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There is my cousin named Sarah who lives in M___ Village at Kalembo in Balaka and I one particular day visited her and asked her about some of her friends in her village whom she knows that they are always faithful to their spouses and she told me that she knows five people who are faithful to their spouses in that village and she said that the first person that she knows that is faithful is Abiti Ngome and the discussion went like this:

I: Who is the first faithful person remind me?

R: Abiti Ngome.

I: Why is she faithful?

R: She is now faithful because she was found responsible for the death of her extra-marital partner named Michael from the neighboring village of Mnyaka. She slept with him two months after delivery and the man died after two weeks from the day they had sex. She was accused of this by her grandparents to teach her the traditional rules about the period recommended for one to resume sex after giving birth. That happened when her husband was in Zomba for labour and that was in 1992. And since she overcame such an incident she said that she will never fall into extra-marital affairs anymore. And from that time up to now she has never got any extra-marital affair. Her husband was not informed about this when he came from Zomba. People were laughing at her saying that she was a fool for not knowing the traditional birth rules at her age.

I: What relationship is there with you?

R: She is my sister.

I: What do other people say about her for being out of extra-marital affairs?

R: People do admire that she did well by changing her behavior because she could lose her marriage if she could continue with that because her husband could divorce her if he could find out that she was going with other men in his absence. Abiti Ngome is a Yao.

I: Who is the second person who is faithful to his/her spouse?

R: Wasili Kili.

I: Why is Wasili always faithful to her husband?

R: She has never had a sexual partner before marriage, and the man who came to marry her was the first man she had sex with.

I: How did you know that her husband was the first man she had in her whole life?

R: We have been growing up together and we know all her background history.

I: What tribe is she?

R: She is a Yao too.

I: Is it common here that most of the women do get married to their first sexual partner?

R: In this generation this is rare but this one had managed to wait until she got married, but most of the women do have one to two sexual partners before they get married.

I: Do women stop having sexual partners when they get married?

R: Some people do stop this while some do continue with this.

I: Why do others not stop this?

R: They don't get satisfied with their own husbands, some do this because they want to get money from their sexual partners while some do this as part of their behavior of having more than one sexual partners at a time.

I: Ok!

R: Some do have sexual partners outside marriage because of their poverty and on the other hand, some women though they get some money from their husbands, they do still have extra-marital affairs to get more than what they get from their husbands.

I: Why do some women stop having other sexual partners?
R: They do drop this because they are satisfied with what they have, so no need to have extra-marital affairs.

I: What about men, do they stop going with other sexual partners when they get married?
R: Men don't stop having other sexual partners when they get married.

I: Why don't they stop this?
R: They don't get satisfied with their own wives, they do say that they want to have sexual partners so that they feel a different taste with their extra-marital partners.

I: What kind of taste do they look after?
R: I don't know what they exactly want.

I: What did you hear from what other people say is the reason that makes men to continue with sexual partners after getting married?
R: Some do say that they want a woman with beads in the waist while some do say they want women who are very good in shaking their bodies when sex is in action while other men do they say that women have got different sexual tastes, so that they want those with a good taste.

I: You have said that Wasili got married to her first sexual partner and that she is faithful, is she faithful because of age, religion or she is naturally that way?
R: That one is naturally that way because if we talk of age, she is a young woman because she was born in 1971 which means that she is almost 30 years old.

I: How far did she do with school?
R: She never went to school?

I: Who is she to you?
R: She is my aunt.

I: What do other people say about her for being so faithful to her husband?
R: Some people do say that she is foolish because her faithfulness is meaningless because her husband is a womaniser. In so doing she can't be safe from infections though she is always faithful.

I: Which infections do you mean?
R: Any sexually transmitted infection including AIDS.

I: Who says she is foolish, her relatives or other people in the village?
R: People in the village and worse her parents especially her father who always says that he wants to have that marriage ended because the husband is not faithful at all.

I: How many sexual partners outside marriage is her husband is having?
R: I can't know how many extra-marital affairs he is having but he has got two wives at present including that Wasili as his first wife and the other wife is at Mpango village, he could have three wives but his third wife died two years ago making him to remain with two wives.

