



Who's Who in this Lesson

- Husband = the offender
- Wife = the offended
- Mistress = the adulteress

The Aftermath's Sinful Reality

Wife's Perspective

Issues associated with marriage and life ...

1. Why did it take "this" for my husband to see the brokenness in our marriage? Or appreciate me? Or begin to change?
2. I have forgiven him, but I cannot see us reconciling.
3. I don't want to do marriage counseling – he needs to work on his stuff first.
4. You don't realize how hurt I am by this...
5. I don't know if I can even trust him again. There's no guarantee that this won't happen again.
6. I'm afraid to reconcile. How do I know that my husband won't stop trying in the future and get back to the same place we are today?

Issues associated with the gospel life ...

1. God can be glorified because my spouse is now serious about God, not necessarily that we get back together.
2. Why are you reminding me/focusing on my sinful response and not husband's sin?
3. My relationship with God is good – but He hasn't given me a clear "ok" for reconciliation. (Divorce is in the back of her mind)

Husband's Perspective

Issues associated with marriage and life ...

1. I don't know if my wife will ever meet my expectations. I don't know if I can ever meet my wife's expectations.
2. How do I deal with my spouse's relentless questions?
3. How long will it take for my spouse to get through this and things get back to normal?
4. I'm repentant and asked God for forgiveness – why does she want more?
5. How do I handle no physical contact or sleeping in the same bed for so long?

Issues associated with the gospel life ...

1. I don't know if I could ever forgive myself.
2. I am full of shame and guilt.
3. Why did it take "this" for me to wake up and see things I should have seen years ago?



THE GOSPEL PROVIDES PERSPECTIVE

God designed the gospel (vertical) to shape and inform all that we do (horizontal). God calls us to live out the gospel to accomplish his mission.

Creation ...

- We live in God's world, not vice versa
- God's story of redemption is the main story, not ours
- We are made to reflect our God
- We are created to live with God and according to his will

Fall ...

- Everyone is wicked
- Everyone does what is right in his/her own eyes
- Our sin is in relationship to God—
 - We don't believe or trust him and his word
 - We don't submit to him—we rebel against him
 - We don't desire, worship or find ultimate satisfaction in him

Redemption ...

- God is all about enemy love
- Jesus knows our suffering
- Love initiates and pursues
- Love is marked by self-denial, suffering, and sacrifice
- Love confronts and overcomes evil
- Love leads to repentance
- Love casts out fear
- Every sin is forgiven
- Forgiveness leads to reconciled relationships, peace and oneness

Gospel Life ...

- Gospel Mission
 - God's mission is about redemption
 - God takes evil and uses it for redemption
 - God redeems everyone in every way in everything
 - We are redeemed for a purpose—to live out his mission of redemption
 - God's will and ways are summed up by love—Love God & others to reflect and redeem
- Suffering & Faith
 - Suffering redeems—strengthens, unifies, deepens faith, hope and love in God
 - Suffering and sin do not define us—we are defined by our relationship with Jesus
 - We are called to live by faith-- not by fear, anger or escapism
 - The gospel guarantees perfect love and faithfulness in Christ and nothing else
- (Identity)
 - God is God. He is in control. His timetable is not our timetable
 - We are ministers of reconciliation, ambassadors and slaves of Christ
 - God calls us to learn and grow in community. We need to be surrounded by God's people who point us back to Christ
- Cross Chart
 - God calls us to grow in our understanding and experience of our sinfulness and the sinfulness of others
 - God calls us to grow in our understanding and experience of his beauty and love
 - God calls us to grow in our understanding and experience of the cross



How Does the Gospel Give Perspective with the Wife and Husband's Situation?

What ways do not reflect the gospel & will not accomplish his mission?

God Is Redeeming Both Husband and Wife

God takes the things meant for evil and turns them around for our good and his glory (cf. Gen. 50:20). God is addressing the same issue in the husband and wife, but from opposite ends of the spectrum.

