

Discussing the Proverbs

Diligently watch Over Your Heart

Proverbs 4:20-27

1. This section sometimes referred to as: "The anatomy of a wise life"
 - A. Organs of Reception. (vs.20-22)
 - B. The Pivot (v.23)
 - C. Organs of Action. (vs.24-27)
2. Discussion Questions:
 - A. (Prov. 4:20) This verse is the beginning (vs.20-22) of an emphasis on keeping that which constitutes good teaching and wisdom at the center of your life with a focus on listening to what is right.
 - I. What is the difference between listening or hearing something and inclining your ears to hear something?
 - II. What are some examples of biblical passages, biblical stories, or biblical ideas that may help to highlight this difference and why it is important?
 - III. What is an example in your own life where you very clearly saw the difference between simply listening to what was being said around you to intentionally inclining your ears to listen to what is good.
 - B. (Prov. 4:21) This verse is emphasizing on the connection between what you look at (i.e.read) with what you treasure in your heart.

What is a practical thing that you can do in an effort to keep the wisdom of God more in the midst of your heart tomorrow (and going forward) than it is today?
 - C. (Prov. 4:24) There are very many contexts where we may hear or participate in deceitful or devious speech.
 - I. What are some contexts in which you routinely are exposed to speech that is deceitful (i.e. speech where the content is contradictory to wisdom and

godliness) or devious (i.e. speech where the intent is for doing that which is contradictory to wisdom or godliness)?

- II. There are times when you cannot remove yourself from listening to deceitful or devious speech (e.g. an assembly at school or a mandated training at work). What is the best way to not get sucked in to bad thinking, acting, or speaking by the speech that you cannot avoid?
 - III. What is an example of a situation where this kind of speech was going on and knew you ought to get out of it (whether or not you did)? How could you handle that situation better in the future?
 - IV. How does your media consumption (music, podcasts, books, youtube, movies, etc.) factor into this idea of putting wrong and harmful speech far from you?
 - D. (Prov. 4:26-27) These verses present a positive admonition (i.e. "do this" in v.26) and a negative admonition (i.e. "don't do that" in v.27).
 - I. What are some of the areas of your life where you pay most careful attention to whether or not you're walking in step with wisdom and faithfulness?
 - II. Can you think of an example of where you made one foolish misstep because you were not actively "watching the path of your feet" that led to you doing or saying things that you should not have? Please share your example and what you learned from it.
3. The 1234 of Jesus' Emphasis on Caring for Your Heart:
 - A. What you say reveals what's in your heart (_____)
 - B. This is how you are to direct your heart (_____)
 - C. Where your treasure is tells where your heart is (_____)