

“THE HIDDEN CHAMBER”

It Came From Within, Part 1

August 22nd, 2010

We have all developed a filter for our words & actions to make life work

It's not enough to just monitor our behavior & words – there is a deeper issue

Matthew 15:17-18 (NIV) “[Jesus said] ‘Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man unclean.’”

If you want to know what's in a person's heart, listen to what comes from their mouth

Eventually what is in your heart makes it's way into all your relationships

Your filter will break down; something will happen, and you'll try to convince everyone “this is not me” – but it is - it's a reflection of your heart

If you are dating someone and every once in a while there are words that seem uncharacteristic of that person, chances are you'll hear more like them in the future

We've been taught to monitor and edit our words but not our heart

Matthew 15:19 (NIV) “[Jesus said] ‘For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.’”

We have evil thoughts because there is something evil in our heart

If your mind is filled with thoughts you'd never say out loud, you have a heart problem

Until we learn to deal with our heart, there is no real, lasting, permanent change

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV) “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

Guard what goes in your heart, and keep an eye on what comes out

We've been taught how to edit our behavior but not how to guard our hearts

Life has a tendency to lodge stuff in our hearts that has no business being there

We think we need to adjust our life filter, Christ says must monitor your heart

Challenge – will we take responsibility for our hearts – to guard and monitor our hearts and not make excuses but work with God who cares so much about our heart

When God or others confront us about heart issues, we resist and say, “That's just how I am”

The more damaged and wounded the heart is, the greater the tendency to blame those who damaged it

God has not only commanded us to guard our hearts, but He has given us insight into how to do it

Christianity is not about behaving or acting like a Christian

Christianity is about God giving you a new heart and changing you from the inside out not just having a cool “Christian filter”

My Next Step Today Is:

- My prayer today, “Heavenly Father, teach me to guard my heart for it is the wellspring of life.”
- I will memorize Proverbs 4:23
- I plan to attend the “Meet the Pastors” meal on Sunday, August 29th at noon