

# Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

## BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 23:1-21

**1** When you sit down to eat with a ruler,  
observe carefully what is before you,

**2** and put a knife to your throat if you are  
given to appetite.

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

**4** Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning  
enough to desist.

**5** When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for  
suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle  
toward heaven.

**6** Do not eat the bread of a man who is stingy;  
do not desire his delicacies,

**7** for he is like one who is inwardly calculating.  
"Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not  
with you.

**8** You will vomit up the morsels that you have  
eaten, and waste your pleasant words.

**9** Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for  
he will despise the good sense of your words.

**10** Do not move an ancient landmark or enter  
the fields of the fatherless,

**11** for their Redeemer is strong; he will plead  
their cause against you.

**12** Apply your heart to instruction and your  
ear to words of knowledge.

**13** Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you  
strike him with a rod, he will not die.

**14** If you strike him with the rod, you will save  
his soul from Sheol.

**15** My son, if your heart is wise, my heart too  
will be glad.

**16** My inmost being will exult when your lips  
speak what is right.


**17** Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue  
in the fear of the Lord all the day.

**18** Surely there is a future, and your hope will  
not be cut off.

**19** Hear, my son, and be wise, and direct your  
heart in the way.

**20** Be not among drunkards or among  
gluttonous eaters of meat,

**21** for the drunkard and the glutton will come  
to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags.



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

## DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 23:1-21

AUTHOR: MO MALDONADO

Growing up in both Spanish cultures and English cultures, I have had the cool privilege to hear a lot of sayings. From the English side I have heard: "The two things that are for sure in life are death and taxes." Maybe you've heard: "Many hands make light work." There are also a lot of sayings that are almost word for word in both cultures. "Curiosity killed the cat," "we are on the same page," etc. On the Spanish side, there are a few that I've heard, though I haven't heard them in English. One of the ones that was shared with me as a kid that I'll never forget and will share with my kiddos as well is: "If you don't see a donkey, you aren't wanting a ride". In essence, it's not until you see something that you, all of the sudden, have the urge to have it. This is a very popular one to use since kids who don't think about having a lollipop, all of the sudden, feel like they need one due to seeing another kid with one.

A lot of times in my walk with God, these "proverbs", though not necessarily biblical, can be proven to be true day in and day out. They are practical and great to use in life, for the most part. But the Proverbs we get to read through together from God's word, I believe, are very important. I'll share one below that stands out to me more than the other ones in this passage.

As a father, I take verse 13 to heart. A pastor explained that if you discipline your sons with a rod and it hurts them for a bit, it is better to show them now that it's better to hurt for a minute than for eternity. In a way you are showing them that when the rules are broken, there are consequences. Eventually when they mature and their spiritual life begins, they might remember that the consequences they endured as kids will transpire from physical pain to spiritual pain as adults. We see in Hebrews 12:3-11 that pain through discipline for a couple minutes is better than pain for a lifetime, or an eternity.

### Questions:

1. What are some sayings that you have kept in your heart?
2. How do you feel about discipline? As a mother or father, are you striving to take proper disciplinary action with the children God has given you?
3. Have you experienced the discipline of the Lord? In what ways? What did it produce?