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# **NOW HEAR THIS!** WITH **KENNETH MESHOE**

## **Death for adultery? If it was so, many would die!**

**R**EAD A STORY this past week which reminded me of a similar tale I have read many times in the Bible. It is a story about calls for the death sentence for a person who was caught committing adultery.

In both stories, the call for the death sentence was directed at only one person even though two people were involved in the act.

In the Biblical account, the person sentenced to death was a woman. However, the newspaper story said that the person who may receive the death sentence is a man – Swaziland’s minister of justice and constitutional affairs who was arrested for allegedly committing adultery with one of the King’s wives.

I’m sure that there are many Sunday Sun readers who will agree with me when I say that adultery is a sin and should be condemned.

King Solomon, who had many wives and concubines once said, “a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself. Blows and disgrace are his lot and his shame will never be wiped away.”

Would it be just for the King of Swaziland to recommend the death sentence for the crime committed by his minister of justice for committing adultery with his wife as some journalists are speculating?

To my knowledge there is no law within the SADC region that imposes the capital punishment for adultery. If there was such a law, many men and women would have already lost their lives, including our very own President.

King Solomon asked the following important questions: “Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coal without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another man’s wife; no-one who touches her will go unpunished.”

If a family breaks down and marriage ends in divorce because of adultery, what punishment should be imposed on the

adulterer? Should there be any redress for the innocent spouse? If yes, what should that be?

What about the children, innocent in all of this, who suffer as a result of losing their mother or father because of adultery. Should they be entitled to compensation? I’m just asking.

What should women in polygamous relationships do when they feel neglected by their husbands with whom they share with other women? What should they do if they are denied conjugal rights by their husbands who are too busy with their more preferred, loved and cared-for wives? Does this not leave them more vulnerable and prone to temptations and sin? I’m just asking.

In June, an anonymous letter was sent to a Durban newspaper alleging that our President’s second wife had been cheating on him. This letter claimed that she had had an affair with her bodyguard. Is it possible that both the South African President and King of Swaziland may have neglected their duties to their wives, and that this neglect tempted them to look for attention and love elsewhere? I’m just asking?

**I**s it not evident from these two stories that it is not possible for any man with more than one wife to love all his wives with the same dedication and passion? Why should men be allowed to have more than one wife when women frowned upon when they even talk about having more than one husband? Is the practice of polygamy fair on women or not? Does polygamy reduce wives to the level of housekeeper or mere ornaments in the house of “the important man” with many wives? I’m just asking.

■ **The Rev Kenneth Meshoe MP is the president of the African Christian Democratic Party**