

Proverbs 23 - Things to Avoid in Life; Listening to Parents; Sobriety

IV. Sayings of the wise (Prov 22:17—24:34)

- (1) Part 1: Thirty precepts of the wise (22:17—24:22)
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- (S) 17th precept: avoid the adulteress (23:26-28)
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- (T) 18th precept: do not be a drunkard (23:29-35)
 - (a) Warning (23:31)
 - (b) Reason: Consequences of drunkenness (23:29-30, 32-35)

Proverbs 23

- (G) Sixth precept: do not be gluttonous before a King (23:1-3)
 - (a) Warning (23:1-3a)
- 1 When you sit down to dine with a ruler, Consider carefully what is before you,
- 1 When you sit down to dine with a ruler, Consider carefully what is before you,
- 1 Whenever you sit down to dine with a ruler, carefully think about what is before you.
- 1 When thou sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee:
- 2 And put a knife to your throat If you are a person of *great* appetite.
- 2 And put a knife to your throat If you are a man of *great* appetite.
- 2 Put a knife to your own throat, if you have a big appetite.
- 2 And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.
- (b) Reason: avoid deception (23:3b)
- 3 Do not desire his delicacies, For it is deceptive food.
- 3 Do not desire his delicacies, For it is deceptive food.
- 3 Don't crave his delicacies, because the meal is deceptive.
- 3 Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.
- (H) Seventh precept: do not be materialistic (23:4-5)
 - (a) Warning (23:4)
- 4 Do not weary yourself to gain wealth; Stop dwelling *on it*.
- 4 Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, Cease from your consideration of *it*.
- 4 Don't exhaust yourself acquiring wealth; be smart enough to stop.
- 4 Labor not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.
- (b) Reason: wealth is uncertain (23:5)

5 When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For *wealth* certainly makes itself wings Like an eagle that flies *toward* the heavens.

5 When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For *wealth* certainly makes itself wings Like an eagle that flies *toward* the heavens.

5 When you fix your gaze on it, it's gone, for it sprouts wings for itself and flies to the sky like an eagle.

5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

(I) Eighth precept: do not eat with the greedy (23:6-8)

(a) Warning (23:6)

6 Do not eat the bread of a selfish person; Or desire his delicacies;

6 Do not eat the bread of a selfish man, Or desire his delicacies;

6 Don't consume food provided by a miserly person, and don't desire his delicacies,

6 Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:

(b) Reason: He is insincere (23:7-8)

7 For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, "Eat and drink!" But his heart is not with you.

7 For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, "Eat and drink!" But his heart is not with you.

7 for as he thinks within himself, so he is. "Eat and drink!" he'll say to you, but his heart won't be with you.

7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, says he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

8 You will vomit up the morsel you have eaten And waste your compliments.

8 You will vomit up the morsel you have eaten, And waste your compliments.

8 You'll vomit up what little you've eaten, and your compliments will have been wasted.

8 The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

(J) Ninth precept: do not speak to a fool (23:9)

(a) Warning (23:9a)

(b) Reason: he will despise your words (23:9b)

9 Do not speak to be heard by a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words.

9 Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, For he will despise the wisdom of your words.

9 Don't speak when a fool is listening, because he'll despise your wise words.

9 Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

(K) 10th precept: do not move the boundary marker (23:10-11)

(a) Warning (23:10)

10 Do not move the ancient boundary Or go into the fields of the fatherless,

10 Do not move the ancient boundary Or go into the fields of the fatherless,

10 Don't move ancient boundaries or invade fields belonging to orphans;

10 Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

(b) Reason: God will plead their case (23:11)

11 For their Redeemer is strong; He will plead their case against you.

11 For their Redeemer is strong; He will plead their case against you.

11 for strong is their Redeemer who will take up their case against you.

11 For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

(L) Interlude: Apply your mind to the following precepts (23:12)

12 Apply your heart to discipline, And your ears to words of knowledge.

12 Apply your heart to discipline And your ears to words of knowledge.

12 Learn diligently, and listen to words of knowledge.

12 Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

(M) 11th precept: do not withhold child discipline (23:13-14)

(a) Warning (23:13)

13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; Though you strike him with the rod, he will not die.

13 Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die.

