

Proverbs 23:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

Analysis

The miserly person's external invitation masks an unwilling heart—their calculation betrays their grudging generosity. This warns against receiving hospitality from those who give resentfully. It also challenges us to examine our own motives for giving, ensuring generosity flows from love, not compulsion.

Historical Context

Hospitality customs in ancient Near East demanded feeding guests, even when resources were scarce. Some complied outwardly while inwardly resenting the cost, violating the spirit of generous welcome.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How genuine is your hospitality and generosity versus grudging compliance?
2. What does your attitude while giving reveal about your heart's true condition?

Interlinear Text

כִּי יִן	כִּמּוֹ	שֶׁר	בְּנֶפֶשׁוֹ	כִּי	וְאֵל	אֵכ וְלֵ
H3588	H3644	For as he thinketh	in his heart	H3651	H1931	so is he Eat
		H8176	H5315			H398
וּשְׁתֵּה	יֵאמֶר	לָהּ	לִבּוֹ	בֵּל	עֲמֹךְ:	
and drink	saith	H0	he to thee but his heart	H1077	H5973	
H8354	H559		H3820			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 12:2 (Parallel theme): They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.

Psalms 55:21 (Parallel theme): The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.

Judges 16:15 (Parallel theme): And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.

Proverbs 19:22 (Parallel theme): The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar.

Luke 7:39 (Parallel theme): Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Daniel 11:27 (Parallel theme): And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed.