

Message #94**Proverbs 23:1-8**

The final verse of chapter 22 promises that one who is skilled, quick and crafty in his work is one who is destined to work before kings and not men of obscurity. It is no coincidence that this verse precedes the opening verses of chapter 23, because one on the way to the top must never forget what got him there. A wise person knows that it is easy to lose sight of the basics which led to the promotion. There can be special dangers one can face when God starts promoting one faithful.

WHEN ONE FINDS HIMSELF IN PRESTIGIOUS COMPANY OR IN TIMES OF PROSPERITY, BE VERY CAREFUL TO GUARD WHO YOU ARE, WHAT YOU DO AND HOW YOU THINK.

Wise people do not let the promotions or prosperity ruin them. In these verses there are three more of the 30 sayings of the wise, which we want to examine:

SAYING #6 – The warning against eating with a wrong attitude. **23:1-3**

The wrong attitude described in these verses is one totally undisciplined and completely caught up with the delicacies of the moment.

Challenge #1 - When eating with someone powerful, carefully consider what is taking place.
23:1

The Hebrew word “what” may refer to food before you or who is before you.

Challenge #2 - When eating with someone powerful, carefully control your appetite. **23:2**

The idea of “putting a knife to your throat” is one of being so self-disciplined that if you discover you were not maintaining self-control, you would actually put some self-restraint on yourself.

Challenge #3 - When eating with someone powerful, carefully consider the way of deceit. **23:3**

The average person cannot afford to have the “delicacies” of one who is powerful.

SAYING #7 – The warning against working with the wrong motive. **23:4-5**

One of the benefits of promotion is in the area of finances. One who is skilled, when promoted, gets more money and deservedly so. The special danger is to work more and more to the point of exhaustion to earn more and more and this is foolish because wealth will eventually fly away like an eagle.

SAYING #8 – The warning against eating with the wrong person. **23:6-8**

In **verse 6**, “selfish man” (literally “evil eye”) refers to one focused on evil things for self. The same word is used in Prov. 28:22. Don’t eat with one whose sights are fixed on things not right. The reason one must be careful with whom he eats is: A. Because of what is in his heart (**7a**); B. Because of what is not in his heart (**7b**).