

**The Spirit of the Law – *It's All
About the Heart!*
Matthew 5: 21-30**

November 28, 2021



I WANT YOU



Verse 21 - 22

Guard Your Tongue

The Moral Law speaks of intentional homicide

Unpremeditated killing was different - *Self-defense was different*

6 Levitical cities were designated as cities of refuge for unpremeditated murder



Beirut

Damascus

بيروت

دمشق

Tyre

صور

Al-Qisa

قيسا

Haifa

Tel Aviv-Yafo

Amman

Jerusalem

Be'er Sheva

Jordan

Al Quray

القرية

Accidental killers were protected from the avenger of blood – Numbers 35: 19

An avenger of blood is a person legally responsible for carrying out vengeance
Numbers 35: 19

Avenge in Hebrew = to redeem,
reclaim or restore

The **kinsman avenger** restored what the victim lost

Satan is humanity's murderer; *he brought death into God's perfect creation* – Genesis 3: 3-4

**Jesus is humanity's Kinsman Avenger
Colossians 2: 15**

Jesus redeemed, reclaimed, and restored humanity into right relationship with God

Jesus is our nearest family member; *it is His right to avenge*

Romans 12:17-19

Jesus fulfilled the Law:

“You have heard it said”

“But I say to you”

Jesus did not want people to only refrain from murder, He wanted them *to refrain from hatred that leads to murder*

There is justified anger -

Ephesians 4: 26

Righteous anger hates injustice,
immorality and ungodliness

Justified anger is disciplined and
controlled; *it is never out of control*

Jesus is saying **GUARD YOUR TONGUE!**

Do not allow your anger to crescendo into verbal attacks!

Verbal attacks = *“raca” = empty head, worthless*

OR

“You Fool” = *“moros”, moron, kills image of God*

The Bible warns about **“Lashon Hara”**
= the evil tongue – **Leviticus 19: 16**



lashon hara = evil tongue, gossip

Be sure to
**taste
your
words**
before you
spit them out.

Crescendoing verbal assaults can lead to murder, placing you in danger of hell (*Gehenna*)

Gehenna was a repulsive, burning garbage dump outside the city of Jerusalem

GUARD YOUR TONGUE!!

James 3: 6

A large pile of garbage, including plastic bottles, paper, and other debris, is shown. A yellow bulldozer is visible in the background, pushing the trash. In the foreground, there are several bright orange and yellow flames, suggesting a fire or incineration process.

