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PROVERBS 4:23-5:23

Proverbs Series

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we come before you now opening your word and asking you to speak to us. We come to your word with anticipation knowing that you reveal yourself to us. Today as we talk about a very tender issue in our lives and in our hearts we ask that you would touch us deeply. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

Today I want to talk to you about sex, so please open your Bibles to Proverbs 4:23 and let's start by understanding where it all begins. You want to know how the birds and bees start? Well it starts here in Proverbs 4:23.

If you're going to talk to a child about sex you don't start by talking about body parts, you don't start about talking about the anatomy of conception or the biology of pregnancy or childbirth; you start with the heart. It starts with the heart and that becomes a very important part of what Solomon is trying to pass on to his son. He's going to use the word 'sons' later on, so he's passing the words down to the next generation. We're going to pick it up in Proverbs 4:23 as we're going to learn some success principles that are going to be very important as we're moving forward to understand about the heart, to understand about sex because we're going to talk about sex. It starts in the heart.

Verse 23 reads this way: *Above all* (in other words, above all the other things that you're doing, above all the other things I'm telling you about, son, here's what's most important), *guard your heart*.

Your heart is the *levav* – that's the Hebrew word *levav*. It has to do with the inner most things going inside of you. It's where decisions are made. In particular we know from the Bible what is in the heart. We know that emotions are in the heart. Emotions, for example, as the king looks at Nehemiah he says, "What's this sadness I see in your heart?" So the Bible tells us that emotions exist in the heart.

When Jesus talked to His disciples He says, "*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Do not be afraid.*" Fear in the heart. So we know emotions exist in the heart. Emotions is number one.

We also know that desire exists in the heart. In Psalm 37:4 it says, *Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart*. So we know that desires exist in the heart.

If you have an equation, you put emotions plus desires equal passion. We're going to talk today about passion and one of the passions that we can have is sexual passion. We need to understand

it because it's something that's inside the heart. If we're going to start working on understanding the facts of life, it's going to start by understanding the heart because that's where we're going to do some work before we can move forward.

Notice it says, *Above all else, guard your heart.* That's the word *shamar*. It's the word to protect or to take care of. It's first used in Genesis 2:15 when God created the garden and He placed Adam and Eve in the garden to cultivate it and *shamar* it, to take care of it. There's a sense of we're taking care of our hearts like you were taking care of a garden. To cultivate it. To help it produce good fruit and so on. That was their assignment in the garden.

Here it says *guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.* Literally translated we get our word *chaya* in here. So I want to read it literally. It's "out of it flows the rivers of life" or *chaya*. *Chaya* in the book of Proverbs is this word that describes the life that God wants us to have.

It started also back there in creation when God, the Bible says, breathed into Adam, this lump of clay, the breath of life or the *chaya* into his *nephesh – chaya nephesh*. He breathed into him and God made him into something special. Every time now that you feel discouraged and you feel down and you feel like you need a break, what you need is the *chaya* of God. You need the breath of life to come back into you. That's why we call it recreation or re-creation, designed to re-create into us that breath of life. So when you guard your heart what you're doing is you're protecting it because out of it flow the things that are going to produce this life for you and for me.

If we're going to talk about sex it starts in the heart because we're going to deal with passions that take place inside the heart of a person. That's why you want to guard your heart. If you've got a steady flow of anger coming into your heart then it's going to come out and it's going to wreck your *chaya*, your life. If you've got a steady flow of hatred coming into your life, it's going to dominate your heart, your passions, and it's going to ruin your *chaya*, your life that God wants you to have. If you're messing up in this area of sex or sexual passion it's going to mess with your heart. So we start with the heart. That's the principle.

Now I'm going to share with you seven success principles that come from the passage from Proverbs 4:23-7:27. Principle number one is that sexual purity starts with the heart.

This isn't just an Old Testament idea, an idea that Solomon is sharing with his sons; this is an idea that Jesus shared in the Sermon on the Mount. When Jesus came and shared and taught He had an idea He wanted to communicate to the people. He wanted them to understand that spirituality is not like the Pharisees who think about behavior but spirituality is about the heart. That's why He uses the word 'heart' so many times. He says *where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

But in the Sermon on the Mount He wants them to understand sexual purity, so He talks about it in Matthew 5:27-28. Notice how He's saying something very similar to what Solomon is saying in Proverbs. He says in Matthew 5:27-28, "*You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*" Why? Because that's where the passions are.

