

“A bowl of vegetables with someone you love is better than steak with someone you hate.” Proverbs 15:17 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 15:16-21

I really like food! And nothing is more fun than sharing good food with a friend. I actually get giddy when the two occasions come together. And, alternatively I've eaten with an enemy. It was just a small bowl of soup and I was at my absolute worst, weakest moment of my life - I wasn't even hungry. I could barely take two bites. I can't get into the details of why I'd be having lunch with an enemy, but I can tell you this - it was MISERABLE. It was like the food was turning rotten in my stomach because it was mixed with such pain and emotional trauma. If (and I hope I NEVER have to do it again) I ever eat with an enemy I will make sure it's cheap and quick. I wouldn't want the memory of a great steak or a nice place to haunt me for years to come. By the way, I will never return to the restaurant where this happened! It is dead to me 😬

Dad,

I don't have many enemies, that I know of, but one has showed up in my life in the last few years. I have worked at not hating and forgiving this person, but the thought of being manipulated, and convinced that they could be trusted with my life, then having them not only turn on me, accuse me, malign me, but toss me aside was the worst. I probably have been at a few meals where I was uncomfortable (the food was strange or the people were strange), but eating with an enemy is so very hard. To be honest it was mostly that I wasn't in control. Maybe I've been in meals where I was in control and I was considered to be an enemy and I made them feel like I felt with my lunch. I don't ever want someone to feel that either. Can you continue to help me BE loving, kind and even empathetic when I have to have hard conversations with someone. May your mercy go before both of us, even before the meal begins.