

Proverbs 6:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

Analysis

A prostitute reduces a man to a loaf of bread, while an adulteress preys on precious life. The Hebrew imagery of becoming 'a loaf of bread' ('kikkar lechem') indicates reduction to mere object or commodity - total degradation. The adulteress 'hunts' ('tsu wd') precious life like predator pursuing prey. Sexual sin commodifies persons and destroys life. What God designed for mutual blessing becomes mutual exploitation and destruction.

Historical Context

Ancient prostitution involved both economic transaction and cultic practice (temple prostitution). Both degraded human dignity - persons became commodities. Prophets consistently condemned Israel's spiritual prostitution (idolatry) using marital metaphor. Hosea's marriage to Gomer illustrated this vividly. Sexual sin's degradation mirrors spiritual adultery's devastation.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does pornography reduce persons to commodities, and how does this parallel prostitution's degradation?
2. What 'precious life' is being hunted/destroyed by sexual temptation you're entertaining?
3. How does understanding persons as image-bearers create moral resistance to sexual exploitation?

Interlinear Text

כִּי בְּעֵד אֵשֶׁת זָנוֹן בָּשָׁר
H3588 For by means of and the adulteress a whorish H5704
H1157 H802 H2181

כָּפֵר לְחַם אֵשֶׁת אֵשׁ
a man is brought to a piece of bread and the adulteress life
H3603 H3899 H802 H376 H5315

תִּצְאֵל בְּקָרְבָּן
for the precious will hunt
H3368 H6679

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 29:3 (Parallel theme): Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance.

Proverbs 5:10 (Parallel theme): Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger;

Luke 15:30 (Parallel theme): But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

1 Samuel 2:36 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left in thine house shall come and crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel

of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.

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