

GUARD THE GATE

Guard Your Heart

Proverbs 4:23

Intro:

- Welcome to DFC
- We're glad you're here in person and online
- Our online worshippers can go to the website, dayspringfamilychurch.org and download tonight's lesson
- Tonight I'm wrapping our series, **GUARD THE GATE**
- We've learned there are many entry points or vulnerable areas that if left unprotected unguarded pose a threat to our spiritual lives
- Anytime something is guarded by security guards or security systems, it because it is valuable
 - We are valuable to the kingdom of God and the devil knows it
 - It is our responsibility as believers to guard our gates, the access points into our lives
- The enemy our souls is looking for entry points to our lives to destroy us
 - Jesus said the devil comes to kill, steal and to destroy us
 - Paul said ***Ephesians 6:11 (KJV) 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.***
 - The devil will use every trick in the book to deceive and destroy us
- We must be alert, watchful, have on the full armor of God and be on guard
 - The goal of this series is for to be aware of *the gates* in our lives that must be guarded to prevent access by the enemy
- Tonight's lesson is **GUARD YOUR TIME**
- Studies have shown we spend a lot of time doing things that add no value to our lives

The Heart

Proverbs 4:23 (KJV) ²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

- The heart is the seat of our total personality
- Jesus said in Matthew 15:19 It isn't what goes in a person that defiles them, but what comes out of person ***Matthew 15:19 (KJV) 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:***
- Our heart pumps blood to every part of our body, from our to our finger and toes
- Spiritually, the heart affects every aspect of our lives
- Spiritually speaking, the heart is the source of our thoughts, attitudes, beliefs, and actions
- The heart is so powerful that it drives our actions and influences our behavior and thinking
- Our heart has the power to lead us down a path or righteousness or a path of destruction

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- We must be mindful of who or what we allow in our hearts because all that we do will flow from it
- Solomon tells us ***Proverbs 4:23 (KJV) ²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.***
- The word *keep* here means guard, watch, or preserve from unwelcome or hostile intrusion
- We must guard our heart with all diligence because out of the heart flows the *issues* or actions of life
- From the heart proceeds all the thoughts, attitudes, behaviors, and actions of life
- So if our heart is full of the Word, prayer, time with God, worship, etc., what flows out of us will be attitudes, actions, behaviors, etc., that honor God and lead to eternal life

- If our heart is full selfishness, greed, lies, bitterness, envy, etc., what flows out of us will be thoughts and conduct that do not honor God, hurts people and will lead to eternal separation from God
- Your heart is a reservoir, and change must begin at the source; if the reservoir is contaminated, everything that flows out of the reservoir is contaminated
- It's important to guard our heart because:
 - It impacts our relationship with God
 - When we spend time in the reading and meditating on the Word, it sinks in our heart and we experience a greater sense of peace, joy and contentment
 - It impacts our relationship with others
 - When we develop an attitude of love, kindness, and compassion for others, we build strong and meaningful relationships with them
 - It will create a toxic environment and drive people away from us

The Danger of the Unguarded Heart

2 Samuel 15:1-6 (KJV) 1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. 2 And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel. 3 And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee. 4 Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! 5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed

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him. 6 *And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.*

- Jesus say the devil is a thief **John 10:10 (KJV) 10** *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*
- Absalom in the text is a type of satan
- The goal of the devil is to steal your heart by changing your focus
- The devil uses:
 - Appearance – chariot with 50 body guards
 - Hard work – got up early
 - His position - stood the gate
 - Troubled people – went after people with issues
 - Sympathy – Your case is good
 - Comparisons – If I were judge....
 - False humility – don't before me
 - Empty promises I can help your case
- Absalom presented himself as everything the people wanted in a king
- They were emotionally drawn away from the true king David
- Absalom stole the hearts of the people because the people weren't guarding the gate

Guard Your Heart

- Spend time daily in the word of God **Psalm 119:105 (KJV)**
- **105** *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*
- Stay in constant communication with God through prayer **Hebrews 4:16 (KJV) 16** *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*
- Be accountable to other believers **Proverbs 27:17 (KJV) 17** *Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.*
- Focus on thoughts that promote love, kindness and compassion **Philippians 4:8 (KJV) 8** *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*
- Seek wisdom from God **Proverbs 4:7 (KJV) 7** *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*
- Be discerning and watch for things that may be trying to pull you away from God **1 John 4:1 (NLT) 1** *Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.*