

30 “Sayings of the Wise”



Proverbs 22:22-24:22

(from *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*)

1

“Don’t rob the poor just because you can, or exploit the needy in court. For the Lord is their defender. He will ruin anyone who ruins them.”



2

***“Don’t befriend angry people
or associate with hot-
tempered people, or you will
learn to be like them and
endanger your soul.”***



3

“Don’t agree to guarantee another person’s debt or put up security for someone else. If you can’t pay it, even your bed will be snatched from under you.”





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4
“Don’t cheat your neighbor by moving the ancient boundary markers set up by previous generations.”

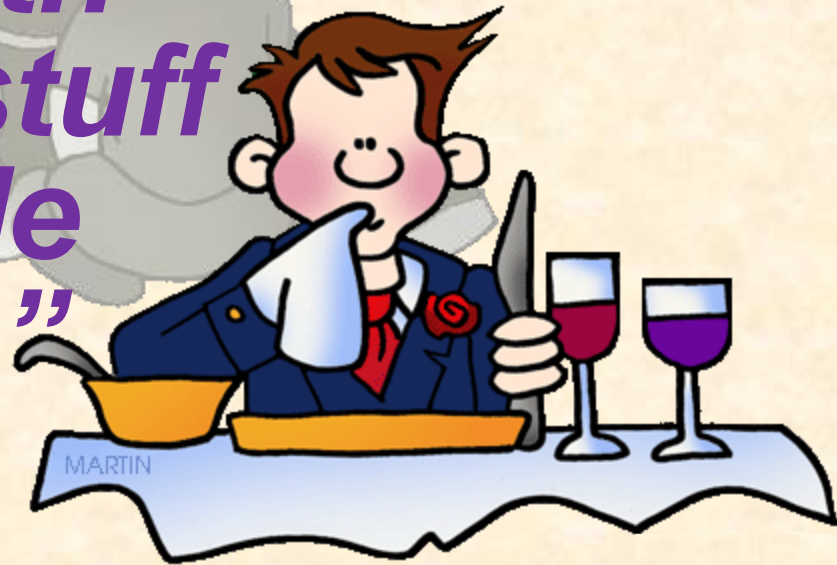
5

“Do you see any truly competent workers? They will serve kings rather than working for ordinary people.”



6

“When you go out to dinner with an influential person, mind your manners: Don't gobble your food; don't talk with your mouth full. And don't stuff yourself; bridle your appetite.”



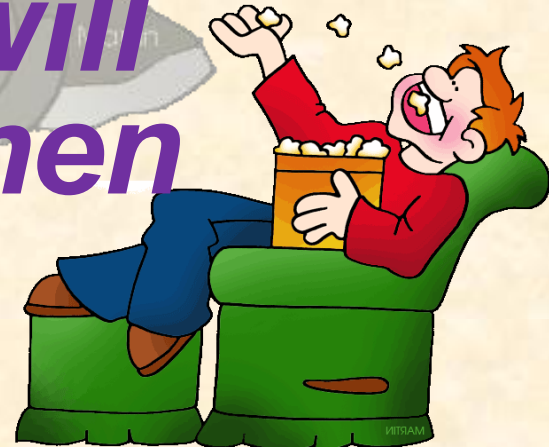
7

“Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich; restrain yourself! Riches disappear in the blink of an eye; wealth sprouts wings and flies off into the wild blue yonder.”



8

“Don't accept a meal from a tightwad; don't expect anything special. He'll be as stingy with you as he is with himself; he'll say, "Eat! Drink!" but won't mean a word of it..” His miserly serving will turn your stomach when you realize the meal's a sham.”



9

“Don't bother talking sense to fools; they'll only poke fun at your words.”



10

***“Don't stealthily
move back the
boundary lines or
cheat orphans out of
their property, for
they have a powerful
Advocate who will go
to bat for them.”***



11

“Give yourselves to disciplined instruction; open your ears to tested knowledge.”



