



FAITHFULNESS



YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY
(Exodus 20:14)

Proverbs 6:32

KJV = lacks understanding ... destroys his own soul

NEB = senseless fool ... ruins himself

HLM = lacks sense ... destroys himself

NIV = lacks judgement ... destroys himself

NLT = utter fool ... destroys his own soul

Hebrew text:

a) hasar leb = lack heart

b) Shahat nephesh

= destroy/devastate/blemish/waste

= soul/being/self/life

Point =

- a) an adulterer has a problem at their heart
- b) adultery isn't going to improve it ... will devastate more

Though sexual in nature, the essence of adultery is not sexual. It is emotional. It is a (voluntary) weakening or diluting of the relational bond. It is, therefore, a violation of the total commitment and exclusive intimacy which is promised in the marriage vow.



WHY COMMITMENT? (Marriage)



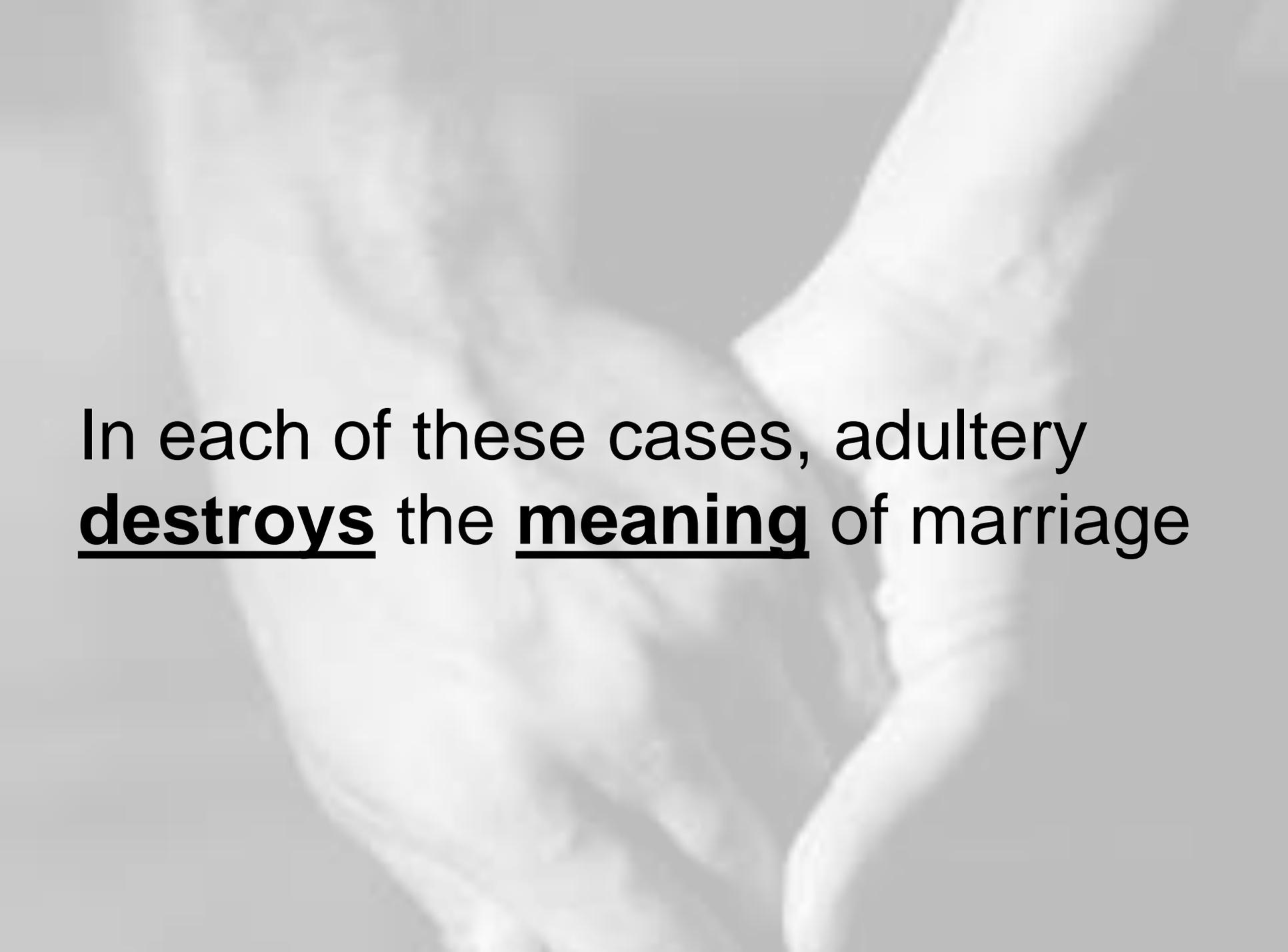
PROTECTION ... creating a healthy
relationship



