting a golden glow across a reclining silhouette.

He looks, and soon his eyes are locked in a lustful stare. He gazes upon this woman—a “*very beautiful*” woman (2 Samuel 11:2)—bathing by lamp light in her courtyard. Now he is transfixed and trouble is on the horizon.

As a man of God, David is familiar with all of God’s commands, including the seventh of His Ten Commandments: God forbids adultery. God expressly forbids sexual relations with another person’s mate.

But the king turns a blind eye to Scripture, so that he can scope out the enticing scene. Soon, his visual sin takes a strategic spin. First David sends someone to find out who the woman is, then he sends messengers to bring her to the palace.

He's a married man, and Bathsheba is married too, but her husband is far away—ironically, fighting in David's army.

So lust looms and blooms, which proves to be a pitfall. What happens next will forever change the course of David's life.

**“She came to him,  
and he slept with her.”  
(2 Samuel 11:4)**

- ▶ **Adultery** is voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and another person who is not his or her lawful spouse.<sup>1</sup> Spiritually, it means to apostatize or to stray away from the covenant with God.
- ▶ “Adultery,” the English word, comes from the Latin *ad*, which means “to” and *alter*, which means “other, different” (to make different, to alter).
- ▶ “Adultery” in Hebrew is the word *naaph*, which is first mentioned in the Bible, the seventh of God's Ten Commandments.<sup>2</sup>

**“You shall not commit adultery.”  
(Exodus 20:14)**

## Misplaced Attraction

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**QUESTION:** “I find myself attracted to someone other than my wife. What can I do to ensure that I will be faithful?”

**ANSWER:** At the very moment your emotions start turning from your wife to someone else, redirect your mind and emotions back to your wife. Realize that guardrails on mountain roads serve as constraints that compel us to stay on course and drive safely. They keep us from plunging off the road to destruction below. In the same way, guarding your emotions keeps you from plunging headlong into an adulterous affair.

**Pray ...**

“Lord, I refuse to let my mind get off course. I choose to guard my mind. I will focus on being faithful to my marriage commitment, my spouse, and my Savior. In Your strength I pray, Amen.”

**“Let your eyes look straight ahead;  
fix your gaze directly before you.  
Give careful thought to the paths for your  
feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do  
not turn to the right or the left;  
keep your foot from evil.”  
(Proverbs 4:25–27)**

## WHAT DOES It Mean to Adulterate?

Two marriage covenants have now been stained, sullied by a man who should have modeled God's command rather than manipulate the tempting scene to satisfy his lust.

Those who commit adultery will be held accountable according to God's Word, and that extends even to God's anointed David. He will face a lifetime of tragic consequences because he allowed a casual glance across a courtyard to turn into unlawful lust. And not only has David tarnished his own integrity, but he has also cast a dark shadow over God's holy reputation among the nations—for that, too, he will be judged.

All too soon, David will hear a harsh rebuke through the prophet Nathan:

**“ ... by doing this you have shown  
utter contempt for the LORD.”  
(2 Samuel 12:14)**

- ▶ **To adulterate** is to corrupt or debase.
- ▶ **To adulterate** is to make impure or inferior by adding something improper.
- ▶ **To adulterate** sexually means to be involved in any sexually impure activity.

**“Among you there must not be even a  
hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of  
impurity.” (Ephesians 5:3)**

## **Prayer for an Adulterous Husband**

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**QUESTION:** “How should I pray for my husband, who has left me and is involved in an adulterous relationship?”

**ANSWER:** Your husband needs to feel heavy conviction so that he will want to turn from his unfaithful lifestyle. Rather than praying for God to bless him, pray for him to become a faithful husband, a man of integrity who has God’s favor.

**Pray ...**

- ▶ That your husband can’t help but be miserable because of his betrayal
- ▶ That he would have a heaviness of heart and piercing guilt
- ▶ That he would be driven out of the arms of this other woman and into the arms of God
- ▶ That God will use whatever sorrow is necessary to bring him back to his senses
- ▶ That God will withhold blessings from him until he repents

**“Repent, then, and turn to God,  
so that your sins may be wiped out,  
that times of refreshing  
may come from the Lord.”**

**(Acts 3:19)**

## WHAT IS Fornication?

David's adultery will snowball into a host of other sins, all designed to cover up what is due to come in nine months—a *baby*. Bathsheba returns home following their one-night tryst, and David may have thought he'd "gotten away with it." But a short message—just three words long—forever changes his life: "*I am pregnant*" (2 Samuel 11:5). Now with an illegitimate child surely on the way, David's thoughts turn to one vital person—the *husband of Bathsheba*.

His mind spins; somehow he must bring Uriah home from battle to sleep with her so that the baby will appear to be his. After David sends word to his commander to send Uriah home, David plans to give him perfect marching orders, but the honorable Uriah will not march to David's drum.

Indeed that one night of fornication will result in fearful guilt. One day David will say ...

**"My guilt has overwhelmed me  
like a burden too heavy to bear."  
(Psalm 38:4)**

► "Fornication" is generally an umbrella word for any sexual immorality, including adultery and pornographic acts. The Greek word *porneia*, from which we get the English word *pornography*, is often translated "fornication."<sup>3</sup>

- ▶ Fornication sometimes refers to sexual intercourse between two unmarried persons.
- ▶ Fornication is used as a spiritual metaphor when referring to mixing worldliness and godliness.

**“Now the body is not for fornication,  
but for the Lord,  
and the Lord for the body.”  
(1 Corinthians 6:13 KJV)**

## **Reconciling After Numerous Affairs**

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**QUESTION:** “My husband had numerous affairs and now wants to reconcile. Should we get back together?”

**ANSWER:** Ask yourself this question: What would make me think I can trust him now when I couldn't trust him in the past? The past is the best predictor of the future unless some kind of intervention occurs. Negative patterns rarely change, although the Lord can certainly change anyone who is willing to give Him total control. God is a God of reconciliation, but reconciliation takes two people, not just one.

Until you are thoroughly convinced by both his attitudes and actions that he has indeed changed, do not give open access to your home, your children, your heart, or your bed.