I: Where was she coming from?
R: She was from Namalomba village.

I: What did she die off?
R: I don't know what she died of.

I: What do other people say she died of?
R: Some people do say that she was bewitched at Makanjila in Mangochi where she was staying because was used to quarreling with other people there while others do say this is not true, the truth is that she died of AIDS because she was also used to having several sexual partners before she got married and even when she was married and that makes Wasili to think that there are the chances that she has got AIDS from her husband's behavior.

I: What does she say about AIDS?
R: She says that it seems that they have got AIDS because her husband is always complaining of pains in his body and since he is a womaniser she thinks that he got the infection from his other sexual partners.

I: Did she ever discuss this with her husband?
R: Yes.

I: What does she say to him?
R: She says that she does tell him that his behavior is going to hurt her so he'd better change and the husband tells her that she shouldn't get what other people tell her. And one time she decided to take the matter to the *nkhoswe* and her husband told her not to do so and she dropped this.

I: Did her husband change his behavior?
R: Never.

I: What is her father doing about this?
R: He told her that she should divorce him and when she told the husband to divorce the husband did not agree to divorce so that they are still together though he is not changing his behavior.
I: Were she and her parents aware of the man's behaviour before the two got married?
R: The man was not a womaniser before marriage but he has just changed his behavior while they are already married.
I: What does Wasili say about HIV/AIDS test as she has got some uncertainties about her health status due to her husband's behavior?
R: She doesn't say anything about HIV tests but she once left with her husband to drink *Nchape* at Mr. Chisupe at Liwonde.
I: What is *Nchape*?
R: There was a herbalist called Chisupe and he had declared that he had dreamt an AIDS cure through his ancestors and many people were going there to drink that herb to have HIV defeated in their bodies.
I: When did they go for that?
R: It was in 1995.
I: Who decided that they should go and take the herbs there?
R: Her husband is the one who decided to go for *Nchape*.
I: Who else went for *Nchape* apart from this couple in your area?
R: Many couples in our village want for this *Nchape*.
I: How many couples do you know that went there?
R: I am specific about four couples besides Wasili and her husband.
I: What were the other couples saying were the reasons for going and taking that 'Nchape'?
R: They went there because they heard that when one has got the HIV infection he/she could have it cured.
I: Did yourself go for *Nchape*?
R: No.
I: Why not?
R: I have got no doubts that my health status so I wouldn't go for that.
I: How much money were the people paying for a dose of *Nchape*?
R: It was free of charge but you could leave any amount of silver/coins you could decide to drop inside the drug bucket.
I: How far is that place of *Nchape* from here?
R: If you could travel by bus, it was costing MK40 go and back, but many people were using their bicycles and some could organise and hire a vehicle as a group so that it was costing them less in terms of transport.
I: Are people still going for *Nchape* these days?
R: I don't know but it was very hot in the time the drug was discovered.
I: Do you yourself believe that there is a cure for AIDS?
R: I don't believe that there is a cure for AIDS.
I: Why?
R: If there was a cure for AIDS, people couldn't be dying of it as it is.
I: Do you have any example of a person who went for *Nchape* but that he/she is now dead because of AIDS?
R: I have got one example of a man who went for that *Nchape* but he still died of AIDS though he took *Nchape*. If it was a cure for AIDS, could he die of it then? There is no cure for AIDS. The best way to avoid this is to have self control from promiscuity.
I: Where was that man coming from?
R: He was from Mnyaka village.
I: When did he die?
R: It was in 1998.
I: How did you know that he died of AIDS?
R: He was told at the hospital that he had TB because people are just told that they have got TB at the hospitals. They don't tell them exactly that they have got AIDS and moreover his wife died later after six months from the date of his death. And most of the people do say that he died of AIDS because he was used to sleeping with bargirls most of the times and one of the bargirls who was his sexual partner is also sick at the moment.
I: What was the man's name?
R: He was Jackson.

