

Thirty Truths to Wisdom (Part 2)

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Proverbs 23:1-18

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These are the THIRTY SAYINGS of WISDOM or the CHIEF SAYINGS of WISDOM.

1) Wisdom is outside of you, therefore you must seek it out

- Wisdom is NOT intuitive to humanity.
 - We aren't born wise, we are born fools.
 - Solomon says, Proverbs 22:17 – [17] *Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise*
- APPLY your HEART to WISDOM and to KNOWLEDGE.
- Psalm 19:7b – [7b] *the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*

2) Wisdom is the applied knowledge of God

- Proverbs 22:17b – [17b] *and apply your heart to my knowledge.*
- Wisdom is Knowledge applied...
 - It is the KNOWLEDGE of GOD *lived*.
 - It is TRUTH *fleshed out*.
 - It is SOUND DOCTRINE *embodied*.

3) Wisdom Leads to the Blessed Life

Proverbs 22:18 – [18] *for it will be pleasant if you keep within you, if all of them are ready on your lips.*

- Proverbs 8:10 – [10] *Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, [11] for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.*
- *The GREATEST LIFE is to HAVE WISDOM.*

4) Wisdom is trusting and fearing God

Proverbs 22:19 – [19] *That your trust may be in the LORD, I have made them known to you today, even to you.*

- *The essence of WISDOM is to trust and fear GOD.*
- Prov 9:10 – [10] *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.*
 - The FEAR of the LORD is to be in awe of His holiness. To revere Him.
 - To love what He LOVES.
 - It is to hate EVIL.
 - Proverbs 8:13 – [13] *The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil.*

Those are the GENERAL Contours. WE are picking up the THIRTY SAYINGS in Chapter 23.

SIXTH SAYING: 6) Exercise Situational Awareness with People

23:1 – [1] *When you sit down to eat with a ruler, observe carefully what is before you,*

- If you happen to sit down with a great person (a ruler), *observe carefully what is before you* - This statement is a unique statement. It could refer to either the PERSON or the FOOD.
- When you are in the PRESENCE of a PERSON of SIGNIFICANCE – it's NOT about the FOOD, it's about the PERSON.

23:2 - [2] *and put a knife to your throat if you are given to appetite.*

- This is a pretty drastic statement. HYPERBOLE. Obviously you wouldn't physically put a knife to your throat.
 - *If you show that you are consumed by food, then you are a person that cannot be trusted with great matters*

[3] *Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food.*

- It's not that the KING is trying to deceive you, but that the FOOD will DECEIVE you.

SEVENTH SAYING: 7) **Do Not Chase Wealth**

23:4 – [4] *Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist.*

- DON'T set your GAZE on something so TEMPORAL like MONEY.
- DON'T chase WEALTH at the EXPENSE of GOD and PEOPLE.

[5] *When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.*

- WEALTH is transient. It is here today or gone tomorrow.
- When your eyes fly after it, it flies away – like an eagle.
- Jesus said this in Luke 12:15 – [15] *“Take care, and be on guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in abundance of possessions.”*
- Matthew 6:19 – [19] *Do not lay up treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal, [20] but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

EIGHTH SAYING: 8) **Avoid the Company of the Greedy**

23:6 – [6] *Do not eat the bread of a man who is stingy; do not desire his delicacies,*

- Don't GO to the MEAL of someone you KNOW is STINGY.
- The WORD here for “stingy” means *evil eye*.
 - An EVIL EYE – one who is envious and greedy towards others.
 - Proverbs 28:22 – [22] *A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him.*

[7] *for he is like one who is inwardly calculating. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, but his heart is not with you.*

- They want you to EAT, only for THIS purpose, so that you will be in their debt.

[8] *You will vomit up the morsels that you have eaten, and waste your pleasant words.*

NINTH SAYING: 9) **Don't Waste Time on Fools**

23:9 – [9] *Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the good sense of your words.*

- Don't waste your WISDOM on FOOLS. Not only will it be a WASTE of TIME.
 - A fool – *Kesil* – a stupid and complacent person.
 - A FOOL is someone who “says in their hearts that there is no God.” Psalm 14.
 - Proverbs 1:32 – [32] *the complacency of fools will destroy them.*
- A FOOL DOES NOT HAVE THE EARS TO HEAR DIVINE REVELATION.
 - Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:14 – [14] *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*
- But the FOOL will RESENT you for instructing THEM.

TENTH SAYING: 10) **Don't Take Advantage of the Fatherless**

23:10 – [10] *Do not move an ancient landmark or enter the fields of the fatherless, [11] for their Redeemer is strong; he will plead their cause against you.*

- We really covered this one in the first SAYING. So go back to that one for notes about how GOD will plead the cause of the afflicted in the GATE.
- What's unique about this saying... is the mention of the FATHERLESS.
 - Psalm 68:5 – [5] *Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.*
- God will be their FATHER. He pleads their Cause. He comes to their AID.
- Wise men don't take advantage of the fatherless. They come in support of the Fatherless.

Verse 12 is INTRODUCTION to SAYINGS 11 – 30 23:12 – [12] *Apply your heart to instruction and your ear to words of knowledge.*

ELEVENTH SAYING: 11) **Discipline Your Children**

23:13 – [13] *Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die.*

One of the fatal mistakes of Christian parents is that they fail to apply discipline to their children.

PARENTS have the responsibility to discipline their child – both verbal and physical.

- If you don't discipline your child. Someone else will.
- *If you apply right administered verbal and physical punishment – the CHILD will not DIE.*
 - DOUBLE MEANING. On the one hand... parents need the reassurance. Discipline is what is best for the CHILD. If they do this, the child will not die. The child will be fine.
 - On the other hand... if they do this, they will be saving the child's life.
 - Proverbs 22:15 – [15] *Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.*
 - This is not done in harshness but in love.
 - Ephesians 6:4 – [4] *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.*

[14] *if you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.*

- THIS IS A SERIOUS STATEMENT – YOU WILL SAVE their soul from SHEOL. Discipline will save them from HELL.

TWELFTH SAYING: 12) **Wise Children Make the Heart Glad**

23:16 – [16] *My inmost being will exult when your lips speak what is right.*

- Children who are WISE bring incredible JOY to the HEART. Rejoicing.

- Lips speaking truth means that it has been internalized in the HEART.
- Proverbs 10:1 – [1] *A wise son makes a glad father.*
- So we need to be praying our CHILDREN pick up the baton.

[17] *Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day.*

- Psalm 19:9 – [9] *the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever.*
 - Continue in the WORD of GOD.

[18] *Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.*