



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

## BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 9:13-18

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**13** The woman Folly is loud; she is seductive and knows nothing..

**14** She sits at the door of her house; she takes a seat on the highest places of the town,

**15** calling to all who pass by, who are going straight on their way,

**16** "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" And to him who lacks sense she says,

**17** "Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant."

**18** But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol

## DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 9:13-18


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Psalms 23, authored by King David, describes a table prepared just for him – in the presence of his enemies. (Psalm 23:5). It wasn't until recently that I realized with great awe that Jesus, our shepherd, is the one setting the table. Imagine what your table looks like? I believe it looks different for each of us. Is your table inside or outside? What kind of food are you being served? And where do you imagine your enemies to be? Are they encircled around the table looking enviously at you? Are they visible or invisible? Are there others seated at your table, or just you and the Lord?

I am certain that King Solomon, the wisest king in all of history and the writer of this passage, read his father David's songs and poetry. What brilliance for King Solomon to compare the table of Wisdom and of Folly. Both Wisdom and Folly call from the highest places in the town. Wisdom sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town (verse 3). Folly sits at the door of her house; takes a seat on the highest places of the town, and calls to those passing by (verses 14-15). Wisdom appeals to the passerby to leave his simple ways, while Folly seduces the simple.

In my lifetime I have tasted Folly's stolen water and eaten her bread in secret. Giving in to my fleshly desires left me empty and wanting. The table that Folly offers seems appealing, but in the end, it leads to destruction (Proverbs 14:12). Isaiah says that all we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – everyone – to his own way (Isaiah 53:6a).



# *Eternal* PERSPECTIVE *Proverbs*

We are simple and we lack wisdom. However, James promises that if any of us lack wisdom, we are to ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given us (James 1:5).

I have tasted the fare that Folly offers, and I am so thankful that Wisdom called to me, and that I am now seated at the table prepared for me in the presence of my enemies. I am not afraid. My cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever (Psalm 23:5,6). Wisdom and Folly are both calling out to you. What does your table look like? Is it like stolen water and bread eaten in secret, or the bread and mixed wine in the company of the shepherd?

## **Questions:**

1. Can you think of a time in your life when you followed Folly's voice? What was the end result?
2. Can you think of a time when you sat at a table prepared by Wisdom? What did your soul experience as a result of obeying Wisdom's call?
3. Have you been fooled by Folly? Ask God to set you on the right path; the path that leads to life.