

Proverbs 23:1-35 **Great Advice for Social Relationships & Living Choices**

*Listen to Your Father*

- 1 When you sit down to eat with a ruler, Consider carefully what *is* before you;
- 2 And put a knife to your throat If you *are* a man given to appetite.
- 3 Do not desire his delicacies, For they *are* deceptive food.
  
- 4 Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease!
- 5 Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven.
  
- 6 Do not eat the bread of a miser, \* Nor desire his delicacies;
- 7 For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he.  
"Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.
- 8 The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up, And waste your pleasant words.
  
- 9 Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words.
  
- 10 Do not remove the ancient landmark, Nor enter the fields of the fatherless;
- 11 For their Redeemer *is* mighty; He will plead their cause against you.
  
- 12 Apply your heart to instruction, And your ears to words of knowledge.
  
- 13 Do not withhold correction from a child, For *if* you beat him with a rod, he will not die.
- 14 You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.\*
  
- 15 My son, if your heart is wise, My heart will rejoice – indeed, I myself;
- 16 Yes, my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak right things.
  
- 17 Do not let your heart envy sinners,  
But *be zealous* for the fear of Yahweh (the LORD) all the day;
- 18 For surely there is a hereafter, And your hope will not be cut off.
- 19 Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way.
  
- 20 Do not mix with winebibbers, *Or* with gluttonous eaters of meat;
- 21 For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe *a man* with rags.
  
- 22 Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.
- 23 Buy the truth, and do not sell *it*, *Also* wisdom and instruction and understanding.
- 24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise *child* will delight in him.
- 25 Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice.

26 My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways.  
27 For a harlot *is* a deep pit, And a seductress *is* a narrow well.  
28 She also lies in wait as *for* a victim, And increases the unfaithful among men.

29 Who has woe?  
Who has sorrow?  
Who has contentions?  
Who has complaints?  
Who has wounds without cause?  
Who has redness of eyes?

30 Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine.

31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, *When* it swirls around smoothly;

32 At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper.

33 Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things.

34 Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, *saying*:

35 "They have struck me, *but* I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel *it*.  
When shall I awake, that I may seek another *drink*?"

NKJV\_

#### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ When you sit down to eat with a ruler, Consider carefully what *is* before you; And put a knife to your throat If you *are* a man given to appetite. Do not desire his delicacies, For they *are* deceptive food. [Proverbs 23:1-3]
- ✧ Good advise for those who are invited to dine with rulers.
- ✧ Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease! Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven. [Proverbs 23:4-5]
- ✧ Warning against focusing your life on gaining wealth.
- ✧ Wealth itself is not reliable or enduring. It is a matter of priorities.
- ✧ Jesus said, **For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?** [Mathew 16:26, Mark 8:36]
- ✧ Then Jesus said to His disciples, **"Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."** [Matthew 19:23-24, Mark 10:23-25, Luke 18:24-25]
- ✧ Do not eat the bread of a miser, \* Nor desire his delicacies; For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you. The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up, And waste your pleasant words. [Proverbs 23:6-8]
- ✧ It is wise to discern the heart of the one who invites you to dine.
- ✧ Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words. [Proverbs 23:9]

- ✧ We need to discern the receptiveness of the one with whom we try to share our words of wisdom.
- ✧ Do not remove the ancient landmark, Nor enter the fields of the fatherless; For their Redeemer *is* mighty; He will plead their cause against you. [Proverbs 23:10-11]
  - ✧ Yahweh is watching, do not attempt to change property lines.
- ✧ Apply your heart to instruction, And your ears to words of knowledge. [Proverbs 23:12]
  - ✧ To gain wisdom, one must apply himself to seek it diligently with the heart, listening carefully with the ears to the words of knowledge.
- ✧ Do not withhold correction from a child, For *if* you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell. \* [Proverbs 23:13-14]
  - ✧ Children need firm discipline to guide their lives in righteousness to save him from Hell's fire.
  - ✧ An undisciplined child will soon turn to evil being self centered and demanding his own way.
  - ✧ Parental guidance with proper discipline will help the child to find a righteous path to eternal life.
- ✧ My son, if your heart is wise, My heart will rejoice – indeed, I myself; Yes, my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak right things. [Proverbs 23:15-16]
  - ✧ A wise son is a wonderful blessing to his parents.
  - ✧ Knowing they walk in righteousness brings great joy to the heart of his parents.
- ✧ Do not let your heart envy sinners, But *be zealous* for the fear of Yahweh (the LORD) all the day; For surely there is a hereafter, And your hope will not be cut off. Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way. [Proverbs 23:17-19]
  - ✧ The heart can be controlled by the will and its focus.
  - ✧ Do not let it envy sinners, but keep your focus on Yahweh and His ways all day long.
  - ✧ Remember, there are two predestined destinations for the soul, Heaven with God, or the fires of Hell with Satan and the wicked, the choice is yours to make.
  - ✧ If you follow Yahweh faithfully your hope will not be cut off.
- ✧ Do not mix with winebibbers, *Or* with gluttonous eaters of meat; For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe a *man* with rags. [Proverbs 23:20-21]
  - ✧ Be careful in choosing companions to associate with.
  - ✧ Stay away from those who could drag you down with their careless behavior.
  - ✧ Consider well the warning above in these verses.
- ✧ Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy the truth, and do not sell *it*, *Also* wisdom and instruction and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise *child* will delight in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice. [Proverbs 23:22-25]
  - ✧ Honor your father and mother by receiving their wisdom, instruction, and understanding.
  - ✧ Seek truth and righteousness which will bring rejoicing and delight to your parents.
- ✧ My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways. For a harlot *is* a deep pit, And a seductress *is* a narrow well. She also lies in wait as *for* a victim, And increases the unfaithful among men. [Proverbs 23:26-28]
  - ✧ Great advice to avoid the destructive allure of the seductress.
- ✧ Who has woe?  
Who has sorrow?

Who has contentions?

Who has complaints?

Who has wounds without cause?

Who has redness of eyes?

Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine.

Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, *When* it swirls around smoothly;

At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper.

Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things.

Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, *saying*:

"They have struck me, *but* I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel *it*.

When shall I awake, that I may seek another *drink*?" [\[Proverbs 23:29-35\]](#)

✧ Wonderful advise against the influence of alcoholism.