

2023.10.23 Family Worship lesson in “the Proverb of the day”

Proverbs 23:1–8

“Consideration That Moves from Coveting to Contentment”

- 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.

Pastor teaches his family a selection from “the Proverb of the day.” In these eight verse of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us to guard against materialistic covetousness in ourselves and others.

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Proverbs 23 1 through 8. These are God's words. 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. 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 them themselves wings. They fly away like an eagle toward heaven. 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 as hard as not with you. The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up and waste. Your pleasant words. So far the reading of god's inspired and And there aren't worked. Um, The first three verses.

When he says, when you sit down to eat, With ruler considered carefully. What is before you and put your a knife to your throat? If you're a man. Uh, given to appetite. Do not desire, his delicacies for they are. Deceptive. Food. And this is in three different ways. One.

Uh, if you Abuse or gorge yourself upon. Uh, the Generosity which may not be true generosity as well here in verses sixth grade. But on the generosity, Of a ruler you offend him and it's not worth. Um, Whatever it was that you enjoyed from him. The second way. Is not to.

Not to desire that you would be. In the place of a ruler. You might come to the ruler's house and see what the ruler has i think oh if only i Uh, if only i was the ruler. Then i could have these things. And the things that you get and the ruler's house, Uh, could end up being the Uh, the means by which you become envious or covetous.

This is always. A danger to us because of our fleshliness. Not just when we're with someone of Higher rank or higher means than we are, but really With anybody who has different things. Uh, then we do because we are so. Prone to covetousness. And so, we need to Watch out against that impulse in our heart, whether it's with somebody's gifts or abilities, or the wealth that they have food, that they have clothing, they wear, The things that they have liberty to do anything in god's providence towards them, that is different towards us.

We must watch against our hearts. Uh, not to be discontented. Watch against our hearts, not to violate. The 10th commandment. And then, In the last place, not only because we might offend, not only because we might covet, Uh, but very closely related to the covetousness. Uh, we need to remember.

That, that's which we think. Uh, we'll be pleasant and desirable. Does not end up. Actually satisfying. It is the lord who satisfies. And we must be.

Um, we are not just of being covetous of others. But of thinking that the stuff that looks so good to our eyes. Uh, that we will get from it.

The comfort or pleasure. Or satisfaction, whatever it is. That is in front of us. And this is actually in many cases, literally, with respect to food. Um, For many. Of us, the There is this. Irrational temptation that we know better than if we were to think clearly through it, But you.

Just munch in order to satisfy or to placate. Boredom or anxiety. Or just looking for. Uh, some form of comfort or feeling of well-being that the food cannot give you. And so many reasons then to watch. Against appetite specifically for food, but really for any earthly thing. Closely related, not an appetite to consume but an appetite just to have Or to possess.

Do not work, do not overwork to be rich. Uh, now The truth that he tells us. Uh, in verse 5. That riches are not what they appear to be. And They fly away anyway. That they are quite easily. Uh, lost and Um, There cannot be relied upon. It's not enough to just know that because people who do know that They still work super hard just to have a little more money.

Like the man who later ended up being president. Uh, but 10 15 years before he was president, he was on. Uh, one of these. Television shows with a guy who does interviews and The man asked him how much is enough. Don't you think you have enough money? How much is enough?

And the man answered one more dollar. There was no amount that would ever be enough. So, it's not enough for us to know. That wealth is unreliable. And easily. Destroyed or lost. We have to respond to our understanding. Excuse me. So this last, this second part of verse 4 is actually a big part of life.

Because of your own understanding cease. It's not enough to know what is rational. We have to actually be self-controlled controlled by our minds. So reminded Uh, which is one of the Characteristics that we have seen often in first, Timothy and titus That officers in the church ought to have.

And that Elders and pastors. Should teach. The people of the congregation to have. This is one of the things that we're hopefully going to be. Thinking about as we get into the battle plan for the mind book. How to make use of the scripture and what we know of the scripture.

For governing our thoughts, for regulating our life, our affections, our behavior, Um, So that we will not. Be those who know many true things. But live as fools. Anyway, and then in the last place, Verses six through eight.

