What goes in must come out!

Lorna Laister
23 July 2017
Sermon 28
Proverbs 4:23

23 Carefully guard your thoughts because they are the source of true life.
Proverbs 4:23

The Voice (VOICE)

23 *Above all else,* watch over your heart; diligently guard it because from a sincere and pure heart come the good and noble things of life.

Living Bible (TLB)

23 Above all else, guard your affections. For they influence everything else in your life.

Contemporary English Version (CEV)

23 Carefully guard your thoughts because they are the source of true life.
Heart – affections – thoughts

KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS POSITIVE BECAUSE YOUR THOUGHTS BECOME YOUR WORDS.
KEEP YOUR WORDS POSITIVE BECAUSE YOUR WORDS BECOME YOUR BEHAVIOR.
KEEP YOUR BEHAVIOR POSITIVE BECAUSE YOUR BEHAVIOR BECOMES YOUR HABITS.
KEEP YOUR HABITS POSITIVE BECAUSE YOUR HABITS BECOME YOUR VALUES.
KEEP YOUR VALUES POSITIVE BECAUSE YOUR VALUES BECOME YOUR DESTINY.

~ MAHATMA GANDHI
Matthew 15:1-9

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Proverbs 4:23
The Pharisees and the ritual cleansing

• a. The Pharisees elevated traditions to the level of scripture
• b. Secondly, traditions make a man blind to truth
• c. Thirdly, tradition makes worship of God a vain act

• They said, The traditions of the elders.(vs.2) Jesus said, the commandments of God. (vs.3)
Matthew 15:10-11
The Voice (VOICE)
10 (to the multitude) Hear and understand this: 11 What you put into your mouth cannot make you clean or unclean; it is what comes out of your mouth that can make you unclean.

Jesus teaches the people
12 Later the disciples came to Him.

Disciples: Do You realize the Pharisees were shocked by what You said?

Jesus: 13 Every plant planted by someone other than My heavenly Father will be plucked up by the roots. 14 So let them be. They are blind guides. What happens when one blind person leads another? Both of them fall into a ditch.
Matthew 15:16-20

• 16 Do you still not see? 17 Don’t you understand that whatever you take in through your mouth makes its way to your stomach and eventually out of the bowels of your body? 18 But the things that come out of your mouth—your curses, your fears, your denunciations—these come from your heart, and it is the stirrings of your heart that can make you unclean. 19 For your heart harbours evil thoughts—fantasies of murder, adultery, and whoring; fantasies of stealing, lying, and slandering. 20 These make you unclean—not eating with a hand you’ve not ritually purified with a splash of water and a prayer.
The presenting problem is not the problem

- People’s reactions of anger on face book
- When we hear from a shouting neighbour
- Hate speech
- Envy, jealousy,
- racism
What is behind the battle of our minds?

- a person's past
- Satan
- the world's system
How do the bad thoughts get in there?

- a person's past
- Satan
- the world's system

Romans 12:2

² Do not allow this world to mould you in its own image. Instead, be transformed from the inside out by renewing your mind. As a result, you will be able to discern what God wills and whatever God finds good, pleasing, and complete.
We reap what we sow
5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
First “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” (Colossians 3:2)

Second “Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

Third “Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:13)

Fourth “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindsets as Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5).
Church community