Proverbs 4:20-27

20 My son, pay attention to what I say;
turn your ear to my words.
21 Do not let them out of your sight,
keep them within your heart;
22 for they are life to those who find them
and health to one's whole body.
23 Above all else, guard your heart,
for everything you do flows from it.
24 Keep your mouth free of perversity;
keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

25 Let your eyes look straight ahead;
fix your gaze directly before you.
26 Give careful thought to the paths for
your feet and be steadfast in all your
ways.
27 Do not turn to the right or the left;
keep your foot from evil.

"Blessed are the pure in heart." Matthew 5:8

I. The priority of the heart. Prov. 4:23

II. The pre-disposed bent or nature of the heart. Jer. 17:9

III. The various kinds of hearts in Scripture...

- A hardened heart- Pharaoh. Exodus 7-10
- A hypocritical heart- Pharisees. Matt.15
- An unrepentant heart. Nehemiah 2:5
- An unbelieving heart. Hebrews 3:12
- A troubled heart. John 14

Application-

4 practical steps to guarding our hearts...

1. Commit to regular communion with God.
   Rev. 3:20
2. Control the content of our hearts.
   Phil. 4:8; Psalm 119:9-11
3. Confession of sin. I John 1:9; Psalm 51
4. Consistency.