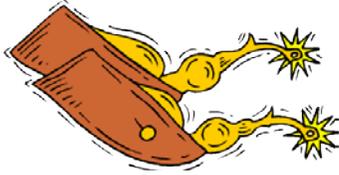


Rusty Spurs



## Rusty Spurs

### Suggested Props to Use:

- † Pair of Spurs
- † Pair of Rusty Spurs

### Introduction:

There are many styles and kinds of spurs. When I buy a pair of spurs I want them to reflect or say something about who I am and what I like. When you see someone's spurs, you can tell a lot about the person. If the yoke on the spurs turn up a bit so it would make it easier to wear them all day and the spurs have a particular ranch brand engraved in them, then you would know that the person wearing them is probably a rancher or ranch hand. If they are shiny, then you would know the spurs are not very old OR not used much.

### But what if the spurs are rusty? What would that say about the person that owns them?

[ Use Spurs to demonstrate]

I. **Rusty Spurs can be a sign of Neglect:** If your spurs are just hanging in the barn or on the barn floor, not being used; they can get rusty.

- The wheel quits turning on the shaft.
- The metal begins to corrode and rust.
- The spurs get weak because of the rust that eat away at the metal.
- The leather rots and can easily break if you pick them up and try to use them.
- A Pair of spurs that was once of great value to a cowboy is now only junk!

I am going to tell you a parable that Jesus told to illustrate how you should handle God's Word.

### *Matthew 25:14-30 (King James Version)*

*14For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

*15And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.*

*16Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.*

*17And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.*

*18But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.*

*19After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.*

*20And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.*

*21His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

*22He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.*

*23His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

*24Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:*

*25And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.*

*26His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:*

*27Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.*

*28Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.*

*29For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.*

*30And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

**If your Bible was like a pair of spurs, would they show signs of wear from use or would it be rusty from just sitting around?** Now I understand that some young folks cannot read yet, so you will have to pay close attention in Church to what we teach. You can also ask your Mom or Dad to read some verses to you at home during the week. Then you need to do what God's Word says. God gave you talents to put to use but, you have to decide how to use them. If you know nothing of God's Word, then how will you know what to do with your life?

**If your prayer life was like a pair of spurs, would it be obvious that you and God talk often? Or would your life indicate that you don't think about God very often?**

II. **Rusty Spurs can be a sign of Great Value:** I have a cowboy friend named Wayne in Dublin, TX. He has a spur that has been in his family since one of his ancestors was in a war sometime in history past. That spur:

- Helped keep our country free.
- The man that wore that spur fought and risked his life so that we could live in this free country;
- When he put that spur on, he was not thinking about himself
- He was putting his talents to work to help and serve others.

I am sure that this man had spurs that he wore to make a living for himself: He may have punched cattle so he could provide for himself and his family, but when the time came to fight for his country; he didn't turn and run from what he needed to do. In this life you have the choice to be like either one of these spurs.

**Would you rather wear out for the Lord or just sit around and rust out?**

God has given you talents to use, but you have to make the choice on what to do with your talents. Will you be of Great Value to the Lord or will you be just another rusty spur that lays around in the barn?

In my illustration the spur is a symbol of being saved and on our way to Heaven. After you have repented and asked the Lord to save you, then it is sure that you will be saved for all eternity. How you serve Him after salvation is YOUR choice! However, if you are not saved, then this illustration means nothing to you. You cannot be a tool for God's use; you are not even a spur yet.

**[Here I present the plan of salvation to the students.]**