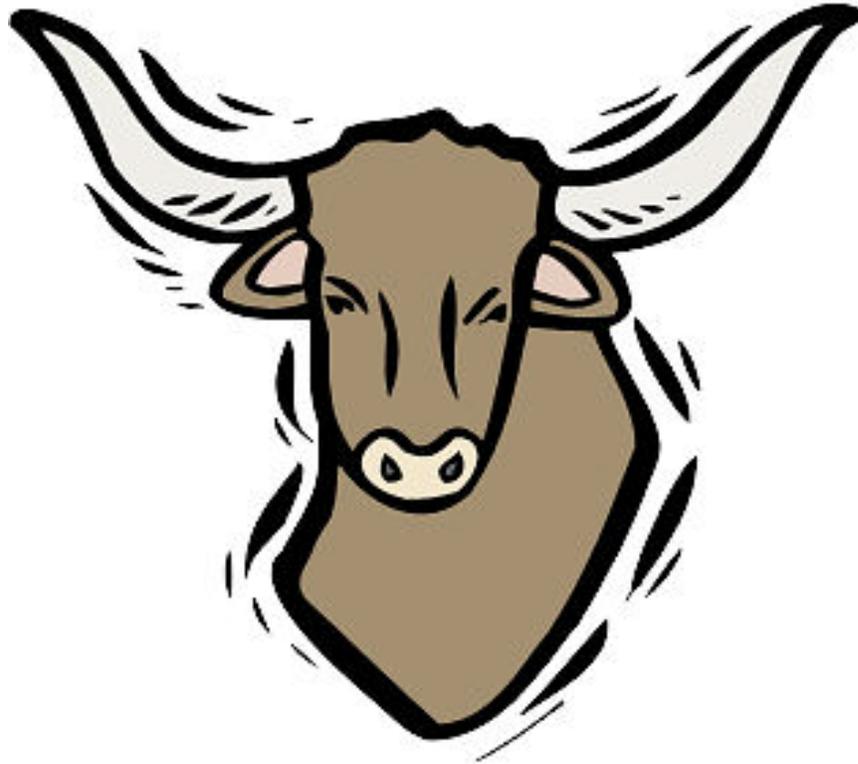


Wrangler Ranger Camp/VBS 2013



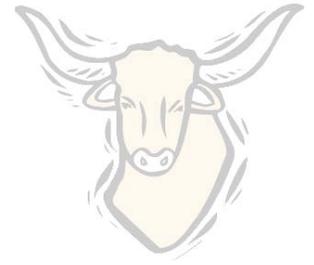
*Full-Size Message #3 or
Suitable as Stand-Alone Message*

Time to Clean Up

Wrangler Church Ministries©2013

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Suggested Props:

- † Bag of debris: Could be as benign as confetti or as dramatic as horse droppings depending on your setup.
- † Cleanup tools including a toothbrush, plastic baggie, broom, dustpan. Could even be a shovel or a vacuum sweeper [again depending on your debris.]

Reference: [Luke 11: 39-42](#)

Introduction:

Getting dirty is easy! Just watch little kids and you see that it can be done with very little effort. When I was a kid I had a knack for getting really dirty. My cousin & I were out playing and found a GIANT mud puddle. We played like we were fighting and wound up rolling around in the mud. It was packed in my ears, mud up my nose, it was a total MESS.

Illustration:

[Have a bag of dirt, a toothbrush, an old rag, a broom, & a variety of apparatus for cleaning up a large area of tossed dirt on the floor. Since we are familiar with working with the cowboy churches, I'd go so far as to bring in a bag of horse leftovers, a toothbrush, and so forth, but you can use your discretion on that. If the floor is carpet then obviously I wouldn't go there, but if you are on concrete, this makes a valid point quickly.][And if you are in a "fancy" facility, try using a couple of bags of confetti to clean up; this would not be Cowboys ☺ but might work better for you.]

Here: Toss out the bagged substance across the floor. You WILL get a reaction.

