

# Proverbs 15:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

## Analysis

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Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. Modest meal with love beats lavish feast with hatred. This 'better than' saying subordinates material abundance to relational harmony. The 'stalled ox' represents expensive feast; 'dinner of herbs' represents simple vegetables. Yet love makes poverty rich; hatred makes wealth miserable. Relationships matter more than resources.

## Historical Context

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Reflects agricultural society where meat was expensive luxury, vegetables daily fare. Yet the proverb insists that relational quality exceeds dietary quality in importance.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

1. Are you sacrificing relational harmony for material abundance?
2. How can you prioritize love over luxury in your household decisions?

## Interlinear Text

א ב יא	מֵשׁ וּרְשָׁם	וְאֶבֶה	וְאֶבֶה	וְאֶבֶה	וְאֶבֶה
<b>Better</b>	<b>is a dinner</b>	<b>of herbs</b>	<b>where love</b>	H8033	<b>ox</b>
H2896	H737	H3419	H160	H7794	H75

## Additional Cross-References

**Proverbs 17:1** (Parallel theme): Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.

**Proverbs 21:19** (Parallel theme): It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

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