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Contaminated Wells

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Recently my mother reminded me of an incident in her childhood. She and other family members relied solely on well water. It was an open well. They would drop a bucket, let it submerge, then pull up a bucket full of fresh water. It was only eight or ten feet from their house. She said it was a wonder some of the kids didn't fall in. Once an animal fell in. Soon her mother realized the water was contaminated. So the boys had to go down into the well by rope. They first retrieved the expired critter, and because the water had been contaminated, they had to empty the well, bucket by bucket. In time, it refilled with water suitable to drink.

As my mother ended this story, she commented that sometimes, as Christians, we drink from wells, and don't even realize we are drinking contaminated water.

As I thought about her wise words, I inwardly asked questions. Are we filling our minds with useless or evil things? Do we listen to gossip and slander about others? Do we listen to profane words from those around us? Do we watch television shows and movies, and read unwholesome books that fill our minds with ungodly thinking? If the answers to any of these questions are "sometimes," or "a little bit," perhaps we should test our well water.

Jesus said, "Those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" (Matt. 15:18-19). In short, thoughts become behavior. So, we have to be very careful what goes into the heart. If we realize something dead or contaminated has fallen in, let us get the critter out, and allow our hearts to refill with pure, fresh, life-giving water. Let us fill our minds with things that will endure. Let us refrain from listening to negative things, and instead freely speak kind words about others. Let us redeem the time by listening to good lessons, lectures, or spiritual singing. Let us fill our minds and hearts with the word of God, and meditate on it day and night!

Today's Verse: *"Keep your heart with all diligence. For out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you."* Proverbs 4:23-24

Today's Challenge: At the end of each day, I will reflect on the thoughts that filled my hours.

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