



Adultery Case Study (by Deepak Reju)

The Situation Part 1

Judy called you and clearly distraught she asks, “Can we come see you today? It’s urgent.” Recognizing that someone’s definition of **urgent** is not as urgent as it might seem, you ask a few questions to figure out what’s going on. She relays the story... “A few days ago, I walked into our bedroom, and Phil’s laptop was open to his email and it was sitting on the desk. I walked over to the close the cover, only to notice a bunch of emails from one woman in particular (Alice). I thought I knew most of Phil’s friends and co-workers really well, but I didn’t know who Alice was, so I asked him when he got home. For a moment he looked a bit flustered. He said, ‘She’s a business acquaintance.’ He cross-examined me for a few minutes asking how I knew about Alice. After he figured out I saw his email briefly, he asked if I had read anything, to which I replied, ‘no.’ He backed off and we didn’t talk about it again, but at that point I was suspicious. I started snooping around, and found emails, texts, and lots of other correspondence from Alice over the next few days.

I confronted him a few days later and he denied it. He said I was crazy and should stop making up mythology about his life. I kept on confronting him over the next few days, but he was insistent that nothing was going on and Alice was simply a business acquaintance. When he figured out that I had seen and read a lot of emails, texts, and lots of other correspondence from Alice, he eventually stopped denying it.”

1. What are your initial goals?
2. What other details do you want to know at this point?



The Situation Part 2

Alice and Phil start to meet with you regularly for counseling.

Phil admits to you that he has been having an affair with Alice. He usually tags on an extra day or two on his business trips out of town, and they would meet up, spend one or two whole days together. They've met at least once a month during the past year. Alice is a co-worker he met on a business trip a few years ago. They hit it off immediately and stayed in touch. About a year ago, they were at the same business convention in Las Vegas, and they ended up having a long-intimate dinner together and sex later that night.

Over the past five years, Phil has grown increasingly dissatisfied with his marriage. "She constantly nags at me. She is often angry at me. I don't really like being around her anymore. She's got unrealistic expectations, and I can't bear it anymore." She says something similar, "He's grown very distant over the past three years. I've seen him pull away from me and pour himself into his work."

They have three grown kids, all of whom no longer live at home.

"I don't know if I can trust him anymore." Judy is considering divorcing him and wonders why she should bother with counseling. At this point, they have not told any of their pastors at the megachurch they attend... "I'm too embarrassed to tell anyone," Judy comments. "I'm wondering if it would be better to just get a divorce and not deal with Phil anymore."

Both Phil and Judy attend church regularly, though Judy is much more involved compared to Phil. He doesn't have many relationships in the church. Most of his friendships are through work.

In your initial meeting with Phil, it becomes clear that he is teetering on the edge. He's not sure if he wants the marriage anymore, and he is seriously debating going back to Alice and leaving the marriage.



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1. What places do you need to intervene?
2. What questions do you want to ask?
3. Based on what you know now, do you want to do individual counseling, couples counseling, or both?
4. What are some of the possible heart issues for Judy and Phil?
5. Where would you go in the Bible to help them out?
6. How do you want to speak into their situation? What would you want to say to him, her or both of them?
7. What kinds of goals do you want to set for the counseling?
8. What kind of accountability and relationship support/fellowship would be helpful for Phil and Judy?
9. Does Alice have grounds for divorce and what do you do about her statements about divorce?

Adultery

Can God redeem this marriage?



Deepak Reju 2015

U.S. Capitol



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6 Questions to Consider

1. What are your initial goals?
2. What other details do you want to know at this point?
3. What would you say to Phil when you speak to him?
4. What is your strategy for the first session?
5. Suppose that Phil is a member of his church. How do you proceed?
6. Suppose that Phil is not a member of his church and he rarely attends. How would you proceed in engaging him?



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9 Questions to Consider

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