The problems that we have that come out in our life start in our hearts, so if we're going to make changes or we're going to deal with some areas in our life, we want to deal with it in the heart first. So if we're going to talk about sex, we're going to talk about the facts of life, we're going to talk about the birds and bees, it's going to start by talking about hearts because God made man different than the birds and different than the bees and different than other animals. God gave a person a heart and so we're going to spend time addressing that heart first of all.

How do you *shamar* or how do you guard that heart? What are you going to do? Let's look at the next verses in Proverbs 4 starting in verse 24. It says if we're going to deal with these things, it's what you look at, where you walk in, and what you say with your mouth. Let's just look at those three ways you can guard your heart going through here.

Verse 24: *Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.*

I want you young people to think about this. It's really easy to start using vulgar terminology to refer to sexual acts or body parts. As soon as you start using vulgar terminology it starts to come out of your mouth pretty easily and then it's hard to stop it. You want to be careful about what comes out of your lips because it begins to affect your heart. Be careful what you talk about, how you talk about the things that are very sacred because the people around you will use what we call foul language or toilet language to refer to sexual activity or to refer to body parts. You don't want to be a part of that.

Verse 24 says, *Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.*

Verse 25: *Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.* So now we're going to talk about another piece of the heart or a way the heart is affected and that's your eyes.

It's interesting that pornography is very attractive to men. Men are attracted by what they see and so pornography is primarily a men's activity. Guard your eyes, be careful of what you see because it can get you into trouble. Pornography is a dangerous thing.

On the female side, you see that there are sexually explicit romance novels and who's attracted to those? It's primarily women. Why? Because men are attracted by what they see, women are more attracted to this relationship, and so by reading about this and developing that in their minds that's really attractive to them.

What does it say here? Be careful that *your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.* Watch what you look at with your eyes, young men and women.

Verse 26: *Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.*

That means you're going to be careful where you go, where your feet take you. There are some times where you're going to say, "Nope. I'm not going to go to that party because I know what

happens there. I'm not going over to that friend's house because I know what she or he does over there."

Guard your feet and your path so that you're careful about what happens here. *Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.* We know how powerful the heart is, that's why we need to work in the heart first. So that's why principle number one is that sexual purity starts in the heart. That's chapter 4.

Now go into chapter 5:1. *My son* – Solomon is relaying this very important truth to his son. *My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil.*

First of all I just want to point out that the information about sexuality is passed from a father to a son. It's done within the family. I would suggest that that is the place where we want to pass on information about the facts of life, that it needs to take place in the home because in the home then the parents can share values instead of just biology.

Young people, if you haven't already, you will go to health class at school and they will talk to you about the facts of life. What happens in that situation is they only talk about the biology, they don't take the values and share the values with you.

You can learn in health class that there's a sperm that comes from a man and there's an egg that comes from a woman and the two of them come together and there's a conception. So if you want to enjoy sex but you don't want to have conception or pregnancy, then you want a barrier that fits there to protect that. That's why we have condoms and many of our schools hand out condoms to students if they ask for them. And even in health class sometimes they'll take condoms and practice putting them on bananas so that it's not something so foreign to these young people when they have sex.

Something is missing here, I've just got to tell you! If you're just talking about the biology of sex, about conception, about childbirth, about pregnancy, then you're missing something very important, that's the value system that must be associated with it. That's why it's so important for this information to be passed on within the family. The family's sharing this.

Sometimes dads and moms will say, "Dad. I'll let him deal with our son." I would suggest that it's really valuable for both mom and dad to be talking to both boys and girls. Why? Because a dad can share a male perspective with his son or his daughter. Very important for daughters to hear how men think. And moms can share how they think it too with their sons so sons can hear how women think. It's a very valuable thing that takes place in the home that dads and moms are sharing the facts of life with their children.

I know that many of you maybe have found out about sex in the schoolyard or in a magazine and you missed the information that God would have for you in this area of value. So I'm glad you're here today so you can hear more about God's perspective when it comes to this very important issue of sex. God's plan is in the information we share within the family because one of the

things that can be shared is this: sex is good. It's designed by God and it's designated for a husband and wife in a marriage relationship. More on that in a bit.

But Solomon is saying, "I didn't want you to hear this from your friends. I wanted you to hear this from me so you can understand how God has designed this."