I: How many people do you know who have died of AIDS in total?
R: I know about seven people.
I: How many died last year?
R: Two died in the last year.
I: What do people say about being tested for HIV/AIDS?
R: I have never heard anyone talking about HIV/AIDS test.
I: Who is the third person whom you know that is always faithful to spouse?
R: Akimu.
I: What is Akimu's sex?
R: He is male.
I: Why is he faithful to his wife?
R: That one was always faithful since he was young through the time he got married and he married his first sexual partner that he had by the time he decided to get married. And moreover with the advice that he got from the *nkhoswe* on the day of marriage that increased the degree of his faithfulness. And with that, he did not have any extra-marital affairs from the time he got married until the day his wife died leaving him with a kid.
I: When did his wife die?
R: She died in the year of 2000.
I: What did she die of?
R: She was bewitched by her uncle.
I: Who is keeping the kid as you have said that she left a kid?
R: Akimu himself is taking care of the kid.
I: When did they get married?
R: They got married in 1998 and he has never remarried since his wife died and he has never gone with any sexual partner since his wife died.
I: Why has he not yet remarried?
R: He says that he is still mourning for his wife.
I: What do other people say about Akimu for being faithful?
R: Many people do admire him, saying that he is good hearted because other men could now have married soon after the wife's death.
I: Do some people say that he is foolish for being faithful?
R: I have never heard anyone saying that he is foolish.
I: Is it common that some men are faithful like him in this area?
R: It is not common because some men do leave the wife while sick on bed and go and marry a new wife leaving her for good.
I: Do you have any example of such an incident that you saw?
R: Yes.
I: Tell me more about that?
R: It was in Lilongwe where I was staying where a man married a new wife when his first wife was sick, he said that he did this because he was running away from the traditional rule that says no sex when the wife is sick, so he married a second wife so that he should be sleeping there by the time his wife was sick.
I: What happened to the sick wife?
R: She got well and she divorced him because he was not having true love.
I: When was that?
R: That was in 1994.
I: How old is Akimu?
R: He was born in 1976.
I: How close is he to you?
R: He is my uncle.
I: How far did he go with school?
R: He went up to standard six.
I: What tribe is Akimu?
R: He is a Ngoni.
I: Who is the fourth faithful person whom you know?
R: The fourth is Abiti Pensulo.
I: Why is Abiti Pensulo faithful?

R: She became faithful after she was given a pregnancy by her sexual partner before marriage and the partner was told by his relatives not to accept the responsibility of that pregnancy because she falls unconscious, so his sister said that she doesn't want him to marry a wife who falls unconscious, so the man did as he was told by his sister. And she said that she will never have sex with anyone before marriage to avoid such a problem happening again, and she did not have any sexual affair until she got married.

I: When was that?

R: That was in 1997 and fortunately, she gave birth to a stillborn. And she later got married in 1999 and she is still faithful to her husband up to date.

I: What do other people say about her for being faithful?

R: Many people do admire her that she is now better that she is faithful as compared to how she was doing when she was an adult girl that was used to moving with boys and if she could have continued with that she couldn't get married because men could be taking her as an adulterous woman.

I: Where was her sexual partner who caused her pregnancy coming from?

R: He was from Mnyaka village.

I: Where does her current husband come from?

R: He comes from Balaka District Area.

I: How close is Abiti Pensulo to you?

R: She is my sister-in-law.

I: How far did she go with school?

R: She went up to standard two.

I: What tribe is she?

R: She is a Ngoni.

I: What tribe is her husband?

R: He is a Yao.

I: Where are they staying?

R: They are living here but they sometime got separated because of other reasons so that the man went to his home in Balaka.

I: How long did their separation take?

R: It took three months and during that period the husband married another wife there and the marriage ended after a month as he caught his wife with another man in the bush where she had gone to look for firewood and he came back to his former wife after that separation.

I: What was the reason for their separation?

