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COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

Thursday June 17, 2010

7:00PM

STUDY OUTLINE #031

Text: Proverbs 4: 23; Mark 7: 1-23

Theme: Guarding Your Heart, For Issues Of Life Part 3

Understanding Access Into Our Heart:

From the previous study, we learnt how pollution first entered human life prompting the verdict of God in Jeremiah 17:9-10 and how the heart of man can be likened to a factory that processes all inputs then pushes out the finished product.

No one is spared from the onslaught of the heart, even those whom we call authorities in the faith- David, Paul and Peter had their own share of embarrassing situations. In such instance they learnt to cry out to God for divine intervention. Romans 7:13-25; 2 Samuel 11&12, John 21; Luke 22:31-32.

1. Parameters and Purpose

Today, we are observing very closely the raw materials/inputs that we feed into our hearts and their manner of entry. Even after experiencing salvation, the heart can still be polluted hence we need to know how to live and guard our heart.

A major strategy for winning battles is knowledge acquisition. To guard effectively you must know what you are guarding or protecting against as well as the subtle manners of invasion, consider Luke 14:27-32.

Let's examine the following scriptures: Joel 4:6; Mathew 22:29; Isaiah 8:20; Psalm 119:130.

2. Perversions of the heart re-visited, Romans 1:16-32.

- The fall engineered perversion in man's faculties. This mangled his thought pattern, sense of judgement and decision making process. He became warped in his mind. Let us re-visit the tragic deception of Eve in Genesis 3.
- Due to the fall man became attracted to (or developed soft spot for) absurdities, abnormalities, taboos, reprehensive, rebellious or restrictive acts and borderless thoughts. **Check out Esau in Genesis 4; 1-12**, and Samson with his choice of wife, Judges 14
- The Devil made man view his liberty in God as bondage. He also painted God as draconic, oppressive and a spoilsport. On the contrary, His perfect love casts out fears and entrenches confidence which cannot be achieved by disobedience...Genesis 3:1, 1 John 4:18.

3. Gates or entrance routes, Mark 7:1-23

Scripturally, what we take in is harmless; nonetheless a sick heart infects every aspect of man.

Matthew 12:33-35, Proverbs 4: 23-27. A clear instruction in Genesis 2: 16-17 was misinterpreted in Genesis 3, using the instruments of what we can call **body gates**.

The body gates are organs acting as routes or avenues through which signals, information (or raw materials) are passed into the body/heart. They are equipped with sensory nerves or stimulus to pick and relay information to our system i.e. our heart, for processing. The gates are our eyes, ears, nose, feelings/touch and mouth/taste buds. **Unfortunately since the time of Adam and Eve these gates have remained the source of pollution for man's heart. (Simple analogy of the Hawk and her off springs)**

a. The Eye gate. The organ of sight or vision; notice; observation; vigilance; watch; represents view of the mind; opinion formed by observation or contemplation; The power of perception. Ephesians 1 It receives information by sight and relays same to the heart where interpretations and actions are initiated. A healthy heart creates the picture of positive outlook and creative imagination. A debased

GUARDING YOUR HEART, FOR ISSUES OF LIFE 3 *(Continued)*

heart instead churns out negative things, whilst also relaying and stimulating quest for negative signals - Matthew 6:21-23. At the time of the fall Eve had her divine perception weakened, giving rise to wrong judgement and distasteful actions.

Note, she saw. Seeing always precedes major decisions...Job 31:1

Let's examine the aspect of looking or seeing in the following lives and note how their personality and course of life was affected.

- The children of Israel saw the Anakims and froze out...Numbers 13:33
- Lot looked up and saw the lush fields of Gomorrah, moved there and the consequences of that decision was disastrous - Genesis 13: 10-11; Genesis 19

We can also learn from those we looked with the eyes of faith to perceive eternal purpose, direction, glory and fulfilment. Hebrew 12:2.

- Rahab heard and saw with the eye of faith the mightiness of the God of Israel and entrenched her name in hallmark of faith, Judges 2:9-14.
- God commanded Abraham to see his posterity through the eyes of faith - Genesis 13:15
- Job made a covenant with his eyes so as to control what it feeds on...Job 31: 1; Matthew 5:28-30

NB. As the eye is not satisfied with seeing, let it be full of light so that it relays messages that will ignite our lives - Ecclesiastes 1:8; Matthew 6:21-23. Don't be like Ahab's servant 2 Kings 7: 1-2, 17. When we fix our gaze on Him, He will surely transform our lives - Job 42:5.

b. The Ear gate - Mark 4

Webster Dictionary defines the ear as the organ of hearing and by which sound is perceived; the sense of hearing; the power of distinguishing sounds and judging of harmony; the power of nice **perception** of the differences of sound, or of consonances and dissonances. It creates avenue for listening to things that informs decisions for obedience, observance of commands or attending to issues.

Question, What/how DO YOU HEAR? Look at the warning in the book of Mark 4: 23-33.

We can choose to pick the vibrations of heaven as David did or settle for the base elements as dictated by our hearts. **Isaiah 30:21; Psalms 110;** we can also choose to hear the voice of faith as Rahab did or be instructed by fear and doubt through a perverted heart, Numbers 13:25-33; 14: 1-12; Psalm 95.

We can fine tune our ear through a circumcised heart to hear Him, and like Job, receive the things intended for us. Job 42:5.

In closing, you need to examine yourself by asking, what am I feeding my system with? What am I seeing, hearing, saying and touching? We can help ourselves by asking is this thought or speech glorifying God - 1 Corinth 10:31. If no, then let's cry out to God for help and obtain grace to receive and relay information for your growth and development. Psalm 33:15; Jeremiah 24:7.

Prayer - Philippians 4: 8-9.