Another important fact of life, and that is what Solomon is saying here in verse 3, is that there are people out there who are trying to wreck what God created. They want you to follow your desires and your passions. So this dad is pointing out the dangers in this area.

You see, there are some people who say if it comes from your heart, it must be good. Look at verse 3. *For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil.* We're talking about attraction. And when you're attracted to something it comes from your heart. You've got this desire. You've got this attraction moving you in a particular direction.

Some people would say that if it's coming from the heart it must be good. That is a lie because just because it's coming from the heart doesn't make it good. You might feel really good after you punch your brother for getting back at him for doing something to you. That doesn't make it good. So just because it's coming from the heart does not make it good.

It's just interesting to me. Did Solomon write these words before he had a thousand wives or seven hundred wives through the concubines or after? I don't know where he writes these things in this passage, but he's sharing something with his son that says guard your heart. Be really careful about this. This is something that can be really dangerous if you're not careful.

Notice in verse 3 he's thinking about the things that are really attractive – honey. Honey's really attractive. *Smoother than oil* he's thinking about. This is really a powerful thing. I want to take you to principle number two about the facts of life and about sex and it's this: attraction isn't always good. Sometimes it's dangerous. That's what he's saying here. I want to point this out because there are some lies that our world says to us. One of the lies the world says is if you're attracted to something, if you're attracted to someone you must be falling in love with them.

I've just got to tell you, you don't fall in love. You fall overboard, you fall down stairs, you fall in a hole, you fall in a ditch; you don't fall in love. You plan your love life. If you've got something coming from your heart that's leading you in a particular direction, that doesn't mean that it's good. It means it's an attraction. But just because you have an attraction doesn't make it good.

You might be attracted to someone. Young people, I want you to hear this. You may be attracted to someone who's unsaved. When you're attracted to someone who's unsaved, you've got a problem. Because you're attracted to something and you're like, "Oh this must be good," and so you feel really good about going about this relationship, but the person doesn't share the same core values as you are. Just because you're attracted to that person doesn't mean that it's a good thing. In fact, what you have to do is have a grid up that's evaluating your attractions. Always you have to do this.

I shared with one young lady that was attracted to an unsaved boy. She was just all in love with him. “I just know it’s coming from my heart. This has got to be right. But he’s not saved.”

I said, “I want you to know something. Did you know that you’re going to be attracted to men after you get married? You’ll be attracted to things all through your life. I’m not just talking about gender relationships; I’m talking about in general. Just because you’re attracted to something doesn’t make it good. You have to have a grid up that’s evaluating your attractions. Just to be attracted to something doesn’t make it good.

There are some people who say, “Well it’s coming from my heart. I was made this way.” Let’s talk about homosexuality for just a moment because one of the things you’ll hear out there to justify homosexuality is this: “I’ve had these desires since I was born. This is just how I was made. It’s coming from my heart and that’s who I am.”

Now I want to tell you first of all, God agrees with that. I just want you to know that if we understand a biblical worldview then we understand that yes it’s true that from the beginning you have this desire. That’s fine. But I want you to understand why you have the desire because if you understand why you have the desire then you might ask yourself another question about whether it’s good or not.

You see, when God created the world, He created it beautifully. But sin came into the world and when Adam sinned we all end up with a sin nature. Do you know what the sin nature does? It gives us interior attraction, magnetic pull toward sin. Attraction toward sin.

There are some people who seem to be born dishonest. They’re just lying all the time. They’re just born that way. It seems that way. There are some babies who come out of the womb and they’re screaming already. They’re going to be angry. They’re just born angry. Does that make it right? Just because someone is born a particular way does not make it right. Just because someone has an attraction in a particular direction doesn’t make it right.

You have to have a grid up that’s going to evaluate your attractions so that you’ll be able to decide whether it’s right or wrong. And what is that grid? That grid is not what is the greatest good. The grid is what does God say? If you’re evaluating what God says then you’re going to understand this a little bit better.

Attractions. Be careful of attractions because sometimes they are dangerous and Solomon wants his sons to understand this. We’re going to talk about the facts of life. You’ve got to understand there are some people who want to wreck what God has and you don’t want to be a part of this.

For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey (it just looks so attractive), and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.

It begins sweet and ends bitter. I’m going to define sexual immorality for you now so that you know what it is. Sexual immorality is any sex outside of the marriage relationship between a husband and a wife. We’re going to see in this passage that damage takes place when someone

violates God's commands. When someone violates those commands then damage takes place in their heart.

