



## Invest My Lemons

*“Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, ‘Why have you made me like this?’”*

*The Apostle Paul | Romans 9:20 (NLT)*

When my son was a teen, he became fascinated with a YouTube clip featuring the fictional Cave Johnson. In the video, Johnson launches into a rant confronting the saying, “If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” He begins calmly but quickly escalates: “All right, I’ve been thinking—when life gives you lemons, don’t make lemonade! Make life take the lemons back! Get mad!” The rant is raucous, but strangely compelling.

My son thought it was hilarious. After all, who talks like that? Yet Johnson’s exaggerated frustration touches something real. His in-your-face attitude exposes things that perhaps we feel, but are afraid to say. Who wants lemons in life? And being told to simply “make the best of it” feels Pollyanna.

Johnson's anger echoes the frustration many of us carry toward God: Why was I born like this? Why did you let this happen? Why does that guy seem to have it so easy? These questions stew below the surface, corrupting our lives.

Many of us feel we've been dealt a difficult hand and most, if we're honest, feel we've received less than perfect cards. Some struggle with limitations, others with finances, family wounds, or lingering disappointments. Our list of complaints can grow long, our frustration can feel justified. If God is good, why does life look this way?

*Reflect: **What lemons have I been dealt?***

This tension brings to mind the Parable of the Three Servants:

*"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip." Jesus Christ (Matthew 25:14–15)*

Imagine the servant who received only one bag watching another walk away with five, comparison would be hard to avoid. Know someone who seems to have it all—talent, opportunity, confidence, financial stability? Ever caught yourself wondering, "Why was **he** dealt such a sweet deal?"

Perhaps the third servant felt this sting. Embittered, he buried what he was given—he threw his lemons back!

But the second servant also had reason to compare upward and feel

rejected. Yet, he invested what he had, just like the servant who received five—he invested his lemons!

The parable continues, the first servant doubles his silver...

*“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’” Jesus Christ (Matthew 25:21)*

The second also doubles his and receives the very same praise— “Well done!” Imagine him hearing these words. Not because he made the most, but because he was faithful with what he was given.

Then the third servant speaks and his folly becomes clear...

*“Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’” Jesus Christ (Matthew 25:24–25)*

Like Johnson, he may have decided, “All right, I’ve been thinking—when God gives you lemons, don’t make lemonade! Make that mean God take the lemons back! Get mad!” How many do you know that have taken on this attitude?

*Consider: **It’s not the hand I’ve been dealt, it’s how I play it.***

The master intentionally didn’t gift each servant equally. His expectation was only that each servant make the most of what he gave him. In return, he would give praise...**equally!** The key? Trusting

that the master is good. The two faithful servants did and received equally great praise. The third didn't and suffered for it.

Pursuing your Mission is a matter of playing your poor hand well—embracing your lemons and investing them into others. It's been said, "Don't waste your pain." How have you responded to your pain? Have you thrown it back at God? Have you run from it? Or have you embraced it by investing your broken self to help others traveling a similar life path?

Your Mission rises from the very places you'd never have chosen—your struggles, losses, disappointments—your lemons. When invested, lemons become purpose filled. Many are walking similar roads—will you serve them or throw your lemons back at God by withdrawing, blaming, or numbing yourself?

*Imagine: Because I've invested my lemons I hear, "Well done!"*

Be honest—you've been dealt some lemons! Yet you have what your good God has deemed right according to your abilities.

Like the three servants, you are living in the space between what you've been given and the day the master (Jesus) returns. This is your investment window.

Will you bury your lemons—throw them back? Or will you...

### **Invest Your Lemons?**

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

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### **Coach's Questions**

- **Reflect:** “Have I thrown my lemons back at God?”
- **Ask:** “Instead, how can I embrace and invest my lemons?”
- **Act:** Take a step to serve someone on a similar path in my life’s circle.
- Don’t know my Mission? [Start here!](#)

## Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

### Invest My Lemons to Serve Others with the Same Lemons

*“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.”*

*The Apostle Paul | 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NLT)*



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