

Flip-Floppin' Christians



Illustration: Being in a cowboy church we had the blessing of having access to baby goats. Our illustration is centered on a common Youth Ranch Rodeo practice here for the young called: Goat Flipping.

Children participate in this event throughout our area of Texas so it was an easy illustration to use. You might think of other things that you could “flip” in your area of the world. A simple two-sided foam board of two colors might suffice. Or you could “outfit” someone in a two-sided face paint or any number of such scenarios.

Having something comical to “flip” each time you come to the [FF] “flip-flop” in the messages emphasizes the absurdity of living a flip-flop lifestyle as a Christian.

Key Verses: *2 Kings 5: 20-27(KJV)*

20But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

21So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well?

22And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

23And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him.

24And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed.

25But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.

26And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?

27The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

Introduction: Have you ever been given a choice between two things and you wanted both? Maybe your parents said “Do you want to go to the big air show this weekend or go to 6 Flags”? As you thought about which to choose, you kept changing your mind back and forth. [FF] As you flip-flop back and forth, everyone around you sees that you can’t make up your mind. **You have to decide what you want the most!**

Your Christian walk, the way you live as a Christian, may be sending out the same message. Your friends may know that you are born again and that you go to Church, but they see you flip-floppin [FF] by hearing you laugh at or, possibly even telling jokes that are not clean. They may see you lie to get your way [FF]. They may even see you trying to steal something because you want it. [FF] When you flip-flop like this [FF], think about how confusing you are to everyone around you. They may say "He says he is a Christian, but he doesn't act any different than the kids that don't go to Church and are not saved".

Message:

I Kings 18: 21 "How long halt ye between two opinions, chose you this day whom ye will serve;..."

Elijah made this statement to the entire nation of Israel.

Elisha became his student shortly after Elijah made this statement. One important thing that Elisha learned from his teacher was that you HAVE to make up your mind: You can't flip-flop [FF]! Now Elisha is the teacher and a man named Gehazi is his student. Let's see how good of a student this Gehazi is: I will read *II Kings 5: 20-27*.

Gehazi had a serious case of flip-floppin [FF]. He wanted to be a prophet of God that was trained by the best, but he also wanted the stuff of this world along with the popularity that goes with it.

Elisha had sent Naaman away after God healed him of leprosy without accepting any money or gifts to show that God took care of His prophets and His children.

Gehazi went to Naaman and lied by saying some prophets came and needed money and new clothes. Naaman is seeing some flip-floppin [FF].

He has just confessed that the God of Israel is the only true God and now Gehazi is confusing him by telling him that God is not big enough to take care of His prophets. Flip-floppin [FF]: What a confusing thing to do to a new Christian!

Maybe you know some kids who behave like Gehazi. One of them says "I love you" when they want something, but when they don't get what they want they say "I hate you". Is that flip-floppin or what? [FF] Does that make you want to give them extra attention or extra things?

In this Bible account of Gehazi, his flip-floppin [FF] ended up with Gehazi getting the leprosy that Naaman was cured of.

Now Gehazi does not need to worry about really nice clothes or being popular because he now has leprosy. Nobody wants to get close to him now because leprosy is very contagious. Gehazi learned to quit flip-floppin [FF], but it cost him a lot.

If you can learn this and other important lessons from God's Word today, it will save you from a lot of trouble and misery later on in your life. Don't be a flip-floppin Christian and miss out on the joy of doing God's will and leading others to Christ.

I've said a lot about Christians flip-floppin, but people that are not saved can flip-flop as well. Some have been trying to act like they are a Christian when they have never accepted the Lord as their Savior.

Acting like a Christian when you are not is difficult and will not get your name written in the "Lamb's Book of Life". Quit flip-floppin and accept Jesus as your Savior today.