

Proverbs 6:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

Analysis

Can one walk on hot coals without scorching his feet? Again, rhetorical question expecting negative answer. Walking on coals guarantees burning. Likewise, approaching adultery guarantees harm. The Hebrew 'gechaliym' (hot coals) and 'kavah' (scorch/burn) emphasize certain injury. These sequential questions (v.27-29) hammer home the point: sexual sin's consequences are inevitable, not possible to avoid while persisting in sin.

Historical Context

Fire-walking in ancient Near Eastern religious practices often resulted in burns unless practitioners achieved altered states or took precautions. The proverb assumes normal physics: hot coals burn feet. Similarly, moral laws operate predictably - violate them, suffer consequences. Modern culture sometimes pretends sin's consequences are avoidable through sophistication or technology, but moral reality persists.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What rationalizations tell you that you can walk on moral 'hot coals' without being burned?
2. How does recognizing sin's inevitable consequences affect your evaluation of temptation?
3. What burned 'feet' (consequences) have you or others experienced from sins thought controllable?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	הַ בָּא	אֶל	אִשְׁתּוֹ	רֵעֵהוּ	לֹא
H3651	So he that goeth in	H413	wife	to his neighbour's	H3808
	H935		H802	H7453	
	! נִקְיָה	כָּל	הַנִּגֵּץ	בָּהּ:	
	her shall not be innocent	H3605	whosoever toucheth	H0	
	H5352		H5060		

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 7:1 (Parallel theme): Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.