



Scripture Reading
Prov 9:1-6, 13-18
Prov 23:19-21, 29-35

Prov 9:1-6

- 1 Wisdom has built her house;
she has set up its seven pillars.
- 2 She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine;
she has also set her table.
- 3 She has sent out her servants, and she calls
from the highest point of the city,
- 4 “Let all who are simple come to my house!”
To those who have no sense she says,
- 5 “Come, eat my food
and drink the wine I have mixed.
- 6 Leave your simple ways and you will live;
walk in the way of insight.”

Prov 9:13-18

- 13 Folly is an unruly woman;
she is simple and knows nothing.**
- 14 She sits at the door of her house,
on a seat at the highest point of the city,**
- 15 calling out to those who pass by,
who go straight on their way,**
- 16 “Let all who are simple come to my house!”
To those who have no sense she says,**
- 17 “Stolen water is sweet;
food eaten in secret is delicious!”**
- 18 But little do they know that the dead are there,
that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.**

Prov 23:19-21

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- 19 Listen, my son, and be wise,
and set your heart on the right path:**
- 20 Do not join those who drink too much wine
or gorge themselves on meat,**
- 21 for drunkards and gluttons become poor,
and drowsiness clothes them in rags.**
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Prov 23:29-35

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow?

Who has strife? Who has complaints?

Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?

**30 Those who linger over wine,
who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.**

**31 Do not gaze at wine when it is red,
when it sparkles in the cup,
when it goes down smoothly!**

**32 In the end it bites like a snake
and poisons like a viper.**

Prov 23:29-35

**33 Your eyes will see strange sights,
and your mind will imagine confusing things.**

**34 You will be like one sleeping on the high seas,
lying on top of the rigging.**

**35 “They hit me,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!
They beat me, but I don’t feel it!**

**When will I wake up
so I can find another drink?”**



PROVERBS

THE WAY OF THE WISE

On Food, Drink, and Eating

Prov 9:1-6, 13-18

Prov 23:19-21, 29-35



Prov 3:5-6

**5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.**

Prov 11:28

**28 Those who trust in their riches will fall,
but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.**

Prov 25:16

**16 If you find honey, eat just enough,
too much of it, and you will vomit.**



When does food first come into the story in the Bible? Genesis. What act was it that brought sin into humanity?

Gen 2:16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

What meal was instituted in the book of Exodus? And what did it mean?

Exo 12:21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb.

Exo 12:26 And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ **27** then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. **28** The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron.

What was Jesus' first miracle?

John 2:1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."



What was Jesus constantly criticized for in the area of eating by the Pharisees?

Matt 9:10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.



On the night before Jesus was betrayed, what did he do with his disciples?

Matt 26:18 He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.



What was the meaning and significance of that meal?

Matt 26:26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. **28** This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”



In the NT, what was one central thing about food that the early church debated over?

Gal 2:11 When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. 13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

How did Paul use wisdom to deal with the idol meat controversy?

1 Cor 8:4 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.”

8:9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

8:13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.



Finally, what image do we see in Revelation that is related to a meal?

Rev 19: 9 Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!”

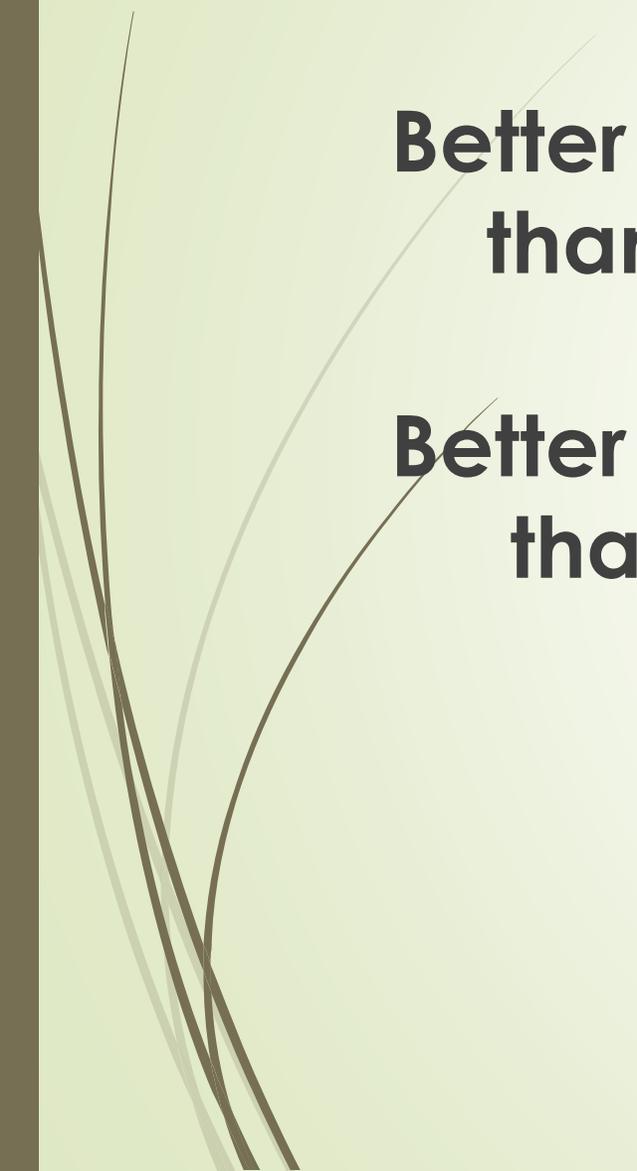
Psalm 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.



1. The company with whom you eat with

**Better a dry crust with peace and quiet
than a house full of feasting, with strife. (17:1)**

**Better a small serving of vegetables with love
than a fattened calf with hatred. (15:17)**









**Latin word for companion = *com*
(with) + *panis* (bread).**

**A companion is someone who
you share bread (or a meal) with.**

2. Folly of Eating or Drinking Excessively Wisdom of Moderation

**Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler,
and whoever is led astray by it is not wise. (20:1)**

**Eat honey, my son, for it is good;
honey from the comb is sweet to your taste. (24:13)**

**If you find honey, eat just enough—
too much of it, and you will vomit. (25:16)**

2. Folly of Eating or Drinking Excessively Wisdom of Moderation

31 Do not gaze at wine when it is red,
when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly!

32 In the end it bites like a snake
and poisons like a viper.

33 Your eyes will see strange sights,
and your mind will imagine confusing things.

34 You will be like one sleeping on the high seas,
lying on top of the rigging.

35 “They hit me,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!
They beat me, but I don’t feel it!

When will I wake up so I can find another drink?”

(Prov 23:31-35)

3. Food, Drink, and Eating as a Signpost of Spiritual Things

Lady Wisdom

- 5 “Come, eat my food
and drink the wine I have mixed.
6 Leave your simple ways and you will live;
walk in the way of insight.” (Prov 9:5-6)

Lady Folly

- 17 “Stolen water is sweet;
food eaten in secret is delicious!”
18 But little do they know that the dead are there,
that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.
(Prov 9:17-18)