Now look at verse 5 where it's still describing this person who's trying to attract you to have sex. Verse 5: *Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.*

Guys, listen to me for a moment. It's really easy for guys to look at other body parts besides feet. Right? We're attracted to other body parts. And it's saying here don't just look at the other body parts and go, "I'm a robot. I've just got to follow those curves. I really like that." He's saying don't just look at those body parts. Look at her feet because where are the feet taking you. Those feet are taking you somewhere, so you better watch what they are.

Notice what it says there. *Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.* Wow.

Notice verse 6: *She gives no thought to the way of life (chaya).* Do you want that *chaya*? *Guard your heart for it is the wellspring or the river of life (chaya).* You want that? Great. But this person is trying to attract you to do something they don't even think about *chaya*. They're not interested in it. What they're interested in is immediate pleasure and they're going to miss out and they're going to lose something very important.

She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it. In other words, she's not necessarily being malicious. She's just thinking, "Hey there's nothing wrong with this. Come on! Let's just enjoy ourselves." She doesn't realize.

You know something different. You know that God has a plan and there's a way to honor God in the midst of this area of your life and there's *chaya* waiting for you. You want to preserve that.

Verse 7: *Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say. Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, lest you lose your honor to others.* The first thing you give away is your honor or your reputation.

Now notice it says *keep your path far from her.* That means you want to make plans for your path to don't be close to her path. That means that you put internet filters on, that you have an accountability partner, that you avoid certain activities. Don't go to that party. You know what's going to happen there.

Lest you lose your honor to others, it says, and your dignity to one who is cruel (now we're talking about some of the results of sexual immorality), *lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich the house of another.*

Notice verse 11. *At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent.* This certainly is referring to diseases that can take place.

Young people, you need to understand that there are sexually transmitted diseases. That means that these diseases get transmitted through sex. God designed it that when two people get married that they have a relationship together. They haven't had sex with anybody else, so they're not

bringing any diseases into that relationship and they can enjoy that relationship without diseases being passed. But people who are out there just freely having sex with other people, there's diseases out there that are being transmitted through that.

So one thing he's talking about here is he's saying *your flesh and body are spent*. He's referring to some of these physical things that can happen to your body when you're abusing God's design for sex.

But there are other negative things that happen when you abuse God's design. Having sex outside of marriage is damaging, it's destructive. You're not going to hear that message in your classrooms. You're not going to hear that message on MTV. What they're going to tell you is this: anything is okay between two consenting adults. That's not what God says. What God says is even among consenting adults, those people damage themselves and I want you to know that that's wrong. Sex outside of marriage is damaging.

I'm going to read to you an article. This isn't an article from the Bible; this is an article just from our world. It's talking about these dangers about teenage sexual activity. We don't look at reports or studies that take place in our world to prove what we should do. That's not what we're deciding based on popular opinion or studies. But it's very interesting that there are studies that demonstrate that what God says in His word are true.

I want to read this to you. "Sexually active teenagers are more likely to be depressed and to attempt suicide." Let me read this to you.

"Teenage sexual activity is an issue of widespread national concern. Although teen sexual activity has declined in recent years, the overall rate is still high. In 1997, approximately 48% of American teenagers of high school age were or had been sexually active.

The problems associated with teen sexual activity are well known. STDs, teen mothers, extremely high probability of long-term poverty. Less widely known are the psychological and emotional problems associated with teenage sexual activity. The present study examines the linkage between teenage sexual activity and emotional health.

The findings show that when compared to teens who are not sexually active, teenage boys and girls who are sexually active are significantly less likely to be happy and more likely to feel depressed – 25%-8% for girls, 8%-3% for boys.

For girls who are not sexually active, a full 60% said they are never or rarely depressed, contrasted with only 37% of those who were sexually active.

When compared to teens who were not sexually active, teenage boys and girls who are sexually active are significantly more likely to attempt suicide – 14%-5% for girls, 6%-1% for boys. Thus in addition to its role in promoting teen pregnancy and the current epidemic STDs, early sexual activities is a substantial factor in undermining the emotional wellbeing of American teenagers."

Young people, you have to hear this. Your classmates and, in particular, the media portrays sexual activity as great, fun, exciting, and mature. The message our culture is pounding into your head is that waiting for sex will make you unhappy. But that's exactly the opposite of what this study is discovering and what God's word says and how God has designed this.

