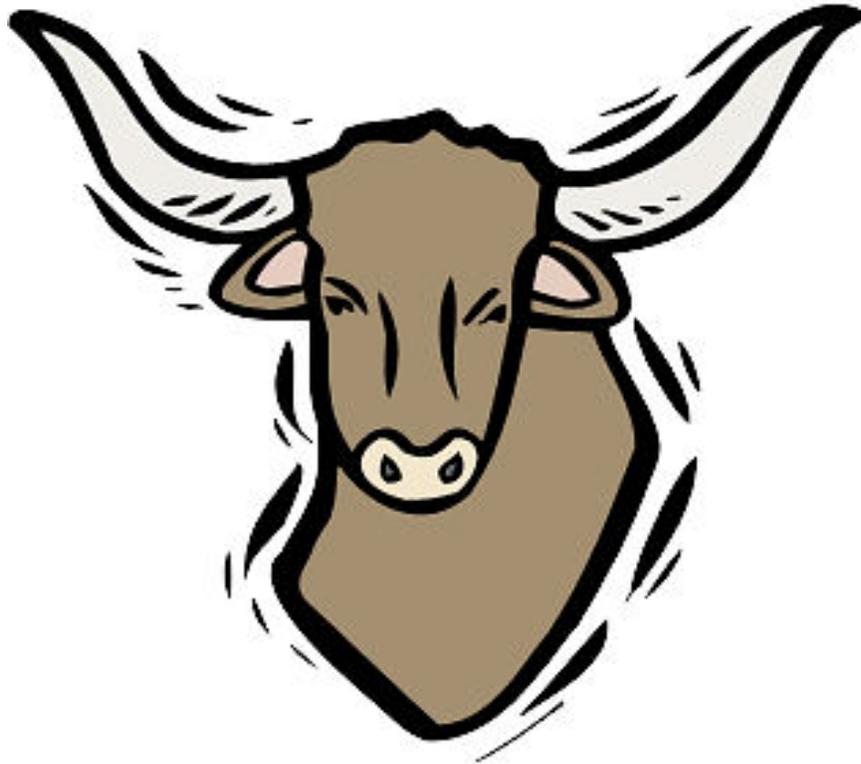


Wrangler Ranger Camp/VBS 2013



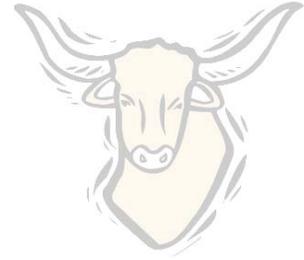
*Arena/Chapel Message #1 or
Suitable as Stand-Alone Brief Message*

Waiting for a Sign

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Ron Singleterry

www.wranglerchurch.com



Waiting for a Sign

Suggested Illustration:



† In Arena Setting have a Roper in the Box on horseback and a calf in the chute; show & discuss how/when he goes into action and the “sign” he and his horse are looking for in order to chase down the calf to rope in competition. This includes conversation concerning “breaking the barrier” too soon.

† In Chapel Setting either have a Roper or yourself explain the setup for roping in competition with the main conversation in regards to the “moment” or “sign” to chase down the calf. This includes conversation concerning “breaking the barrier” too soon.

Reference: *Luke 11:29-30 And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas [Jonah] was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.*

Notes:

Arena and Chapel Messages naturally are handled differently. We have incorporated Sunday Morning Arena messages into our Wrangler Churches for many years and find they are extremely well received by the children and the adults they also attract.

If you are able to do this in an Arena Setting or you must use an inside setup, either way this is a Cowboy Illustration and the culture is conducive to the understanding of the boys and girls we deal with in this culture. If you are not from this culture and have access to someone that is a Roper, then he/she will be greatly beneficial in explaining the details “Waiting for the Sign” entails.

Outline:

Have demonstration and conversation with the Roper. Some points to cover:

- Everything happens quickly once you get the signal to go.
- You only get to chase one calf at a time, so if you miss, you have to start over again from scratch if you want to rope a calf in competition.
- What if you or your horse is distracted in the box?
- What sign are you looking for to go?
- What if you go too soon?
- What if you go too late?

Thank the Roper and then turn to the crowd with:

Read Luke 11: 29-30.

Jesus, Himself, is speaking in Luke 11. He had been dealing with the religious leaders and the crowds that followed after them. He knew their hearts. That is something that you and I cannot discern so easily, but He was God in the flesh and He could see what we cannot. He could judge what we cannot.

The people He was speaking to wanted great signs and wonders to prove that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, that is, that He was the One they were expecting to come from God to save Israel.

Thing is, these religious people had read the Old Testament prophets and then they had sort of “added” and “subtracted” from the scripture so much that they had “decided” what God was going to do and what He expected of them.

They had made up their “belief system” and were so into what “THEY THOUGHT” instead of “FACTS” that they did not even recognize Jesus, the real Messiah, when He was standing right in front of them.

In fact, they wanted Him to prove that He was the Messiah by some spectacular signs and wonders.

He did heal the sick, raise the dead, & would Himself lay down His life on the Cross and rise from the dead of His own power. That is what this scripture is referring to.

But they wanted Him to be more like what they had envisioned Him to be.

They were waiting for a signal, waiting for a sign and they wanted to decide what that sign would be. They wanted Him to overthrow the Roman government that ruled over their country and setup the Israelis as the supreme power.

He came to save their souls from eternal separation from God, but they wanted earthly rewards instead of eternal rewards. He just wasn't what they wanted.

Conclusion

It is easy for us to look at that crowd that had Jesus standing right in front of them and say, Wow, He was right there and they didn't “get it.” They didn't get the SIGNAL.

Jesus tells us through scripture in *2 Corinthians 6:2b ...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

But what signal or sign are you waiting on to accept Jesus as Savior?

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.