

Proverbs 23

Theme: Wisdom in Discipline, Desire, Relationships, and Self-Control

I. Wisdom at the Table — Guard Your Appetite -Proverbs 23:1–3

- Be discerning when dining with powerful people. Exercise restraint rather than letting appetite control you.
- Do not be deceived by attractive food or appearances.

**Wisdom knows when to say no.*

II. Wisdom Concerning Wealth — Don't Wear Yourself Out for Riches -Proverbs 23:4–5

- Do not make the pursuit of wealth your life's obsession. Riches can disappear quickly.
- Wealth is temporary and uncertain.

**Don't sacrifice your life pursuing what can vanish overnight.*

III. Wisdom in Relationships — Discern Motives -Proverbs 23:6–8

- Be cautious about accepting hospitality from a selfish or deceptive person.
- Outward generosity may conceal inward motives. What appears generous may come with strings attached.

**Discern the heart behind the gift.*

IV. Wisdom and Instruction — Protect the Ancient Boundaries -Proverbs 23:9–11

- Do not waste wisdom on someone determined not to listen.
- Do not exploit the vulnerable. Respect established boundaries and justice.
- God Himself is the defender of the oppressed.

**Wisdom respects both truth and justice.*

V. Wisdom Through Discipline — Correct Your Children -Proverbs 23:12–14

- Apply yourself to instruction. Do not neglect necessary correction.
- Loving discipline can rescue a child from destructive paths.

**Biblical discipline is intended to preserve life, not merely punish behavior.*

VI. Wisdom Brings a Father's Joy -Proverbs 23:15–16

“My son, if your heart is wise, My heart will rejoice indeed.” — Proverbs 23:15 NKJV

- A child's wisdom brings joy to parents. Godly character is more valuable than outward success.
- Parents should desire wisdom in their children.

**The greatest inheritance parents can give is wisdom and character.*

VII. Wisdom About the Future — Fear God, Not Sinners -Proverbs 23:17–18

- Do not envy sinners. Maintain reverence for the Lord.
- Keep an eternal perspective. Faithfulness has a future reward.

***Don't envy what sinners have today and forget where they are going.**

VIII. Wisdom and Self-Control — Avoid Destructive Company -Proverbs 23:19–21

- Listen to wisdom. Direct your heart toward the right path.
- Avoid excessive indulgence in: Wine, Gluttony, Laziness
- Destructive appetites can lead to poverty.

**What you repeatedly indulge in can eventually control you.*

IX. Wisdom in Family Relationships — Honor Your Parents -Proverbs 23:22–25

- Listen to your father.
- Do not despise your mother when she is old.
- Pursue truth, wisdom, instruction, and understanding.
- A righteous and wise child brings tremendous joy to parents.

***Wisdom is something worth buying at any price and never selling.**

X. Wisdom and Sexual Purity — Guard Your Heart -Proverbs 23:26–28

- God desires the heart, not merely outward behavior.
- Sexual immorality is portrayed as a trap.
- Wrong relationships can destroy a person's faithfulness and direction.

**The battle for purity begins with what captures the heart and eyes.*