

Proverbs 23:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

Analysis

The morsel you've eaten from a stingy host 'shalt thou vomit up,' and lose 'thy sweet words.' Eating with a grudging host becomes nauseating when you realize his true heart. Your pleasant conversation ('sweet words') is wasted on someone who resents your presence. This teaches that fellowship requires mutual goodwill. Reformed theology values genuine Christian community over superficial social interactions. We should invest our fellowship and words in relationships characterized by sincere love, not in contexts where we're resented.

Historical Context

In honor-shame cultures, discovering that a host secretly resented you would retrospectively poison the entire experience, making even the food seem disgusting. Hospitality required genuine warmth, not mere duty.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced the sickening realization that someone's hospitality was grudging, not genuine?
2. Where are you investing relational energy in contexts that don't value or reciprocate it?
3. How can you build relationships characterized by mutual love and sincerity?

Interlinear Text

פֶּתֶךָ	אֲכָלְתָּ לֶחֶם	תִּקְיֹץ נָה	דְּבַר יָדְךָ ! שֶׁחַתְּ	
The morsel	which thou hast eaten	shalt thou vomit up	and lose	words
H6595	H398	H6958	H7843	H1697

הַנְּעִימִים:

thy sweet

H5273