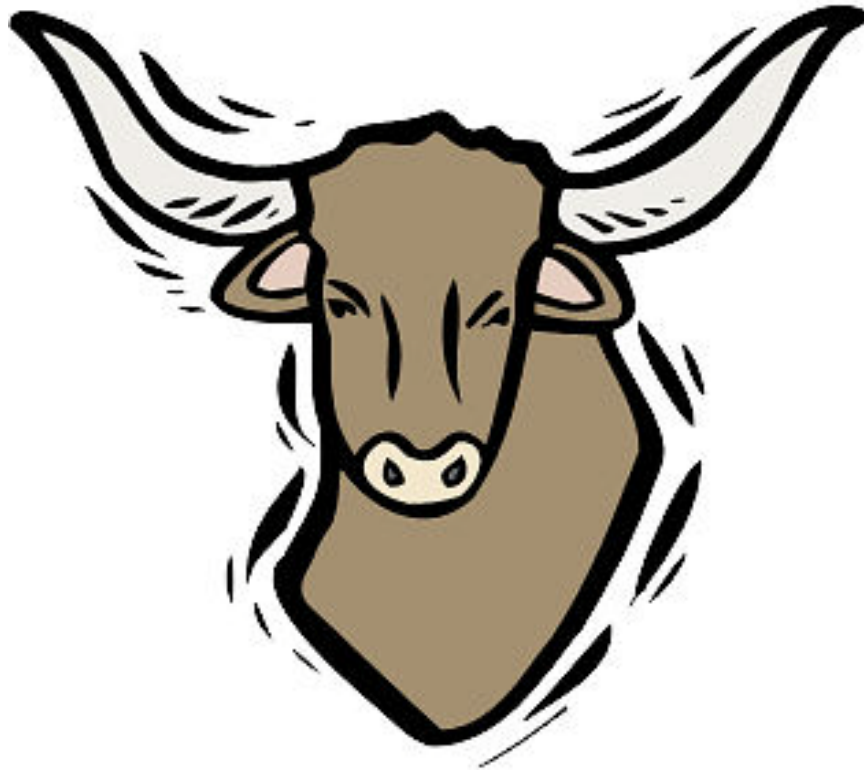


Wrangler Ranger Camp/VBS 2013



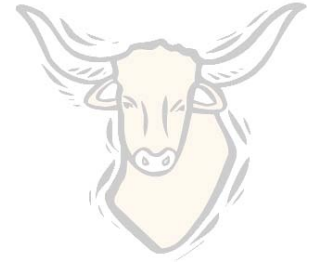
*Full-Size Message #2 or
Suitable as Stand-Alone Message*

Doing the Best I Can

Wrangler Church Ministries©2013

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Doing the Best I Can or Hope So

Doing the Best I Can

Or Hope So



Suggested Props:

- † Heavy Iron Weight labeled: Sin Nature
- † Various Weights or objects/tokens representing good deeds
- † Either Construct a simple Balance/Scale setup or if you have access to one then all the better.

Reference: [Matthew 19:16-30](#)

Introduction:

Most people want to be known for good things that they have done. Some invent great things. Eli Whitney invented the Cotton Gin. Thomas Edison gave us the electric light bulb. Some people are great explorers, and some make great discoveries in medicine.

These people have a right to be proud of what they have done, but have you ever wondered what God thinks about their good deeds?

I was taught that my good name was my greatest possession. That applies to all of us.

If you promise something, then keep your promise! Don't cheat people or steal from them. Help others whenever you can.

Sounds kind of like the Cowboy Creed to me. Maybe even could be a Wrangler Ranger Creed; what do you think?

If you are really nice to **everyone** and **keep all** your promises, will that get you to Heaven?

Let me tell you about a good man that sought out Jesus to ask a question that is still being asked today.

Read Matthew 19:16

Matthew 19:16 (KJV) And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

Message:

People continue to ask “What good thing can I do to inherit eternal life?”

The answer from the Bible always comes back exactly the same. God’s Word says that we don’t have anything good enough to earn Heaven. However, it is really easy to get to Heaven.

Let’s review the conversation between this rich young man and Jesus.

He came to Jesus and called Him Good Master [teacher].

Verse 17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Jesus immediately gets right to the point. Jesus points out that this *good man* was looking to other *good men* to get advice.

- This is “just in case” he is missing out on some good deeds that he needs to do.
- He thought he had the power to earn his way to Heaven.
- [Illustration here with Balance and Weights. Bring out the Balance & Place the Heavy “Sin Nature” Weight on the Scale]

Jesus first pointed out the commandments directed toward being good or kind to others.

Verses 18-20 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

Jesus establishes that we do have a lot of control over our actions and that He wants us to treat others right. Jesus never thinks it is OK to be mean to others.

- [Place good works & keeping of the Law tokens in the balance as you talk about or review: Not a murderer; not a liar; Honors Parents, etc.]
- However, there were still commandments that He did not mention.

Jesus then points out the heart condition that the rich young man could never conquer on his own.

Verses 21-22 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

- We are to have no other gods. That includes the god of riches. AND we must love the Lord God with all our heart, soul, and mind.
- This is where Jesus stops the young man and deflates his big ego.
- This young man was born with the same sin nature that everyone else has. No matter how much we control our actions, our inner thoughts condemn us.

- Jesus said, if we are even inwardly angry at someone then we are just as guilty of sin as a murderer.

The rich young man wanted to be sinless instead of repent of his sins.

- He had a pride problem that he would not admit to. Therefore, he was already prideful and was lying to himself, but would not admit it.
- [Take out the heavy sin weight where Jesus takes our sin on Him]
- There is no amount of good things that we can do to outweigh our sin nature.
- That is why Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins. His perfect sinless life as the Son of God was payment for us all.
- The only thing Jesus requires is our repentance.

Daniel 5:27 "Tekel; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

Present Salvation Here.