Gehenna

www.bible.ca



Mount of Olives

Kidron Valley

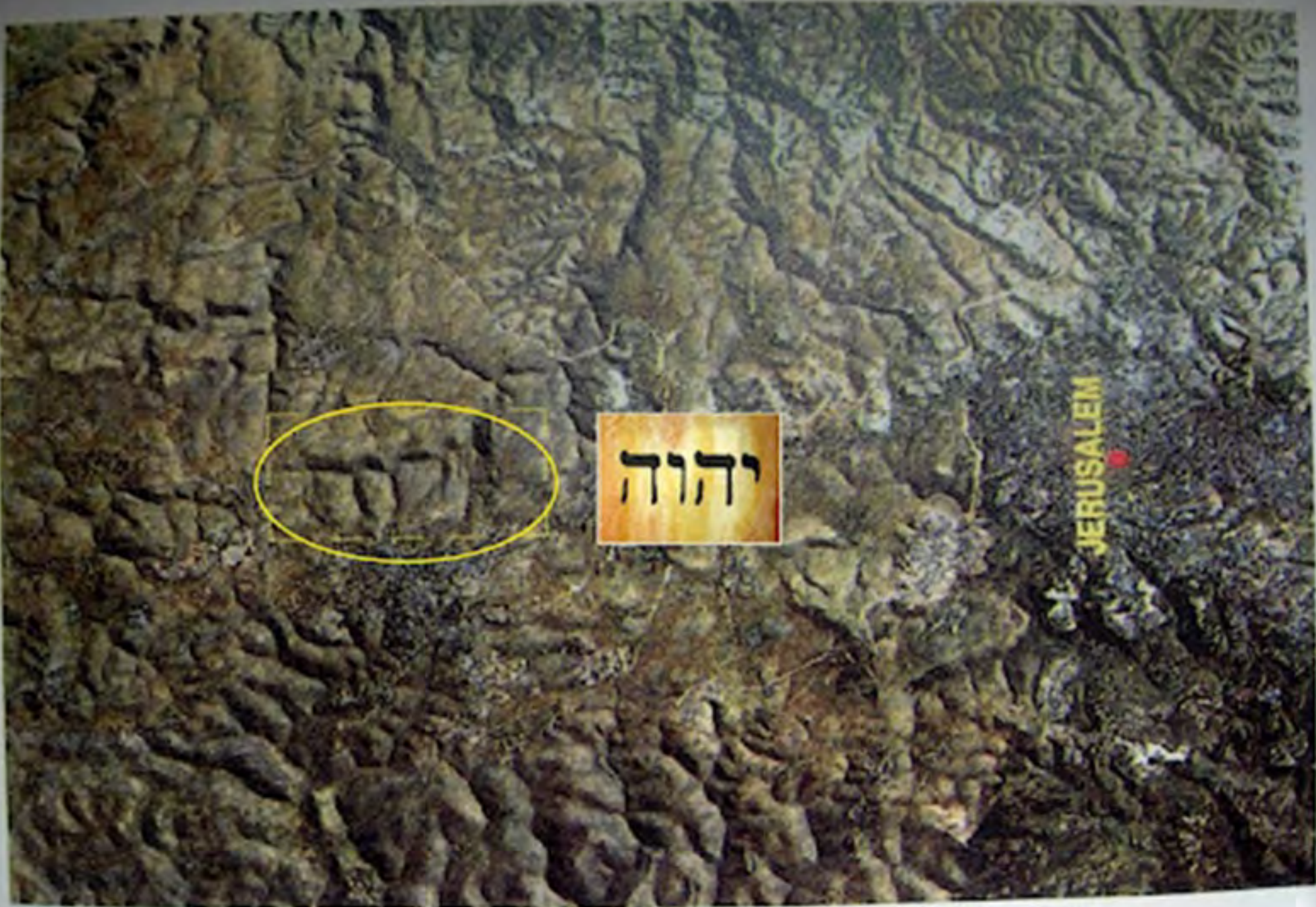
Central Valley

Mount Zion

Hinnom Valley

Jaffa Gate

Jerusalem, aerial from southwest close-up



"כי לכו-נא אל-סקטו אשר בשילו אשר שכנתי שמו שם בראשונה..." ירמיהו י"ב
"...But go now to my place which was in Shilo, where I set my name at the first..." Jeremiah 7:12

Verse 23 - 26

**When I am the cause of
someone's anger**

Illustration #1

Reconciliation precedes worship

Our worship is blocked when we hold anger and contempt for another person – Leviticus 19: 18

Grudge = “*natar*” = cherishing anger, guarding anger, nurturing anger

Grudge holders miss out on
genuine worship (*worship in Spirit
and in Truth*)

Grudge holders have broken
fellowship with God

Grudge holders are unhappy,
tormented people

The Grudge Holder



Real forgiveness will free you from
the torturers (*torment*) – Matthew 18:34

*“If it is possible, as much as
depends on you, live peaceably
with all men.”*

Romans 12: 18

If possible, do your part, earnestly
and sincerely reconcile

I am sorry that you
think you deserve
an apology.



som^{ee}cards
user card

A GOOD APOLOGY HAS THREE PARTS:

- 1. I'M SORRY**
- 2. IT'S MY FAULT**
- 3. WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE IT RIGHT?**

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**SORRY DOES NOT
EQUAL TRUST.**

**SORRY EQUALS
FORGIVENESS.**

**CHANGED BEHAVIOR
EQUALS TRUST.**

DR HENRY CLOUD

Forgiveness is immediate!

Remember:

*Forgiveness frees you
from the torturers*

Restored trust is proven over time!

Illustration #2

Make things right quickly

Do not allow small things to fester

Deal with small things before they become big things

Open and honest communication is essential

Do not allow your feelings to hinder your healing

“Agree with your adversary quickly”

“As much as depends on you”

Settle quickly; do not allow the issue to become a world scandal

God is telling us clearly – make amends quickly; eat crow if you must!

Do not give the enemy cause to defame the Name of God! 2 Samuel 12: 14

God’s Name is more important than my rights!!

Reconciliation is not natural!

**Everything in our being will fight
against this**

**Act against your flesh and poke
Satan in the eye!!**

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Lashon Hara = the evil tongue is an expression of our evil hearts

God tells us straight up what our hearts are like – Jeremiah 17: 9-10

Our tongues are a tip off to our inner man condition

(sobering, isn't it?)

We cannot stop murdering with our tongues, or our actions, without a heart transplant

JESUS IS STILL THE ANSWER!! Jesus changes hearts, characters and destinies!