Understanding. The type of person you may be dealing with, and Not always presuming upon generosity. Especially knowing that generosity is not always. Generosity. Do not eat the bread of a miser nor desire his delicacies. Okay, so Similar with the The rich man earlier and we said earlier that the our first application of verses 133 is especially this one.

Verse 7 now for as he thinks in his heart. So is he not as he says with his lips? Many people are not as they say with their lips. And so it is. Who wisdom to be guarded at first. It's, it's not being. Distrustful. It's just having a good doctrine of total depravity.

And knowing that the bible teaches you that people are often different in their hearts than they are with their mouth. And says for as he thinks in his heart. So is he eat and drink? He says to you. But is he saying eat and drinking his heart? Know he's Calculating the cost.

Of every of every gram that you put in your mouth, 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. You will find that you did not eat. And his kindness towards you.

The idea of the morsel is not just the food there. It's oh, he's having table fellowship with me. He's inviting me to Uh, to be his companion, his friend, but his heart isn't with you, that's what a friend is. As someone who's heart is with you, And so what you thought was a participation and a friendship.

Actually isn't So verse You know, verse 8 isn't saying that like he's going to give you ipicex syrup and Uh, make you puke out what you've eaten. But what you thought it meant, you will lose just as if you had had a pleasant meal. And you vomited it. And, The picture in verse 8 is you're enjoying the food.

You think he's enjoying your enjoying the food? You're speaking to him. Pleasantly, you're enjoying the conversation. You think that he is enjoying conversation? Uh, with youtube. And you speak kindly to them. Uh, expressing affection, but the affection is not just not reciprocated, but actually not received. And all those pleasant words.

Our wasted. Um, What a dreadful thing. This is in verses six through eight and one of the first applications then for us is not is not Uh, watch out for misers. The first application i think is don't be the miser. Be generous in your heart, not just with your words.

Be generous with your heart, not just with your things. Or offer people a true kindness. Not an inwardly calculating, the grudging Uh quote unquote, kindness that ends up being despising if they take it. But then on the other on the other side of that, not only to guard our own hearts that we are ourselves, would not be the monitor.

Uh, but that we would know that there are miserly people. And that. Before. Uh, we get into the level of friendship with someone. Where we are willing to receive. Um, the kindnesses and charities and so forth, you know, we can much more quickly get into the low offer that where we're willing to give because if we give and they abuse it.

Well, Uh, that's all right. It was Really unto the lord. First and foremost anyway. But wait in your friendships. Wait in your relationships. This is Bible wisdom. To be willing to receive. Generosity is like that. Um, until Uh, you have more cause to think, More more confidence to think.

That this really is. And expression of of genuine, friendship and kindness. From them. And then, of course, Uh, side application. Um, Sometime so long as you are not necessarily. Thinking you're hoping that Um, it is an expression of their own kindness. Uh, it is okay to To receive from others.

Knowing that it is a kindness from god. And having your interaction primarily with him, not that we should abuse others. But sometimes the Lord does help us by others, who maybe they are not so begrudging or maybe they're not so generous, maybe they are begrudging. But they who maybe not meant it for evil, maybe just didn't necessarily mean it for good.

They may still be instruments to us. Of god, meaning it For good. So there's A fair amount of wisdom involved in applying versus six through eight. Well, What we thank god for. Giving us a Extended. Passage here at the beginning of chapter 23. To. Teach us how to think about material things and the use of money and so forth.

Let's pray.

Our father in heaven, we Thank you and praise you that the earth, and the sea are full of your possessions. So that we may know That all have been dedicated by you for our good. And we pray. Oh lord. Then that you would help us. To have a view of you and a view of material things.

That. Guards against. Covetousness, or Uh, or finding. Satisfaction. Or security. And material things. And, We pray that you would help us to be generous with others, but not. To presume on others generosity with us. Lord, don't let us trust enriches. Grant unto us. To receive whatever we have as from your hand.

And as coming from a love and generosity. That desires, what is best for us and knows? Just what and how much that is? We praise, you will god. Who are to us, such a perfect father. In the lord jesus christ. We thank you. For giving him as the indescribable gift and we praise you.

Lord jesus. That you who were rich for our sakes. Became poor that we might be rich toward god in you. And so we ask these things in your name. Lord jesus. Amen.