



**SWEET!**

## Turning Sour Moments into Sweet Memories

August 1, 2021 Message Notes  
EXODUS 33:12-19

What do you do with the sour moments of life? Do you add more bitterness to what you're experiencing or are you intentional about looking for a sweetener? Life may give us lemons, but God is the official sweetener to turn everything around.



## NOTES

God provides sweet experiences in our lives to help us grow through our sour moments.

“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.”

*PSALM 34:8-9*

**God can use the sourness we experience to help us understand that it’s not up to us alone.**

“Let your Kingdom come. Let your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.”

*MATTHEW 6:10*

**Life gives us lemons, but God is the official sweetener to turn everything around.**

Without His sweetness, bitterness can drive us further into the sourness we may be experiencing.

When we try to remove the sourness with artificial sweeteners, they can destroy us slowly from the inside out – like alcohol, social media, money.

It’s easy to let the sourness cause us to forget that we have everything we need in Christ.

**Have any of these impacted you in the past year? Did you add more lemons to it or the Holy Sweetener?**

- Death of a loved one
- Health struggles
- Financial burdens
- Family structure hardships
- Spiritual battles
- Emotional challenges
- Relocation or transition disturbances

Did you allow God to sweeten the situation with His peace, comfort, power and presence?

Throughout scripture we find story after story that speak of how HIS SWEETNESS and HIS GOODNESS turn sour experiences into testimonies filled with HOPE.

Moses’ life had a sour start but God used him in many ways throughout His lifetime.

God promised to return the Israelites to “a land flowing with milk and honey.”



EXODUS 3:8

“...you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people”

EXODUS 33:12-13

### **The first step in sweetening any sour situation – you go to the Official Sweetener.**

“The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth? And the Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”

“Then Moses said, ‘Now show me your glory.’ And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”

EXODUS 33:14-19

The first reminder is to **choose Him** because He gives us rest. Like a cold lemonade on a hot summer day, our Father refreshes us.

“Come near to God and he will come near to you...”

JAMES 4:8

Because of Jesus, when life gives you lemons you have an opportunity to go to the Sweetener.

The second reminder we learn from Moses is **obedience**. Seek and follow Him.

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

JOHN 10:27

Submit through scripture, prayer, worship.

Our Father’s mercy and compassion are with us, making our lives sweeter.

We have to stand firm in His truth because the world constantly teaches us that ‘life is sweet when I am in control’.

This world is very misleading without His Spirit guiding us.



## **The truth is life gets sweeter when “I AM” is in control.**

- Losing a job becomes a life changing opportunity.
- Sickness becomes a witness of strength to everyone around you.
- Distance from one another becomes closeness to Him.
- Not having enough becomes an opportunity for us to add His sweetener to our cup.

Even if you’ve made sour choices in your life, you have an opportunity to turn it all around.

What if when we are not in control, have no other choice, or do have a choice - we choose to look up because we know who **is** in control?

We get closer to the Holy Sweetener as He provides rest. He can fill us with His mercy and compassion, making this lemonade-of-a-world sweeter, one drop at a time, as we trust in Him.

**Taste and see that the Lord is GOOD!**