Jesus will give you a heart transplant; a new heart and a new spirit!!

Ezekiel 36: 26

It is all about transformation, *a renewed mind* – Romans 12: 2

**AND DO NOT BE
CONFORMED
TO THIS WORLD,**

**BUT BE
TRANSFORMED
BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND,
THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT IS
THAT GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE
AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD.**

ROMANS 12:2



**The world wants you in their camp,
*to act, think and speak just like
them!***

**Every tactic is being used to steal
your mind!**

YOU MUST – like Daniel, determine
in your **heart** to serve
God - **Daniel 1: 8**

“YOU SHALL NOT MURDER” is way more than physical murder

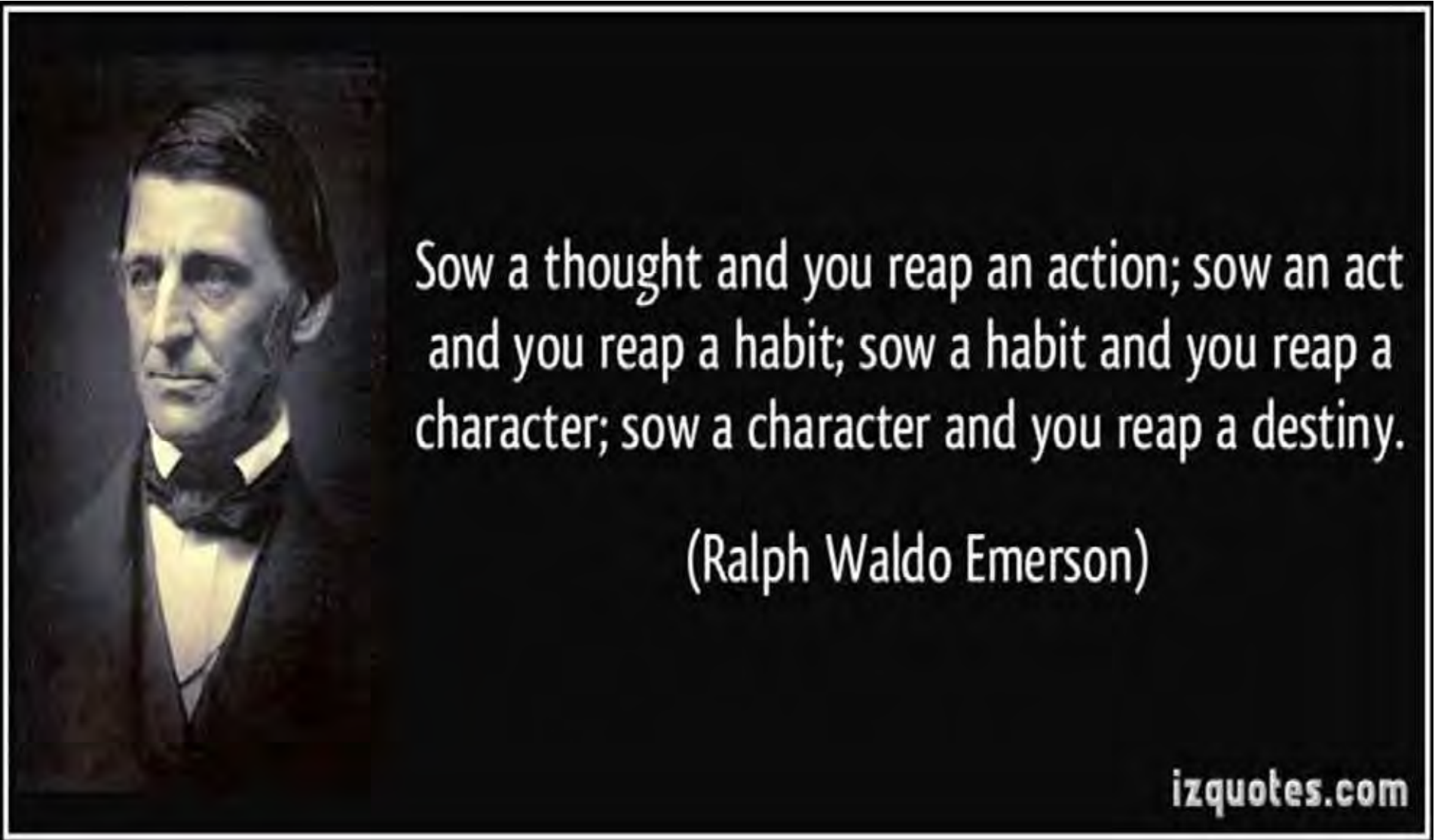
We can murder dreams, futures, and destinies, with our tongues!

