

What can you do when life hands you a lemon?

➤ = next PP slide

➤ Intro:

- **well-known proverb:** When life hands you a lemon, make lemonade (anonymous).
- **lesson:** What can you do when life hands you a lemon? — **when you can't make lemonade**

➤ Sometimes we can make lemonade from the "lemons" life gives us.

- **make lemonade:** turn it into something good, a positive experience
- **illus.:** get an **F on a test**, study harder and learn the material, make a better grade

Sometimes we can't make lemonade from the "lemons" life gives us. — we just have to bear it

- **illus.:** Christian killed after watching his family tortured by serial murderer
- **but we know that good** comes from everything that occurs to us - Christians
 - **Rom. 8:28** "And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."
 - **sometimes the good occurs after our death**
 - **illus.:** **Rev., suffering of early Christians**, through which God made known the rule of Christ through the punishment of the saints' adversaries - Rome

➤ How do we: make lemonade / bear the trials when we can't make lemonade?

- **be proactive:** identify the problem, begin working on it immediately
- - **2 Pet. 1:10** more diligent, do what you have to do to take care of the problem
- - **Phil. 2:12** work out problems, fear and trembling - relying on God
 - **Application:** take immediate action - What can you do? - below
- - pray
 - **1 Th. 5:16-18** rejoice, pray, give thanks — formula for happiness - thanks (focus on positive)
 - - **Phil. 4:4-7** tell God about it and don't be anxious — prayer, supplication, not anxious
 - - **1 Pet. 5:6-7** give it to God, cast — God wants you to put your problems on Him
 - **illus.:** **Jesus in the garden** and on the cross, cast is problems upon God — **R - 1 Pet. 2:21-23**
 - - **Lk. 11:5-13** be persistent in prayer — Jesus, parable of the friends
 - - **Rom. 8:26-27** reply on the Spirit to help, when things are really bad
- - use God's word to become stronger: read, study, meditate
 - gospel (word), God's power
 - **Rom. 1:16a** gospel, power of God
 - **1 Cor. 1:18** word of the cross, power of God
 - God's word works in you
 - **1 Th. 2:13** word of God, performs its work in you - believe = obey, conform
 - **illus.:** buy something, try to put it together without reading the directions fail, read directions and succeed — **God's word is the instruction manual for life, from the manufacturer (creator)**
 - God's word makes you stronger
 - - **Col. 1:9-12** knowledge, bearing fruit, strengthened with all power, steadfast and patient, joyous

- - **sing to the Lord**: memorize songs, sing in car, silently at school and work. . . . - have song in heart
 - **Ja. 5:13b** "Is anyone **cheerful**? He is to **sing praises**." - **prescription, how to stay happy**
 - **Eph. 5:18-19** **filled with the Spirit** — positive attitude, wisdom from God's word
 - - **Col. 3:16** **Christ richly dwells in your heart**, wisdom, teach and admonish, thankfulness in heart
 - **illus.:** **hymn, Sing And Be Happy** vs. 1, 2, 3, chorus
 - - **Don't isolate yourself** - assemble with the saints, seek godly counsel
 - **assemble with the saints**
 - **Heb. 10:22-25** full assurance of faith, hold fast, stimulate to love and good deeds, encouraging
 - **acquire godly counsel** — from mature Christians
 - - **Rom. 15:14** talk to other Christians who can help - watch and learn
 - **illus.:** **down, depressed, talk to a mature Christian** and spirits lifted up
 - **illus.:** **watch and learn from others** - how to handle problems, evangelism (Jones), raising kids
 - - **Ja. 5:14-16** call for the elders — our obligation to tell them when we need help
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- **Summary / Inv.**
 - **When life hands you a lemon**, make lemonade / bear the trials when we can't make lemonade
 - **What can you do?**
 - be proactive - take action
 - pray
 - use God's word to become stronger
 - sing to the Lord
 - don't isolate yourself — assemble with the saints, obtain godly counsel
 - **Inv.:**
 - **Rom. 8:28** no matter what happens, good results, if you are a Christian
 - inv.