**Ticker (Stewarding the Heart)**

**Proverbs 4:23**

**Intro:**

* **Disclaimers**
  + **This Series is not about the church needing more money or wanting more money.**
  + **Generosity encompasses all of life.**
  + **Stewardship begins and ends with the Gospel.**
  + **This will Hurt.**
* **What is “The Heart”**
  + **Mind**
  + **True Self**
  + **Thoughts**
* **The Heart of the Matter. The Heart is the Very Center of Us.**
* **Kardia-The Center and Source of the whole inner life, with its thinking, feeling and volition.**
* **Mind + Will +Emotions= Affections**
* **Stewarding the Heart is a Sacred Responsibility. How Sacred?**

1. **The Importance of the Heart**
   1. **Biblical Perspective**
      1. **The Heart is the center of our spiritual and emotional life.**
         1. **Matthew 22:37: And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and all you mind.”**
      2. **God examines the heart, not outward appearances.** 
         1. **1 Samuel 16:7: But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”**
   2. **Application:**
      1. **How is your Spiritual Health?**
      2. **What influences have we allowed to shape our hearts?**
2. **The Call to Guard Your Heart**
   1. **Recognizing Threats**
      1. **Address worldly distractions and temptations.**
         1. **Matthew 6:21: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**
      2. **Combat bitterness, unforgiveness and pride.**
   2. **Practical Actions**
      1. **Immerse the heart in prayer and Scripture.**
      2. **Cultivate a heart of gratitude and worship.**
         1. **Philippians 4:6-7: do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**
3. **A Heart Aligned with God’s Purpose**
   1. **Characteristics of a Stewarded Heart**
      1. **Love for God and Others**
         1. **Matthew 22:37-39: And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the Prophets.”**
      2. **Humility and Obedience**
         1. **Philippians 2:3-8: Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**
   2. **Real Life Examples**
4. **Daily Stewardship Practices**
   1. **Routine Care**
      1. **Start each day with intentional gratitude and surrender.**
      2. **Develop habits of regular self-examination.**
         1. **Psalm 139:23-24: Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.**
   2. **Communal Responsibility**
      1. **We need fellowship and accountability within the church body.**

**Conclusion and Application**

* **Our Hearts on our own, are deceitful.**
  + **Jeremiah 17:9: The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it.**
* **So much so, that we need a Heart Transplant**
  + **Ezekiel 36:24-27: I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statues and be careful to obey my rules.**
* **The Battle of the New Heart: New and yet needs constant renewal.**
  + **Ephesians 1:18-20: having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and that is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated at the right hand in the heavenly places.**
  + **Ephesians 3:16-20: that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith-that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**
* **Do not Follow Your Heart by Matt Smethurst Article**
* **Rest in the Promise that God blesses a Pure Heart**
  + **Matthew 5:8: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**