

The Lemon Song

Words and music by Richard Goyette (c. 2020)

Chorus:

C F G7 C
Lemons for breakfast, dinner and supper.
F C G7 C
The more we eat, the more we pucker,
F C G7 C
If we don't add sugar, life gets a lot tougher.
F C G7 C
So, pass the sweets, I don't want to suffer.

Verse One:

C F G7 C
Love is the sugar that sweetens life's lemons.
F C G7 C
Love is the key that unlocks God's heavens.
C F G7 C
Lemons are sour, but love is sweet,
F C G7 C
Together they make our lives complete.

Verse Two:

C F G7 C
When lemons come, don't be bitter,
F C G7 C
Just add love, and things will get better.
C F G7 C
When troubles come, don't be mad,
F C G7 C
Respond with love and you'll be glad.

Verse Three:

C F G7 C
Faith-hope-and-lemons are still very bitter,
F C G7 C
Faith-hope-and-love are very much better.
C F G7 C
We need the lemons to learn life's lessons,
F C G7 C
It's love that turns them into blessin's.

For Meditation and Self-reflection

Genesis 50:20 (the words of Joseph to his brothers):

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

Matthew 5:3-77 (The Beatitudes):

³ *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

⁴ *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

⁵ *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

⁶ *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

⁷ *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

⁸ *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

⁹ *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

¹⁰ *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

1 Peter 4:8 *“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”*

Turning lemons into lemonade is a lot easier if we believe that the lemons are there for our good. Responding with love to a negative situation is a lot easier if we understand that God permits bad things to happen to us for a good and loving purpose.

When Joseph was sold by his brothers into slavery in Egypt, he could not possibly have imagined that he would one day rule that country and be used by God to save his entire family from famine.

In Jesus' day, the prevailing theology was that rich people were blessed by God, and poor people were not. Jesus was once asked whether a man, blind from birth, was being punished for the sins of his parents or for his own sins (perhaps in a previous life). Jesus completely refuted this false notion and performed a healing. Most people in Jesus' day were relatively poor and faced many adversities in life. They were drawn to Jesus because He told them that they were beloved of God, and that the lemons in their lives would eventually be turned into lemonade, especially if they would respond by living righteous lives.

Even if the problems in our lives are a result of our past sins, the Bible teaches us that those lemons can still be turned into lemonade. Love really does cover a multitude of sins. If we repent of our past sins and seek God's forgiveness, our lives will change forever. If we respond with love towards those who have sought to harm us, we will be blessed beyond all expectation.