

SHAPED2LIVE

Proverbs 23:26

"Issues of the Heart"

“My son, give me your heart and let your eyes observe and delight in my ways...”

This Proverb, as a whole, deal with some concrete things to avoid. And some precise instructions in living this life in a manner that brings honor to father and mother and, by extension, to God as our heavenly Father. Believe it or not, it all comes down to ISSUES OF THE HEART.

❖ What are some of the specific warnings that are given in this Proverb?

- 1) To take thought of who it is, that is presenting you with something and what are their true motives. **v.1**
- 2) Uncontrolled desire is like putting “a knife to your throat...” **v.2**
- 3) The desire for riches. **v.4-5**
- 4) "...cease from your own [human] wisdom." **v.4** {Note that it did not say knowledge...}
- 5) Beware of things offered by selfish people. **v.6-8**
- 6) Don't waste words on "[self-confident] fools. They despise [godly] wisdom." **v.9** {cf. Matthew 7:6}
- 7) Be careful of how you handle/treat those that God protects/watches over. **v.10-11**
- 8) Do not withhold disciplining a child... **v.13-14**
- 9) Do not envy sinners... **v.17-18**

EN'VY, noun Pain, uneasiness, mortification, or discontent excited by the sight of another's superiority or success, accompanied with some degree of hatred or malignity, and often or usually with a desire or an effort to depreciate the person, and with pleasure in seeing him depressed. Envy springs from pride, ambition, or love, mortified that another has obtained what one has a strong desire to possess.

- 10) Associating with drunkards and gluttons... **v.20-21**

Note: Even Jesus warned against it in Luke 21:34 "But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed (weighed down) with the giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to [*the business of*] this life, and [*lest*] that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose;"

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11) Sexual immorality. **v.27-28**

{cf. 1st Corinthians 6:9-10,13,18-20; 7:2-9 and Matthew 15:19-20}

12) Warned again against sexual immorality and its results and being drunk (a drunkard) and its results.
v.27-35

❖ **So, what is the guidance that is to help keep us from these things?**

- 1) "Apply your mind to instructions and correction and your ears to knowledge." **v.12-13** {cf. Heb. 11:6; Prov. 3:5-7; Jas. 1:5; Heb. 12:6}
- 2) "Hear my son and be wise and direct your mind in the way [of the Lord]." **v.19**
- 3) "Buy truth and sell it not; not only that but also get discernment and judgment, instruction and understanding." v.23 {cf. Prov. 4:5-7; Prov. 3:13-24}
- 4) * "My son, give me your heart and let your eyes observe and delight in my ways." v.26 {cf. Jer. 29:11-13; Deut. 4:27-29}

QUESTION...

What does all of this have to do with the "heart"?

Matthew 12:34-35

"You offspring of vipers! How can you speak good things when you are evil (wicked)? For out of the fullness (the overflow, the superabundance) of the heart, the mouth speaks.

The good man from his inner good treasure flings forth good things, and the evil man out of his inner evil storehouse flings forth evil things."

Note: "of the heart," "inner good treasure," "out of his inner evil storehouse." Each of these is expressing the same thing. All of our actions are a result of what is going on within our hearts.

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Matthew 15:18-20

"But whatever comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this is what makes a man unclean and defiles [*him*].

For out of the heart come evil thoughts (reasonings and disputings and designs) such as murder, adultery, sexual vice, theft, false witnessing, slander, and irreverent speech.

These are what make a man unclean and defile [*him*], but eating with unwashed hands does not make him unclean or defile [*him*]"

Proverbs 4:23

"Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life."

LIFE WORK:

Take the time to think about your own heart honestly and what has flowed out of it at different moments in your life and look to gain knowledge, understanding, and wisdom as directed/given by God. "***For out of it flow the springs of life.***"