So back to Proverbs 5 he's saying in verse 11, *At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!"*

You'll have regrets is what it's saying. There are so many regrets that you could have besides picking up some kind of a disease or having an abortion because of an unwanted pregnancy. A lot of the abortions take place because people wanted the enjoyment of sex and then surprise! They're pregnant and they didn't want that pregnancy, so they get an abortion and have to live with the damage that that does to their heart or the pain that comes from adultery or affair.

Verse 13 says, *I would not obey my teachers or turn my ear to my instructors. And I was soon in serious trouble in the assembly of God's people.*"

How did I get here? I sat in church, but I didn't listen. And there's some who won't listen, some who won't pay attention. They'll go out and they'll do whatever they want no matter what. Why do they do that? Because they're just going to *cast off restraint* is what the Bible says.

In Proverbs 29:18 it says (and I'll try to take apart this verse for you). It says, *Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint* (that is, no limits. I can do whatever I want); *but blessed* (and that word is happy) *is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.*

Literally it's our word *shamar* again – guard the Torah. In other words, guards God's instruction. That's the person who's going to benefit here. But the person who doesn't have this vision for what God wants to do just casts off restraint. No limits. I'm just going to do whatever I want.

We have two principles so far. Principle number one is sexual purity starts with the heart. The second principle is that attraction isn't always good; sometimes it's dangerous.

Principle number three that I want to look at here is that God created sex and it is good. I don't want to come down here and say sex is bad; stay away from it. I want you to understand that it is good and God designed it to be good. He talks about that next.

That's the next principle revealed starting in verse 15. God designed sex to take place in a marriage relationship. And so he says here, *Drink water from your own cistern* (within that relationship), *running water from your own well. Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. May your fountain be blessed* (talking about sexual drive).

If you're married here today you want sex to be great in that marriage relationship. Look at the next words. It talks about this. I want you to see that God designed sex to be a good thing. It says in verse 18, *May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A*

loving doe, a graceful deer— may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love.

Intoxicated. Get drunk on her. I mean just “oh I’ve got to have more of this. This is so great!” That’s what it’s talking about. So if you’re in a marriage relationship you want to make sex great, you want to make it good. If you’re having problems with that, get help. There are ways to really enjoy that in a marriage relationship. That’s where God has designed it to be. It’s beautiful, it’s good, it’s great, it’s designed for marriage.

Here’s the problem. If you learned about sex in the schoolyard or you learned about sex in a magazine and you didn’t learn about it in its fullness of what God designed, then you end up thinking about sex as dirty. So you may be in a marriage relationship and every time you have sex you kind of feel dirty about the whole thing like you’re hiding it. I want to free you from that. I want you to know that God designed that.

As He looks down and watches you having sex in a marriage relationship, He says, “That’s good. I created that.” You can imagine when you’re having sex that Jesus is in the room saying, “Wow. That’s being Holy Spirit-filled. Wow. That’s godly right there.” I know that sounds weird. I just want you to know God designed sex. You’ve got to understand that. It’s His design. It’s a beautiful thing. You’re in this with God. I just want you to understand. He made it for you. Alright?

Notice verse 20. He uses the same word *intoxicated*. *Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man’s wife?* Don’t be intoxicated with pornography or something else. Be intoxicated with your wife is what it’s saying. *Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman?*

Notice verse 21: *For your ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all your paths.* In view of the Lord all your ways are in view. He sees everything that you’re doing. He knows what’s going on.

I just want to tell you, you may think that what you’re doing on your computer you’re doing in secret and that nobody can see that. Not only does God see that, but I’ve just got to warn you. You better be careful because there’s other people who see it too. You may think that by removing your history nobody knows about it. But people outside of your home, outside of your bedroom, outside of your world can see what’s going on on your computer. Did you know that?

I know a man who was into pornography. A Christian man and he was into child pornography. Found himself entering into a chat room where he’s dialoguing with what he thought was a young lady (an underage lady) in a chat room, but it’s really a police officer. So he’s dialoguing with her and I don’t know how all that ended, but I do know this – the police come knocking on his door.

Now can you imagine? The police come into his house and they arrest him. This is a Christian man with kids, a job, a wife, and they take all the computers out of his house, and they take him and take him off to jail. What is he going to say to his wife? What is he going to say to his kids? What is he going to say at work? Wow. That is so damaging.

