

MARRIED WELL
HOW TO AFFAIR PROOF YOUR MARRIAGE
GENESIS 39:1-12

INTRODUCTION:

1. Illustration – Tiger Woods, etc.
2. Typical response – “I didn’t mean for this to happen.”
3. Genesis 39:1-12
4. How to affair proof your marriage.

I. THE PROBLEM

A. V.7, She “looked longingly at Joseph.”

B. This sentence speaks volumes.

C. The opportunity did not happen out of the blue.

D. There was a process that developed which led to Potiphar’s wife taking notice.

E. How or why does someone “look longingly” or “take notice” in another person?

F. How does an affair begin?

1. Development of unreal expectations which can never be satisfied.
2. Legitimate needs are not met.
3. Disillusionment sets in.
4. Improper perception of reality. “Someone else will make me happy.”

5. Repeated painful experiences by our mate.
 6. Without realizing it, we will try to find a way to escape reality.
 7. Different kinds of affairs:
 - a. Job
 - b. Materialism
 - c. Fantasy – pornography
 - d. Another person
 8. We begin to “look longingly” of someone else or . . .
 9. They begin to “look longingly” of you.
 10. Compliments are made more frequently.
 11. There is the desire to spend larger amounts of time with that person in public settings.
 12. Then, there is the desire to spend time privately.
 13. A ritual develops of seeing this person.
 14. You rationalize in your mind that this “friendship” is okay. You say, “nothing has happened!” The fact is, something has happened.
 15. Then, someone will say, as Potiphar’s wife said, “Sleep with me.”
- G. Many find the temptation too great to resist, but you must have a plan.

II. THE PLAN

A. V. 8-12

B. The plan must be implemented much earlier in the process.

C. V. 8, "But he refused."

D. How did he refuse:

1. Promptly

- a. Without the slightest hesitation. His response was immediate.
- b. Had Joseph hesitated it could have been disastrous.

2. Firmly

- a. There was no sound of wavering or indecision.
- b. He was not half-hearted with his reply.
- c. His "no" was a resounding "NO" which all of Hell heard.
- d. It was a firm, intelligent, willful, final "NO!"

3. Kindly

- a. He was as kind as her behavior would allow.
- b. He did not resort to anger or cruelty.
- c. Perhaps he understood that this a woman who was hurting, lonely and longing for affection, but he knew he could not help her.
- d. By saying no, he demonstrated a TRUE love for that person. He knew not only what was right for him but what was right for her as well.

- e. His kindness was also demonstrated in that he tried to work in a difficult circumstance. V.10, “day after day.”
- f. Ultimately, you have to say what you have to say or do what you have to do to stay away.

4. Courageously

- a. Joseph was prepared to run any risk rather than yielding to the temptation as was proved when he ran.
- b. He knew that by running the story could be twisted, but he was committed to do the right thing.

III. THE PREVENTION

A. How do we prevent ourselves from taking the bait?

B. How do we affair proof our marriage?

C. Do's

1. Understand that no one is above the possibility.

a. Jeremiah 17:9, “The heart is more deceitful than anything else and desperately sick – who can understand it.”

2. Stay in the Word of God.

a. Psalm 119:11, “I have treasured Your word in my heart so that I may not sin against You.”

b. James 4:8, “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.”

3. Avoid any appearance of evil.

a. 1 Thessalonians 5:22, “Stay away from every form of evil.”

4. Develop your friendship with your wife.

a. Matthew 19:5-6, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, man must not separate."

5. Become accountable to a mentor.

a. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up."

b. Proverbs 27:6, "The wounds of a friend are trustworthy, but the kisses of an enemy are excessive."

c. Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."

d. Titanic – April 14, 1912 Patrick Morley

D. Don'ts

1. Don't develop an intimate friendship with the opposite sex

a. Ephesians 5:25, "Husbands love your wives."

2. Don't neglect the needs of your mate.

a. Philippians 2:4, "Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

3. Don't be alone with the opposite sex if at all possible.

a. Ephesians 4:27, "And don't give the Devil a foothold."

4. Don't make any decision based on your emotions.

a. Romans 12:1-2

5. Don't believe the Devil.

a. James 4:7, "Therefore, submit to God. But resist the Devil, and he will flee from you."

CONCLUSION:

1. Hebrews 12:1-3

2. If you have struggled, stumbled or fallen, you can be forgiven.

3. John 8 – woman caught in adultery.

4. What if I am the victim? V.20, "But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him."