

It's Only 8 Seconds



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### Suggested Props to Use:

- † Mechanical Bull if available
- † Someone that has ridden bulls or calves or even a mutton buster
- † If none of the above is available, pictures, or even a short video clip of Bull Riding is helpful to set the stage.
- † In this message I used a former bull rider & his son a mutton buster with a mechanical bull in our Cowboy Church Arena.

### Additional information:

We began with introductions of all parties present in the arena. It's an attention getter, a real focus of attention when you introduce a former bull rider and one of your own students who is wearing a buckle earned mutton busting.

The son was placed on the mechanical bull and the bull rider explained the art of bull riding. This was an awesome opportunity to insert questions and lead the conversation towards the lesson/message that is about to be presented.

Our bull rider said there are three things a bull rider has to know:

1. Preparation is essential or you will not succeed in your 8 second ride.
2. The 8 second ride takes concentration on the goal.
3. The dismount is life or death.

### Now to the Message:

You don't climb on a bull and ride him for 8 seconds without a lot of preparation. You have to start with physical preparation to get your body strong and toughened up or you will break like a twig. You then need to invest in the right things so you will have something to hold on to if you want to make the ride.

**When you think about our life on this earth in comparison to all eternity; it seems as short as that 8 second ride.**

- If you get prepared for this life, you will have a much better ride.
- However, if you do NOT prepare and just try to "wing-it", your life will be as chaotic as a bare-backed bull ride.

**If it takes preparation for bull riding and we see what is required for it, then how much more should we prepare for our short life of 100 years or less?**

(Read [Ezra 7:10](#) "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to **do** it...")

### **Seek God's Word**

Ezra and the other prophets, just like the great preachers today, study God's Word to:

- Know that salvation only comes through accepting Jesus as Savior.
- Living according to His commandments and teachings will prepare us to handle the bumps that we will encounter in this short life.

(Read [Mat. 25:34](#) "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.")

### **Think about the Kingdom**

- Always keep your mind on the prize.
- A bull rider won't keep getting on bucking bulls if he does not expect to win the prize.
- Christians that get their eyes off of their Savior and the eternal kingdom will get distracted with the things of this world.
- Even during our short ride here, with Heaven in mind, we can keep our grip and stay focused on where we are headed.
- Life is short, but Heaven is forever.

(Read [Mat. 25:41](#) "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.")

### **Warn Others of the Pain**

- Many people do not understand about the everlasting fire that was prepared for the devil and his angels or demons.
- They also do not understand how easy it is to end up there with them.
- If we are born again, we need to take the message of Jesus to others so we can help them change their eternity.