Be careful. The things you're doing can be seen by God and by others. You just need to know that. It's important for us to come back to this. Look at verse 22. *The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast.*

I've just got to talk to you about sexual addiction for a moment because when a passion in your heart starts to get out of line, gets out of control then you become addicted to that thing. There are people who are addicted to work because they love it so much they get addicted to it. Their passion gets out of control. There are some people that are addicted to anger because their anger gets out of control so they're just angry all the time. If you let a passion exceed its boundaries inside of the heart then you can get in trouble.

The same thing's true with sexual addiction. If you allow it to increase its boundaries, it can captivate who you are and it can damage who you are. There are some people who are driven by sex all the time. For some, it's constant. They can turn any statement into some kind of sexual joke. Anything you say can be turned around sexually.

Verse 23: *For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.*

In that statement is a key to our success. If we're going to manage this in our hearts, it's the word *discipline* or self-discipline that we can have. You want self-discipline instead of God discipline. God helps you to have that discipline inside of your heart in order to guard your heart, to protect your heart, to keep passions within boundaries. Our world tries to suck you out of the boundaries so that your passions are increasing more and more. God wants those passions to be within the boundaries and be protected and that's what the guarding is. Set up the fences around. Set up the self-control that you need in your life.

In Job 31:1 Job says these words: *"I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman."* What he's saying is "I've disciplined my eyes that I'm not going to be looking around, that I'm going to do the right thing."

If you struggle in an area like this I want you to know that you can come back to a sexual purity inside your heart. It means reining in your passions that exist in the heart and putting boundaries around them, not feeding them because if you feed something in your heart, that's what grows. You want to put boundaries around that so you're protected inside your heart.

Solomon is trying to give his sons wisdom here and I'm sure Solomon would pass on the story his father told him. His father's name was David. David, I'm sure, said to Solomon, "Solomon, I want you to know that your mom's first husband died because of me. I want you to know that your older brother died because of me, because my passions became greater. They exceeded the boundaries and I ended up committing murder and I ended up committing adultery and my passions got out of whack. I did the wrong thing." He's passing that information onto his son.

And I'm sure he says to his son, "I wrote a song about this" in Psalm 51. "It's one of those songs that's going to be used for the rest of time because my sin became public and I want to use that, what God has done in my life to help people understand the truth about this." So Psalm 51 – I'm

sure it didn't have a number as David was sharing with his son and Solomon is sharing it with his son. "Son, I want you to understand that after my dad made a mistake he comes before God and he prays this prayer" – the same prayer that you and I can pray in our own hearts.

Psalms 51:10 – notice the word *heart* is there. *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

If you have messed up in this area and your passions have exceeded the boundaries then you want to pray the same prayer. "Lord, create a pure heart. I want a steadfast spirit. Lord, I want to renew the boundaries around my heart in this area. I want to pull them back. I want to be used by you."

He also says in verse 17, *My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.*

You see, Solomon is saying, "My father knew what it meant to repent. My father knew what it meant to be a man after God's own heart. And I've got to tell you something else, son, because I want to tell you about when I was born. You see, my older brother died because of the sin of my dad. But my dad told me that after that baby died that he went into Bathsheba again with my mom and they conceived and had a baby. And here's the neat thing: the prophet who told him that he was judged before now came to my dad and said to my dad these words – "you can name this baby *Jedidiah*, which means 'loved of the Lord.' I want you to know I am loved of the Lord."

Solomon says to his son, I'm sure, "I want you to know that because that's what God said to my father about me and God was giving my father a special gift of forgiveness, saying, 'Come on let's move forward,' and so the chain is broken here. I want to move forward, I want to do the right thing, and I want to pass it on to you so you do the right thing, son. I want you to do what's right. I want you to follow God's ways. I want you to guard your heart. I want you to protect it because God has a beautiful *chaya* designed for you, a beautiful life." It starts in the heart.

Well, I got through three. There's four more, but I think we better wait till next week in order to cover those or we'll be here till noon. So next week we'll continue this, talking more about the facts of life and talking about sex.

I want you to think about your own heart for just a moment. Let's just pause before the Lord and allow the Lord to speak to you and allow you to speak to the Lord.

[PRAYER] Lord, we cannot do this on our own. And I know that's why you placed the Holy Spirit in our hearts to empower us to do what's right. Not just to make us feel guilty, but to empower us to do what's right. So right now, Lord, we ask that you would be honored in our hearts. We dedicate our hearts to you right now. In Jesus' name, amen.