OK, so who is willing to help me clean up this mess? *[Usually you have someone that is just waiting to get involved and he/she will volunteer. If you don't get a volunteer, then up the ante a little and offer front of the line privileges at the next camp meal or something along that line.]*

Great we have a volunteer! *[Hand the volunteer a toothbrush and a small zip lock style baggie.]* There you go; we'll get back to you in a little while and see how you are doing.

Yep, dirt is all around us: It rubs off onto us without any effort and we wind up dirty without even noticing. That is sort of like when you come in from the barn area and your boots are best taken off in the mud room or out on the porch.

However, we have to decide on purpose to be clean.

How you doing over there with the toothbrush? Well, let's see if I have anything better to clean that up more quickly with over here: OK, How about a whisk broom, why don't you try that for awhile?

[Now back at the audience] As I was saying, you have to decide on purpose to be clean.

Message:

Read Luke 11: 33-36: No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.

The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.

Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.

Jesus is teaching that His light should radiate from a Christian like a lantern or a candle. If the globe of the lantern is covered with dirt then there is a problem. Jesus used the illustration of our eyes and how it determines the condition of the whole body. Are your eyes pure or, are your eyes clouded over with dirt so that Jesus' light cannot radiate out?

[Directs attention to 'Volunteer'] So how's the cleaning up coming here? Would you like a different method? Great. How about a broom and a dustpan? There you go.

Right after Jesus teaches this parable in *Luke 11*, up walks a Pharisee to invite him over for dinner. Jesus accepts and goes to dinner.

The Pharisees were the super religious crowd of the day. They had all kinds of rules they had made up and told everyone that these rules had to be followed to make God happy.

Now, the Law of God as was given to Moses WAS more than just the 10 commandments that most of us are familiar with, it was more like over 200 that God handed down as found in the Old Testament. But that had not been enough for the Pharisees, no, they had to add some more to the list.

Jesus.....well, before I go there..... *[To 'volunteer']* Would you like a faster clean up method over here? *[If you are using "dirt" that is conducive to it, have a vacuum sweeper ready and then you finish up the job and say we'll finish that up later and let the Camper go sit down] [If you are using the barn TYPE materials, then just offer to help him finish up after the message and allow him/her to sit down.]*

Cleaning up is not always an easy task.

Back to the Pharisee dinner: Jesus sat down to eat and he didn't do the "ceremonial hand washing rule" before he ate. The Pharisee was very upset with Jesus.

Read *Luke 11:39-42* *And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness.*

Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also?

But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.

But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Jesus tied his statements all back to the parable. Jesus explained that most people don't understand what "CLEAN" really means. Washing your hands does not make you clean.

Matthew 15:1-3 and 7-11 explains this a bit more.

Matthew 15:1-3 *Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,*

Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Matthew 15:7-11 *Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,*

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand:

Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

Jesus expects Christians to be clean so they can attract others to see the light of Jesus. He never taught that you had to get clean and stay clean to become a Christian. This is very important to understand.

Some people try to clean up the outside instead of repenting of their sin and asking Jesus to forgive and save them.

When you get saved or born-again, that is, when you accept Jesus as personal Savior, then Jesus takes the “dirt” of your sin nature. This makes us clean from the inside-out.

Anyone that tries to clean up the outside by changing the way they behave will only frustrate themselves throughout their life and then find out when it is too late that their good deeds did not get them eternal life in Heaven.

At best our attempts to be good enough to go to Heaven will only shine up a spot here or a spot there. Then they find out that these little spots they shined up get dirty all over again really fast.

It is a lot of effort to behave like a Christian when you are not born-again.

Because “cleaning up your act” will not get you to Heaven. Jesus explains in [Matthew 22:36-40](#) that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind.

When the Pharisees asked which commandment is the greatest, Jesus made it sound so simple.

The Pharisees struggled to try to keep the Law and do more good things than bad things. Jesus told them that God’s Plan is very simple: Give your heart to God and fall completely in love with Him.

You cannot Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind until and unless you accept Jesus as Savior.

Being saved/born-again changes your desires.

It changes your position in the sight of God.

The blood of Jesus makes you clean in the sight of God. If you are trying to clean up the outside to get to Heaven...GIVE IT UP and give your heart to Jesus. Then you can become truly clean.

Salvation Presentation Here.