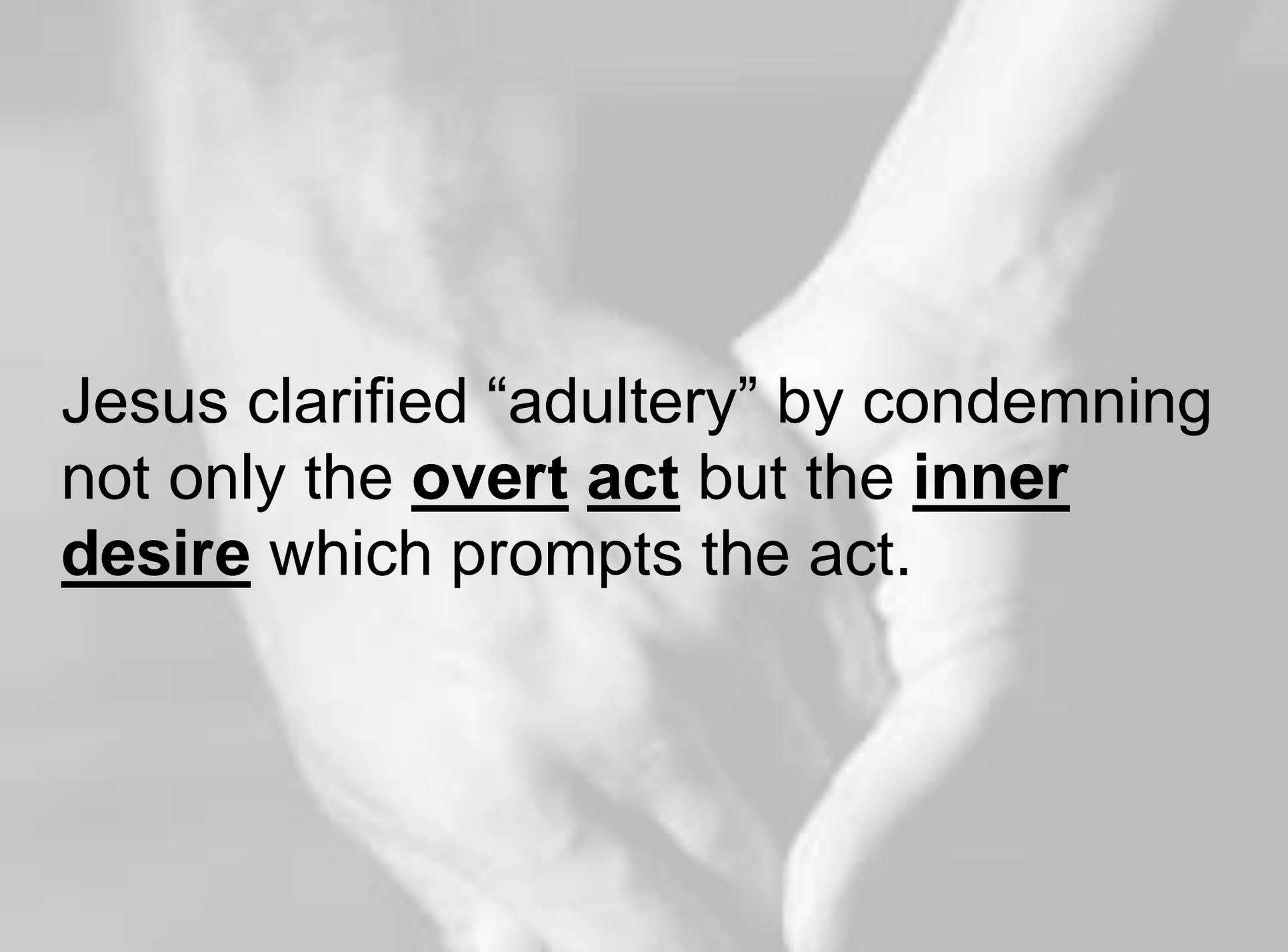
PRESERVATION ... sustaining a
healthy relationship



PICTURE ... relationship as viewed
by others



In each of these cases, adultery
destroys the **meaning** of marriage



Jesus clarified “adultery” by condemning not only the **overt act** but the **inner desire** which prompts the act.

GUARDING AGAINST ADULTERY?

- Do whatever necessary to keep **satisfaction** **alive** in your relationship
- Do whatever necessary to keep yourself from being **attracted** **elsewhere**

GUILTY OF ADULTERY?

- **Stop. Immediately.**
- **Seek forgiveness ... God and spouse**
- Establish **accountability**

IF YOU HAVE BEEN SINNED AGAINST?

- Talk with your spouse (outside counseling may be helpful)

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.” *(Matthew 15:18)*

- **Offer** forgiveness

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your heavenly Father will not forgive you.

(Matthew 6:14-15)

- **Believe** that healing is possible

But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us. Jesus replied, “If you can? Everything is possible for him who believes!” *(Mark 9:23)*