(evil tongue, evil heart)

So o o o o !!

“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. Do not incline my heart to any evil thing.” Psalm 141: 3

The battle is for the mind!



Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

izquotes.com

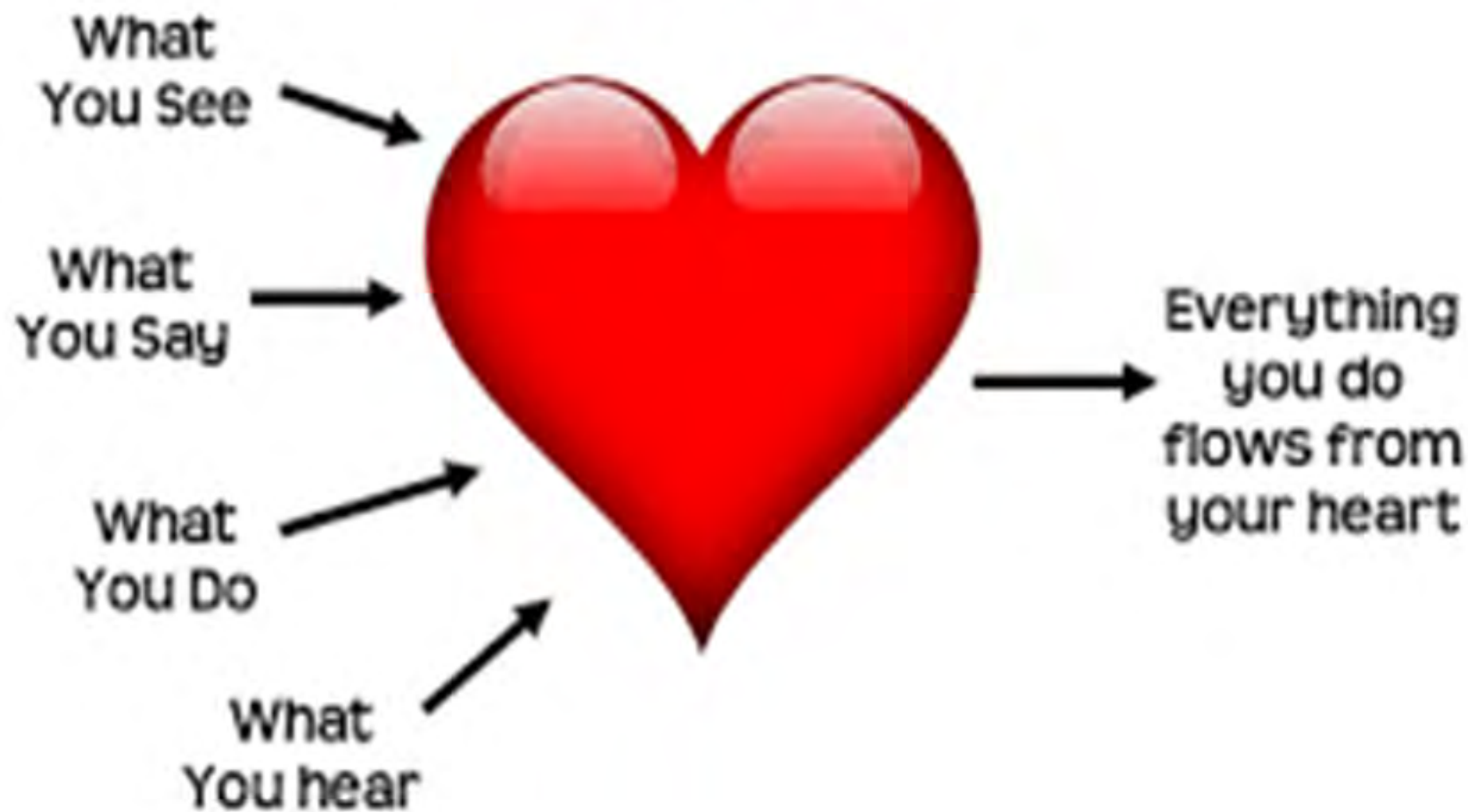
Private thoughts lead to actions:

*“As a man thinks in his heart,
so is he”*

Proverbs 23: 7

Above All Else Guard Your Heart

Proverbs 4:23



GUARD YOUR HEART!

***IT TRULY IS ALL ABOUT
YOUR HEART!!***