What can you do when life hands you a lemon?

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

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.