12

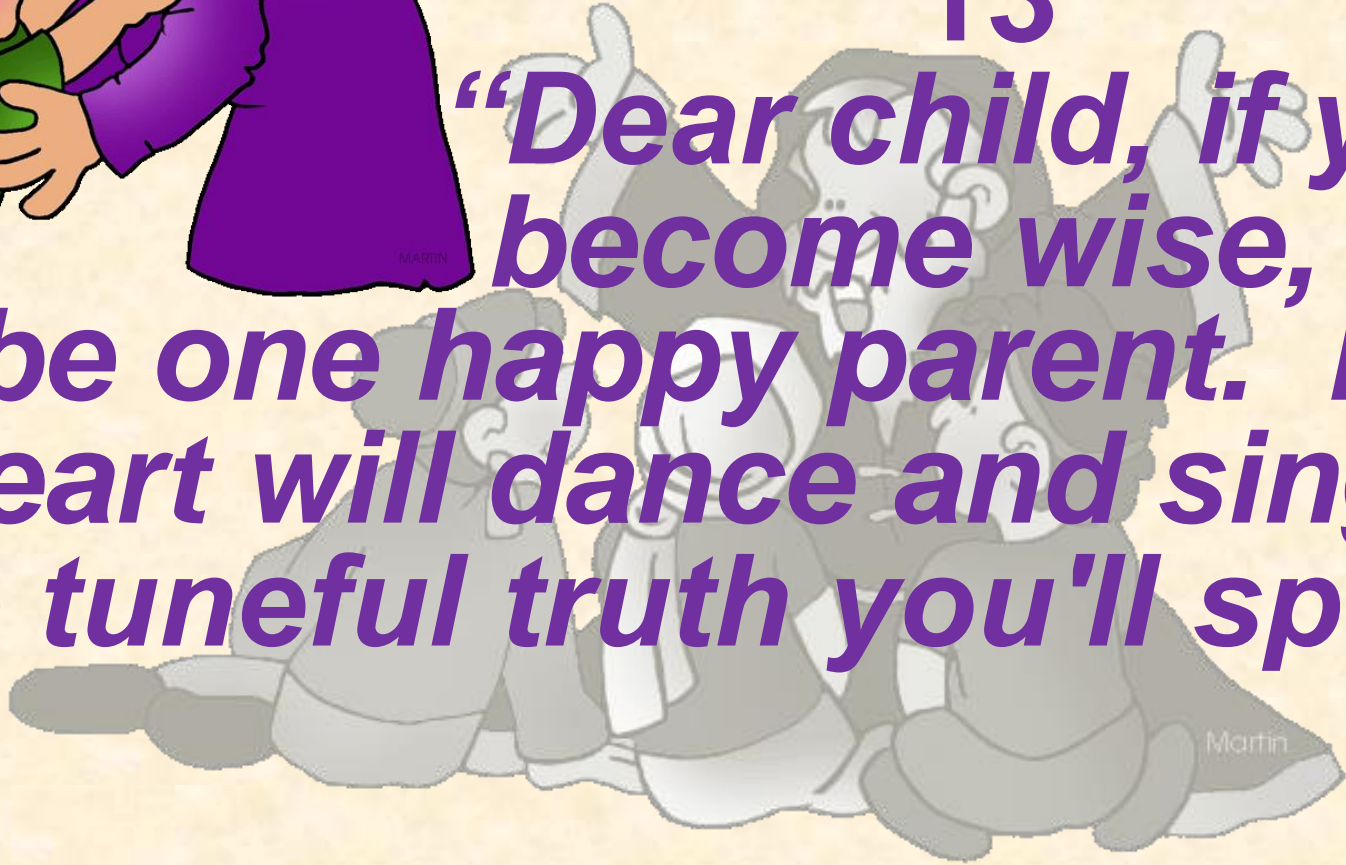
“Don't be afraid to correct your young ones; a spanking won't kill them.

A good spanking, in fact, might save them from something worse than death.”



13

“Dear child, if you become wise, I’ll be one happy parent. My heart will dance and sing to the tuneful truth you’ll speak.”



