

## Proverbs 23

### "Wisdom Instructions On Greediness"

Below you will find the Scripture Passages and Bible Study notes for this weeks lesson. They are also attached to this email if you would like to put them in a folder or share them with family and friends. If you have a specific prayer request or would like someone to be placed on the prayer list please forward your requests to Sbcdoylestown@yahoo.com. If your schedule allows, please consider joining us for our live bible study on Weds. 12:00 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. I pray that this study will be a blessing to you.

Pastor Hamlin

THEME: Wisdom For All People (Chapters 10-24)

PURPOSE: Solomon wanted to impart wisdom to all people, regardless of their age, sex, or position in society. These short, wise sayings give us practical wisdom for daily living. We should study them diligently and integrate them into our life.

OUTLINE:

- I. DINING WITH A KING (23:1-5): Pay attention to what is before you since deception may be involved.
- II. DINING WITH THE STINGY (23:6-8): Do not go, because he doesn't mean to be hospitable.
- III. FELLOWSHIPING WITH FOOLS (23:9): They will despise the wisest advice, so do not waste your time with them.
- IV. DISCIPLINING YOUR CHILDREN (23:10-18): Do everything you can to gain wisdom for yourself and for your children.
- V. AVOIDING PITFALLS (23:19-28): Too much of anything sends a person to poverty or a deep pit.
- VI. AVOIDING DRUNKENNESS (23:29-35): A drunk does not care how bad it gets. He is always looking for another drink.

## Proverbs 23

(New International Version)

(Verses 1-5) DINING WITH A KING: Pay attention to what is before you since deception may be involved.

1When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you, 2 and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony. 3 Do not crave his delicacies, for that food is deceptive. 4 Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. 5 Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

### Proverbs 23:1-3

The point of this proverb is to be careful when eating with an important or influential person because he or she may try to bribe you. No good will come from the meal.

### Proverbs 23:4, 5

We have all heard of people who have won millions of dollars and then lost everything. Even the average person can spend an inheritance-or a paycheck-with lightning speed and have little to show for it. Don't spend your time chasing fleeting earthly treasures. Instead, store up treasures in heaven, for such treasures will never be lost.

(Verses 6-8) DINING WITH THE STINGY: Do not go, because he doesn't mean to be hospitable.

6 Do not eat the food of a begrudging host, do not crave his delicacies 7 for he is the kind of person who is always thinking about the cost. Eat and drink, he says to you, but his heart is not with you. 8 You will vomit up the little you have eaten and will have wasted your compliments.

### Proverbs 23:6-8

In graphic language, the writer warns us not to envy the life-styles of those who have become rich by being stingy and miserly, and not to gain their favor by fawning over them. Their "friendship" is phony - they will just use you for their own gain.

(Verse 9) FELLOWSHIPING WITH FOOLS: "They will despise the wisest advice," so do not waste your time with them.

9 Do not speak to fools, for they will scorn your prudent words.

(Verses 10-18) DISCIPLINING YOUR CHILDREN: Do everything you can to gain wisdom for yourself and for your children.

10 Do not move an ancient boundary stone or encroach on the fields of the fatherless, 11 for their Defender is strong; he will take up their case against you. 12 Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge. 13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die. 14 Punish them with the rod and save them from death. 15 My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad indeed; 16 my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right. 17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord. 18 There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

### Proverbs 23:10, 11

The term redeemer referred to someone who bought back a family member who had fallen into slavery or who accepted the obligation to marry the widow of a family member (Ruth 4:3-10). God is also called a Redeemer (Exodus 6:6; Job 19:25). (For an explanation of ancient boundary markers, see the note on 22:28.)

## Proverbs 23:12

The people most likely to gain knowledge are those who are willing to listen. It is a sign of strength, not weakness, to pay attention to what others have to say. People who are eager to listen continue to learn and grow throughout their lives. If we refuse to become set in our ways, we can always expand the limits of our knowledge.

## Proverbs 23:13, 14

The stern tone of discipline here is offset by the affection expressed in verse 15. However, many parents are reluctant to discipline their children at all. Some fear that they will forfeit their relationship, their children will resent them, or they will stifle their children's development. But correction won't kill children, and it may prevent them from foolish moves that will.

## Proverbs 23:17, 18

How easy it is to envy those who get ahead, unhampered by responsibility to God's laws. For a time they do seem to prosper without paying any attention to what God wants, but they have no future. To those who follow him, God promises a hope and a wonderful future, even if they don't realize it in this life.

(Verses 19-28) AVOIDING PITFALLS: Too much of anything sends a person to poverty or a deep pit.

19 Listen, my son, and be wise, and set your heart on the right path: 20 Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, 21 for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags. 22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. 23 Buy the truth and do not sell it wisdom, instruction and insight as well. 24 The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him. 25 May your father and mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful! 26 My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways, 27 for an adulterous woman is a deep pit, and a wayward wife is a narrow well. 28 Like a bandit she lies in wait and multiplies the unfaithful among men.

(Verses 29-35) AVOIDING DRUNKENNESS: A drunk does not care how bad it gets. He is always looking for another drink.

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? 30 Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine. 31 Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! 32 In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange sights, and your mind will imagine confusing things. 34 You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging. 35 "They hit me," you will say, "but I'm not hurt! They beat me, but I don't feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?"

## Proverbs 23:29, 30

The soothing comfort of alcohol is only temporary. Real relief comes from dealing with the cause of the anguish and sorrow and turning to God for peace. Don't lose yourself in alcohol; find yourself in God.

Proverbs 23:29-35

Israel was a wine-producing country. In the Old Testament, winepresses bursting with new wine were considered a sign of blessing (3:10). Wisdom is even said to have set her table with wine (9:2, 5). But the Old Testament writers were alert to the dangers of wine. It dulls the senses; it limits clear judgment (31:1-9); it lowers the capacity for control (4:17); it destroys a person's efficiency (21:17). To make wine an end in itself, a means of self-indulgence, or as an escape from life is to misuse it and invite the consequences of the drunkard.