

“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” Proverbs 4:23 NLT

[lectio] // PROVERBS 4:20-27



This time, this season is exactly what Proverbs says to do. However, I'm trying to do more than just guard, I'm preparing! The guarding was a process that took months to recover from the event. Then it was a matter of being proactive to

prepare for what's ahead. There was a time, when I was with Royal Family KIDS that I cruised through my spiritual life on autopilot. Then the day came when I met with Mona's husband in the hospital. Some of his children were there as well. At that moment when I was there to give spiritual care, I discovered I was empty. I had nothing. I quickly had to reach back into the past for some weird reserve tank that had not been used in years. It scared me. I vowed to never let my relationship, my inner life with Christ get that way again. So, when I came out of grieving and loss, I began to work on my heart to expand and feel, to search and to know God. I had no church, or a group to lead. I had no audience but my maker! And yet, before God's presence I explored and wrestled with the scriptures and found beauty, correction, mystery and encouragement. It has been life to me. If all else fails, if nothing shows up on my todo list, I still have my love for Christ and feel the pleasure of his presence.

Dad,
YOU are my life. I would not be or have anything if it weren't for you. I am not a perfect son, but I am a grateful son. If I must sit it out on the sidelines of life, then I will wait like the beggar at the gate called beautiful and call out when I feel your presence come near. I will praise you and reflect the brilliance of your light and love to everyone I meet, everyone I talk with. May my life be dripping with grace and mercy to anyone who feels guilt, shame, rejection or displacement. May my heart expand and fill to make it possible to empty for others.