For the Husband	Issues	For the Wife
Shame, guilt for past/continual sexual sin, for hurting wife, for being found out, for others knowing, or maybe not yet broken.	Hurting & Broken	Shame, guilt, sense of betrayal and cheated on, insecurity of not being pleasing to her husband.
His chronic sexual sin and his defensiveness and impatience with his wife's reaction. Need to be responsible for own sin.	Justifying Sins	Her anger towards him and other fleshly responses. Need to be responsible for own sin.
Hesitant to answer fully for fear of hurting her more or being hurt. He needs to believe he can always trust Jesus to grow, persevere, and pursue his wife.	Not Able to Trust the Other	Hesitant to open heart to him for fear of being hurt more. She doesn't want to be tricked or lied to again. She needs to believe she can always trust Jesus so that she can trust, submit to and respect her husband.
Thinking the wife is on his case because of a guilty or defensive posture.	2nd Guessing or Judging the Other's Actions	Thinking the husband is telling her what she wants to hear to win her back.
Can have a "false peace" or minimize his sin due to not understanding the depth & weight of his sin against God and wife.	The depth & weight of sins & the cross (Rom. 5:20-21; 8:31-39; Ps. 139)	Can minimize her own sins before the Lord because she sees his sins as so much greater than her own.
Need Christ to change... to be humble—to absorb the assaults, questions and mistrust and turn it over to Jesus. For patience—to wait for his wife to heal/forgive. For wisdom—to lead his wife through this difficult time.	Need for Christ (Jn. 15:1-17; Gal. 5:22-26; Rom. 8; Ps. 37)	Need Christ for healing from the hurt and for any hope for their marriage. Need Christ to be humble—to absorb the sin and turn it over to Jesus.
He needs to see that any change in his affections for Christ & wife, along with a change in his marriage will come only through faith in Christ, and not his abilities.	Live by Faith (Gal. 2:20; Heb. 11:6)	She needs to see that any change in her affections for Christ and for her husband and marriage will come only through faith in Christ, and not her abilities.
A living hope in Jesus & what he already has in the gospel. Also in dealing with his sins, for a redeemed marriage, & for pastoring home.	Hope in Christ (Rom. 5:5)	A living hope in Jesus and what she already has in the gospel. Also for a redeemed marriage, & for a renewed trust in her husband.
Be compelled with the love of Christ to no longer live for self, but for Christ—having a greater affection for Him versus sinful desires.	Love of Christ (2 Cor. 5:14-15; 1 John 4:9-10; Eph. 5:1-2)	Be compelled with the love of Christ to no longer live for self, but for Christ—having a greater affection for Him versus sinful desires.
Remembering that he has been forgiven for every sin, he is called to forgive her as Christ has forgiven him, forgiveness leads to reconciliation with wife.	Forgiveness of Christ (Eph. 4:31-32)	Remembering that she has been forgiven for every sin, she is called to forgive him as Christ has forgiven her, forgiveness leads to reconciliation with husband.
He is not defined by his sin, shame and guilt. He needs to believe who God declares him to be in Christ.	Identity in Christ (Eph. 1; Rom. 8)	She is not defined by his sin, her shame & brokenness—"self-worth." She needs to believe who God declares her to be in Christ.
Not seeing clearly— others can remind him about Christ and his truths and promises.	Needing Others Around (Heb. 3:12-14; 10:19-25)	Not seeing clearly— others can remind her about Christ and his truths and promises.
Rely on the Spirit of Christ for wisdom and grace to see this situation as God sees it—gospel opportunities, for his growth, for him to minister Christ to his wife in the mess.	Redemptive Vision	Rely on the Spirit of Christ for wisdom and grace to see this situation as God sees it—gospel opportunities, for her growth, for her to minister Christ to her husband in the mess.
The enemy wants him ... to give up, to think he can never change, to place his hope in the sexual fantasy, to keep him blind to the wickedness of his sin, to doubt Christ & his truths & promises, to not see God's grace or presence.	Spiritual Warfare (Eph. 6:10ff) (2 Cor. 10:3-6)	The enemy wants her ... to give up, to think he can never change, to place her hope in husband's faithfulness & purity, to keep her blind to her sin, to doubt Christ & his truths & promises, to not see God's grace or presence.



Some Summary Principles

For the Wife:

1. Entrust yourself and your husband to Christ—he is the only one who is trustworthy.
2. Do the right thing even though you've been wronged.
3. The sin against you doesn't justify sin against your husband.
4. Her biggest struggle is with God. See how her relationship with God translates to her loving, forgiving and reconciling with her husband like Christ has done with her.

For the Husband:

1. Entrust yourself and your wife to Christ—he is the only one who is trustworthy.
2. Do the right thing even though you've been wronged.
3. Be patient with your wife. Remember you started this deeply hurtful mess. You are still called to shepherd her even now, when she doesn't trust you.
5. His biggest struggle is with God. See how his relationship with God translates to him loving, forgiving, serving and reconciling with her husband like Christ has done with her.

For the Couple:

1. This adultery is more about their individual and marital redemption.
2. Remember that God is redeeming both husband and wife.

For the Community:

1. God is redeeming everyone involved.
2. Bring every issue and situation back to Jesus and the cross.
3. Coordinate with and follow the lead of the elder or head coach.