13 Don't withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with a rod, he won't die.

13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

(b) Reason: discipline will save the child from Sheol (23:14)

14 You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol.

14 You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol.

14 Punish him with a rod, and you will rescue his soul from Sheol.

14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

(N) Twelfth precept: Be wise (23:15-16)

(a) Warning (23:15)

15 My son, if your heart is wise,
My own heart also will be glad,
15 My son, if your heart is wise, My own heart also will be glad;
15 My son, if your heart is wise, my own heart will greatly rejoice.
15 My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

(b) Reason: Gladness when the wise speak (23:16)

16 And my innermost being will rejoice When your lips speak what is right.
16 And my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak what is right.
16 My innermost being will be glad when your lips speak what is right.
16 Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

(O) 13th precept: Do not envy sinners but instead fear God (23:17-18)

(a) Warning (23:17)

17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, But *live* in the fear of the LORD always.
17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, But *live* in the fear of the LORD always.
17 Never let yourself envy sinners; instead, remain in fear of the LORD every day,
17 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

(b) Reason: eternal hope (23:18)

18 Certainly there is a future, And your hope will not be cut off.
18 Surely there is a future, And your hope will not be cut off.
18 for there is surely a future life, and what you hope for will not be cut off.
18 For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

(P) 14th precept: Do not associate with gluttons (23:19-21)

(a) Warning (23:19-20)

19 Listen, my son, and be wise, And direct your heart in the way.
19 Listen, my son, and be wise, And direct your heart in the way.
19 Listen, my son, and be wise, commit yourself to live God's way.
19 Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

20 Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, *Or* with gluttonous eaters of meat;
20 Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, *Or* with gluttonous eaters of meat;
20 Don't associate with heavy drinkers or dine with gluttons,
20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

(b) Reason: Gluttons will come to poverty (23:21)

21 For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe one with rags.

21 For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe one with rags.

21 because drunks and gluttons tend to become poor, and drowsiness will clothe them in rags.

21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

(Q) 15th precept: do not despise your parents (23:22-23)

(a) Warning (23:22)

22 Listen to your father, who fathered you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.

22 Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.

22 Listen to the one who fathered you, and don't despise your mother in her old age.

22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

(b) Reason: they possess wisdom (23:23)

23 Buy truth, and do not sell *it*, Get wisdom, instruction, and understanding.

23 Buy truth, and do not sell *it*, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.

23 Purchase truth, but don't sell it; store up wisdom, instruction, and understanding.

23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

(R) 16th precept: be wise (23:24-25)

(a) Warning (23:24)

24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him.

24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who sires a wise son will be glad in him.

24 The father of a righteous person will greatly rejoice; whoever fathers a wise son will be glad because of him.

24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begets a wise child shall have joy of him.

(b) Reason: your parents will rejoice (23:25)

25 Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her rejoice who gave birth to you.

25 Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her rejoice who gave birth to you.

25 Let your father and mother rejoice; make the one who gave birth to you happy.

25 Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

(S) 17th precept: avoid the adulteress (23:26-28)

(a) Warning (23:26)

26 Give me your heart, my son, And let your eyes delight in my ways.

26 Give me your heart, my son, And let your eyes delight in my ways.

26 Give me your heart, my son, and keep your eyes fixed on my ways,

26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

(b) Reason: she is a snare (23:27-28)

27 For a prostitute is a deep pit, And a strange woman is a narrow well.

27 For a harlot is a deep pit And an adulterous woman is a narrow well.

27 because a prostitute is a deep pit, and the adulterous woman a narrow well.

27 For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit.

28 Certainly she lurks as a robber, And increases the treacherous among mankind.

28 Surely she lurks as a robber, And increases the faithless among men.

28 Surely she lies in wait like a bandit, increasing those who are faithless among mankind.

28 She also lies in wait as for a prey, and increases the transgressors among men.

(T) 18th precept: do not be a drunkard (23:29-35)

(b) Reason: Consequences of drunkenness (23:29-30,32-35)

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has red eyes?

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

29 Who has woe? Who has grief? Who has contention? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has bloodshot eyes?

29 Who has woe? who has sorrow? who has contentions? who has babbling? who has wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

30 Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine.

30 Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine.

30 Those who linger over their wine, who consume mixed drinks.

30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

(a) Warning (23:31)

31 Do not look at wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, *When it goes down smoothly;*
31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, *When it goes down smoothly;*
31 Don't stare into red wine, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly.
31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it gives his colour in the cup, when it moves itself aright.

32 In the end it bites like a snake And stings like a viper.
32 At the last it bites like a serpent And stings like a viper.
32 Eventually it will bite like a snake and sting like a serpent.
32 At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder.

33 Your eyes will see strange things And your mind will say perverse things.
33 Your eyes will see strange things And your mind will utter perverse things.
33 Your eyes will see strange things, and with slurred words you'll speak what you really believe.
33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

34 And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast.
34 And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast.
34 You will be like someone who lies down in the sea, or like someone who sleeps on top of a mast.
34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lies down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lies upon the top of a mast.

35 "They struck me, *but* I did not become ill; They beat me, *but* I did not know *it*. When will I awake? I will seek another drink."
35 "They struck me, *but* I did not become ill; They beat me, *but* I did not know *it*. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink."
35 "They struck me," you will say, "but I never felt it. They beat me, but I never knew it When will I wake up? I want another drink.
35 They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.