

{23:35} et dices: Verberaverunt me, sed non dolui: traxerunt me, et ego non sensi: quando evigilabo, et rursus vina reperiam?

{23:35} And you will say: "They have beaten me, but I did not feel pain. They have dragged me, and I did not realize it. When will I awaken and find more wine?"

³⁵ 'Struck me, have they? But I'm not hurt. Beaten me? I don't feel anything. When shall I wake up? . . . I'll ask for more of it!'

End of Proverbs 23

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Proverbs

(Those who choose wisdom and follow God will be blessed in numerous ways.)



Proverbs 23

*Listen to your father who begot you,
and despise not your mother when she is old.*

Proverbs 23:22

Knowledge is an accumulation of raw facts, but wisdom is the ability to see people, events, and situations as God sees them. In the Book of Proverbs, the mind of God is revealed in matters high and lofty and in common, ordinary, everyday situations as well. It appears that no topic escapes attention. Summarizing the Book of Proverbs is difficult for unlike many other books of Scripture, there is no particular plot or storyline found in its pages; nor are there any principal characters found in the book. It is wisdom that takes center stage— a grand, divine wisdom that transcends the whole of history, peoples and cultures. The theme of wisdom and its necessity in our lives finds its fulfillment in Christ. In Proverbs we are exhorted that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Both the Latin and English translation of each line of the verse will be outlined, along with a brief Catholic explanation of that line of the verse.

Proverbs 23

{23:1} Quando sederis ut comedas cum principe, diligenter attende quæ apposita sunt ante faciem tuam:

{23:1} When you sit down to eat with a leader, pay close attention to what has been set before your face,

¹ If you take your seat at a great man's table, take careful note of what you have before you;

{23:2} et statue cultrum in gutture tuo, si tamen habes in potestate animam tuam,

{23:2} and put a knife to your throat, if, in such a way, you could hold your soul in your own power.

² if you have a big appetite put a knife to your throat.

{23:3} ne desideres de cibis eius, in quo est panis mendacii.

{23:3} Do not desire his foods, in which is the bread of deceit.

³ Do not hanker for his delicacies, for they are deceptive food.

{23:4} Noli laborare ut diteris: sed prudentiæ tuæ pone modum.

{23:4} Do not be willing to labor so that you may be enriched. But set limits by your prudence.

⁴ Do not wear yourself out in quest of wealth, stop applying your mind to this.

{23:30} Nonne his, qui commorantur in vino, et student calicibus epotandis?

{23:30} Is it not those who linger over wine, and who strive to be drinking from their cups?

³⁰ For those who linger over wine too long, ever on the look-out for the blended liquors.

{23:31} Ne intuearis vinum quando flavescit, cum splenduerit in vitro color eius:

ingreditur blande,

{23:31} Do not gaze into the wine when it turns gold, when its color shines in the glass. It enters pleasantly,

³¹ Do not gaze at wine, how red it is, how it sparkles in the cup! How smoothly it slips down the throat!

{23:32} sed in novissimo mordebit ut coluber, et sicut regulus venena diffundet.

{23:32} but in the end, it will bite like a snake, and it will spread poison like a king of snakes.

~ The word 'regulus' means 'little king' but refers to a poisonous snake or similar creature, perhaps even a mythological one.

³² In the end its bite is like a serpent's, its sting as sharp as an adder's.

{23:33} Oculi tui videbunt extraneas, et cor tuum loquetur perversa.

{23:33} Your eyes will see women who are outsiders, and your heart will utter perversities.

³³ Your eyes will see peculiar things, you will talk nonsense from your heart.

{23:34} Et eris sicut dormiens in medio mari, et quasi sopitus gubernator, amisso clavo:

{23:34} And you will be like someone sleeping in the middle of the sea, and like a pilot, fast asleep, who has lost his hold on the helm.

³⁴ You will be like someone sleeping in mid-ocean, like one asleep at the mast-head.

{23:23} Veritatem eme, et noli vendere sapientiam, et doctrinam, et intelligentiam.

{23:23} Purchase truth, and do not sell wisdom, or doctrine, or understanding.

²³ Purchase truth -- never sell it-wisdom, discipline, and discernment.

{23:24} Exultat gaudio pater iusti: qui sapientem genuit, lætabitur in eo.

{23:24} The father of the just exults in gladness; he who has conceived the wise will rejoice in him.

²⁴ The father of the upright will rejoice indeed, he who fathers a wise child will have joy of it.

{23:25} Gaudeat pater tuus, et mater tua, et exultet quæ genuit te.

{23:25} Let your father and your mother be joyful, and may she who conceived you exult.

²⁵ Your father and mother will be happy, and she who bore you joyful.

{23:26} Præbe fili mi cor tuum mihi: et oculi tui vias meas custodiant.

{23:26} My son, offer me your heart, and let your eyes keep to my ways.

²⁶ My child, pay attention to me, let your eyes take pleasure in my way:

{23:27} Fovea enim profunda est meretrix: et puteus angustus, aliena.

{23:27} For a loose woman is a deep pit, and a foreign woman is a constricted well.

²⁷ a prostitute is a deep pit, a narrow well, the woman who belongs to another.

{23:28} Insidiatur in via quasi latro, et quos incautos viderit, interficiet.

{23:28} She lies in wait along the way like a robber. And the incautious one whom she sees, she will put to death.

²⁸ Yes, like a brigand, she lies in wait, increasing the number of law-breakers.