14

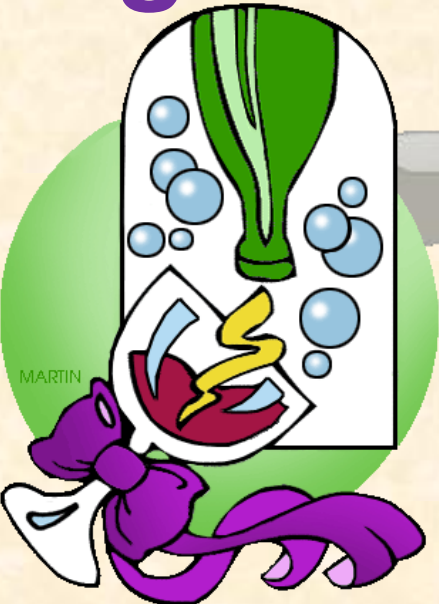
***“Don't for a minute envy
careless rebels; soak yourself
in the Fear-of-God—
That's where your
future lies. Then you
won't be left with an
armload of nothing.”***



15

“Oh listen, dear child—become wise; point your life in the right direction.

Don't drink too much wine and get drunk; don't eat too much food and get fat. Drunks and gluttons will end up on skid row, in a stupor and dressed in rags.”



16

“Listen with respect to the father who raised you, and when your mother grows old, don't neglect her. Buy truth—don't sell it for love or money; buy wisdom, buy education, buy insight. Parents rejoice when their children turn out well; wise children become proud parents. So make your father happy! Make your mother proud!”



17

“Dear child, I want your full attention; please do what I show you. A whore is a bottomless pit; a loose woman can get you in deep trouble fast. She'll take you for all you've got; she's worse than a pack of thieves.”





“Who are the people who are always crying the blues? Who do you know who reeks of self-pity? Who keeps getting beat up for no reason at all? Whose eyes are bleary and bloodshot? It's those who spend the night with a bottle, for whom drinking is serious business. Don't judge wine by its label, or its bouquet, or its full-bodied flavor. Judge it rather by the hangover it leaves you with—the splitting headache, the queasy stomach. Do you really prefer seeing double, with your speech all slurred, reeling and seasick, drunk as a sailor? ‘They hit me,’ you'll say, ‘but it didn't hurt; they beat on me, but I didn't feel a thing. When I'm sober enough to manage it, bring me another drink!’”

19

“Don't envy bad people; don't even want to be around them. All they think about is causing a disturbance; all they talk about is making trouble.”



20

“It takes wisdom to build a house, and understanding to set it on a firm foundation; it takes knowledge to furnish its rooms with fine furniture and beautiful draperies.”





21

“It's better to be wise than strong; intelligence outranks muscle any day. Strategic planning is the key to warfare; to win, you need a lot of good counsel.”

22

“Wise conversation is way over the head of fools; in a serious discussion they haven't a clue.”



23

*“The person who's
always cooking up
some evil soon
gets a reputation
as prince of
rogues.*

*Fools incubate sin; cynics
desecrate beauty.”*



24

“If you fall to pieces in a crisis, there wasn't much to you in the first place.”





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***“Rescue the perishing;
don't hesitate to step
in and help. If you
Say, ‘Hey, that’s none of my
business,’ will that get you off
the hook? Someone is
watching you closely, you
know—Someone not
impressed with weak
excuses.”***

26

“Eat honey, dear child—it's good for you—and delicacies that melt in your mouth. Likewise knowledge, and wisdom for your soul—get that and your future's secured, your hope is on solid rock.”





27

“Don't interfere with good people's lives; don't try to get the best of them. No matter how many times you trip them up, God-loyal people don't stay down long; soon they're up on their feet, while the wicked end up flat on their faces.”

28

“Don't laugh when your enemy falls; don't crow over his collapse. God might see, and become very provoked, and then take pity on his plight.”



29

“Don't bother your head with braggarts or wish you could succeed like the wicked. Those people have no future at all; they're headed down a dead-end street.”



30

“Fear God, dear child—and respect your leaders; don't be defiant or mutinous. Without warning your life can turn upside down, and who knows how or when it might happen?”