R: There is a number of reasons that led to their separation and the first reason is that the husband always wants to be having sexual contact frequently, when she tries to cook *nsima* he calls her in the bedroom and when they are in the bush fetching firewood, he does ask her for sex and she was bored with this and sometimes when she tries to say no to having sex he was beating her saying that she was refusing because she had already had sex with someone else, so he was forcing her to have sex though she couldn't want sex. Things got worse as the woman sometimes falls unconscious and he did not care about this as it was during the noon hours in his house so that he started inserting his organ while she was unconscious and unfortunately his mother-in-law found him busy with her while she was unconscious and she was very angry with this so that she told her husband who is the husband's father-in-law and the father-in-law told him to leave for his home because of what he did. He left on the other day, making him get separated with his wife. After three months of separation he came and said sorry to his wife, his father-in-law and the *nkhoswe*, and his apology was accepted so that they are now living together happily.

I: Did he change his system?

R: He changed. It could have been known if he did not change because the woman was told to tell the *nkhoswe* if he does as what he was doing before, but there is no any such report up to this date and they have got two children in their family.

I: Who is the fifth faithful person whom you know?

R: The fifth person is Abiti Daizi. That one became faithful when she was born again in 1995. In that year she was caught with a sexual partner outside marriage with her husband. She said that she has this extra-marital affair because her husband was not having children with her as his mother was doing some magic to make him not be productive. She said she was told this by a witch doctor in so doing she had this extra-marital affair so that she should be having children with him whilst her husband is there and she has got two children with the extra-marital partner. Fortunately, when the mother of her husband died, the husband now is able to have children with her as he is free from his mother's magic action. After seeing that her

husband is now fruitful she came forward before the church elders of their religion called Pentecostal church and repented. In her reformation statements to the church elders, she revealed that she had extra-marital affair so that she has got two children with him and that she was doing this without her husband's knowledge but said that she was doing this because her husband was not productive by then and asked the Almighty God to forgive her with that and said that from that time onwards, she will not do such a mistake anymore.

I: Where was her husband when she was stating this in the presence of the church elders?

R: He was right there.

I: What was his reaction on hearing this statement?

R: He forgave her so that they are now living happily and she has got two children with him and she is also pregnant in the meantime.

I: When did she repent?

R: It was in the same year that her husband's mother died and that was when she saw that she was having a pregnancy caused by her husband and that was in 1995.

I: How does he care for the first two children that are not his?

R: He cares for them just the same as he does with his own children, he doesn't make any difference when taking their care.

I: Is this common with other men that they do care for the children who are not theirs equally as how they care for their own children?

R: No, most of the men do chase such children from their homes so that the children go and get refuge in their grannies' homes or at their fathers' homes.

I: Do you think that this Abiti Daizi is faithful?

R: Definitely.

I: What does she do that you agree that she is faithful?

R: She is just relying on her husband, she is just different as the way she was behaving earlier when they got married, and since she repented, we have never heard any rumour that she is going with any other man apart from her husband.

I: What do other people say about her for being faithful now after repentance?

R: They do admire her that she did well by stopping going with other men whilst her husband is there because she could have lost her marriage if she could have continued with that. And some do say that her mother-in-law was the one who was misleading her by making them fail to have children with her magic.

I: What was her extra-marital partner's marital status?

R: He was married.

I: Did his wife find out about this affair?

R: She heard about this when she heard that her husband was caught with her, but their marriage did not end.

I: How close is Abiti Daizi to you?

R: She is my aunt's daughter.

I: Do you mean that most of your relatives are faithful?

R: Not all of them are faithful, some are not faithful, but I am talking only about those I know that they are faithful as you have been asking me to tell you more about the faithfuls.

I: Is there anyone else whom you know that is faithful in this village or the neighboring villages?

R: Those are the only people that I know best that they are faithful.

I: What tribe is Abiti Daizi?

R: She is a Ngoni.

I: How far did she do with school?

R: She did not go to school.

I: When was she born?

R: She was born in 1971.

I: Which is the best system for you among Chitengwa, Chiamwini and Ulowoka?

R: Chikamwini.

I: Why?

R: Chikamwini is best because the man comes and lives at your home and you do everything while with him at your home.

I: Thank you!