{23:29} Cui vae? cuius patri vae? cui rixæ? cui foveæ? cui sine causa vulnera? cui suffusio oculorum?

{23:29} Who has woe? Whose father has woe? Who has quarrels? Who falls into pits? Who has wounds without cause? Who has watery eyes?

²⁹ For whom is pity, for whom contempt, for whom is strife, for whom complaint, for whom blows struck at random, for whom the clouded eye?

{23:5} Ne erigas oculos tuos ad opes, quas non potes habere: quia facient sibi pennas quasi aquilæ, et volabunt in cælum.

{23:5} Do not raise your eyes toward wealth that you are not able to have. For they will make themselves wings, like those of an eagle, and they will fly in the sky.

⁵ Fix your gaze on it, and it is there no longer, for it is able to sprout wings like an eagle that flies off to the sky

{23:6} Ne comedas cum homine invido, et ne desideres cibos eius:

{23:6} Do not eat with an envious man, and do not desire his foods.

⁶ Do not eat the food of anyone whose eye is jealous, do not hanker for his delicacies.

{23:7} quoniam in similitudinem arioli, et coniectoris, æstimat quod ignorat. Comede et bibe, dicet tibi: et mens eius non est tecum.

{23:7} For, like a seer and an interpreter of dreams, he presumes what he does not know. "Eat and drink," he will say to you; and his mind is not with you.

⁷ For what he is really thinking about is himself: 'Eat and drink,' he tells you, but his heart is not with you.

{23:8} Cibos, quos comederas, evomes: et perdes pulchros sermones tuos.

{23:8} The foods that you had eaten, you will vomit up. And you will lose the beauty in your words.

⁸ You will spit out whatever you have eaten and find your compliments wasted.

{23:9} In auribus insipientium ne loquaris: qui despicient doctrinam eloquii tui.

{23:9} Do not speak into the ears of the unwise. They will despise the doctrine of your eloquence.

⁹ Do not waste words on a fool, who will not appreciate the shrewdness of your remarks.

{23:10} Ne attingas parvulorum terminos: et agrum pupillorum ne introeas:
{23:10} Do not touch the boundaries of little ones, and do not enter into the field of the fatherless.

¹⁰ Do not displace the ancient boundary-stone, or encroach on orphans' lands,

{23:11} Propinquus enim illorum fortis est: et ipse iudicabit contra te causam illorum.

{23:11} For their close relative is strong, and he will judge their case against you.

¹¹ for they have a powerful avenger, and he will take up their cause against you.

{23:12} Ingrediatur ad doctrinam cor tuum: et aures tuæ ad verba scientiæ.

{23:12} Let your heart enter into doctrine, and let your ears enter into words of knowledge.

¹² Apply your heart to discipline, and your ears to instructive sayings.

{23:13} Noli subtrahere a puero disciplinam: si enim percusseris eum virga, non morietur.

{23:13} Do not be willing to take away discipline from a child. For if you strike him with the rod, he will not die.

¹³ Do not be chary of correcting a child, a stroke of the cane is not likely to be fatal.

{23:14} Tu virga percuties eum: et animam eius de inferno liberabis.

{23:14} You will strike him with the rod, and so shall you deliver his soul from Hell.

¹⁴ Give him a stroke of the cane, you will save his soul from Sheol.

{23:15} Fili mi, si sapiens fuerit animus tuus, gaudebit tecum cor meum:

{23:15} My son, if your soul will become wise, my heart will be glad with you.

¹⁵ My child, if your heart is wise, then my own heart is glad,

{23:16} et exultabunt renes mei, cum locuta fuerint rectum labia tua.

{23:16} And my temperament will exult, when your lips will have spoken what is upright.

¹⁶ and my inmost self rejoices when from your lips come honest words.

{23:17} Non æmuletur cor tuum peccatores: sed in timore Domini esto tota die:

{23:17} Let not your heart compete with sinners. But be in the fear of the Lord all day long.

¹⁷ Do not let your heart be envious of sinners but remain steady every day in the fear of Yahweh;

{23:18} quia habebis spem in novissimo, et præstolatio tua non auferetur.

{23:18} For you will have hope in the end, and your expectation will not be taken away.

¹⁸ for there is a future, and your hope will not come to nothing.

{23:19} Audi fili mi, et esto sapiens: et dirige in via animum tuum.

{23:19} Listen, my son, and be wise, and direct your soul along the way.

¹⁹ Listen, my child, and be wise, and guide your heart in the way.

{23:20} Noli esse in conviviis potatorum, nec in comessionibus eorum, qui carnes ad vescendum conferunt:

{23:20} Do not be willing to be in the feasts of great drinkers, nor in the carousings of those who gather to feed on flesh.

²⁰ Do not be one of those forever tipping wine nor one of those who gorge themselves with meat;

{23:21} quia vacantes potibus, et dantes symbola consumentur, et vestietur pannis dormitatio.

{23:21} For those who waste time drinking, and who surrender themselves to symbols, will be consumed. And those who sleep will be clothed in rags.

²¹ for the drunkard and glutton impoverish themselves, and sleepiness is clothed in rags.

{23:22} Audi patrem tuum, qui genuit te: et ne contempnas cum senuerit mater tua.

{23:22} Listen to your father, who conceived you. And do not despise your mother, when she is old.

²² Listen to your father from whom you are sprung, do not despise your mother in her old age.