The God Who Gets His Hands Dirty

Mt. 9:12-13
• **Mike Rowe** is best-known for his 8 year run on the *Discovery Channel* series “*Dirty Jobs.*”

• Over the years, Mike traveled the U.S. looking for **unpleasant or unusual occupations** in America he might **share** for a day.
Dirty Jobs

• JOBS- Chimney Sweep, Sewer Inspector, Bat Cave Scavenger, Maggot Farmer, Avian Vomitologist, Road Kill Collector, etc...

• Needless to say, the message of his 2 shows is that there are many undesirable or “Dirty” Jobs in the world, but Somebody’s got to do it.
Experiencing the Dirty Stuff

• – Phil 2:6-8 “Although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men…”

• – Heb. 4:15 “For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”
The Chief Inspection Officer is not there to forgive you or compliment you. He is ONLY there to uncover any & all of the flaws he can and to report you.

The Bank Examiners whole life is auditing accounts and generating fines.
In This Picture...

- God essentially **hates** mankind.
- He **convulses** when He sees the **mess** we’ve made of our lives.
- He **refuses** to be associated with such a **mess**.
- His job is to **expose** the **mess**, not to **deliver** us from the **mess**.
I have observed...

• God's work is *always* messy work.

• Any image of God as a heartless white gloved inspector or petty bank examiner must have evolved *from men*.

• That is *not* a Biblical picture of God.
The Biblical God is...

- Omniscient, Omnipotent and Omnipresent.
- His eyes are certainly **OPEN** to everything happening, and He is **TOTALLY PURE** and despises **ALL** evil.
- But at the same time, He is also a truly **Omnibenevolent** God who is **so concerned, so involved, so merciful that He is always at work helping to lead and to guide and to rescue His creation, if they’ll let Him.**
Is That So Hard to Believe?

• Gen. 1:1-2, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was a formless void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters (Gen. 1:1, 2a).

• The world was a mess. It was Void. Then God moves and immediately; GOOD, ORDER, PURPOSE, MEANING, USEFULNESS, begin...
What did God Do?

• God didn’t curse the darkness...
  He lit it, with His light.

Gen. 1:3-4 “Then God said, Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.”
And what did “mankind” do with the pristine world God had created for them and us?

They made a mess of things.

By sinning mankind Spiritually polluted the “good world” that our Gracious God had just created for us, forcing all of mankind to live in the mess we live in today.
• **Genesis 1** says it only took *six days* for God to transform chaos into *order and life*.

• But it took *all the time from Genesis One to Acts Two* for God to *re-create order* and to *reinstate* that *right relationship* we all need with Him, and that we can all enjoy with Him *through Jesus*. 
A Great Theme of the Bible

• God didn’t make the mess. People did.

• God offered the solution.

• God came all the way from Heaven to fix the mess that we made for ourselves.

• God literally “got his hands dirty” (not to mention nail-pierced) to fix what we had broken. Namely our relationship with Him.
Out of Egyptian Bondage

• *God got involved*, and God did what his people could never do for themselves – *He freed them.*

• *He used His divine power to first break the Hebrew free from Egyptian bondage, and then He baptized His people in the Red Sea, and then He delivered His people into a Promise Land of Spiritual opportunity…*

• *It was all very messy. But God did it anyway.*
Exodus, Numbers, Judges

• *God put up with* an extraordinary number of *failures* on the part of His own people.

• *God stayed involved* until enough people of faith (a remnant) would *allow Him* to lead them into what would become their own land.

• *Judges* says that the second generation was *at least as bad* as when Jacob’s children were slaves.
• “What an incredible, unbelievable mess men make of their lives!”

But God stayed involved and He refused to surrender His plan due to the weakness of men.
The New Testament

- My Jesus came to this earth to get His hands dirty.

- Jesus was quite literally God in human flesh.

- ...When you know me, you know God the Father, and when you see me, you see God the Father" (John 14:7).
The New Testament

• Jesus didn’t just “think” about helping us...

• He got involved. He got his hands “dirty.”

• He targeted those whose lives were as shambles:
  The hopeless. The demon possessed.
  The adulteresses. The incurables.
  The outcasts. The dishonest tax-collectors.
• It was a dirty job. But somebody had to do it.
• And Jesus voluntarily took that role.

• John 10:17 & 18 – “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.”
“The sick need the doctor, not the healthy. You folks really need to learn what God meant when He said: I desire com-passion, not sacrifice... I did not come into this world to call the righteous, but sinners.”

“I tell you [the truth], there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine [so-called] righteous persons who do not need to repent...” (also see v. 10)
God’s Plan and Purpose

- He **WANTS** to walk with you... **BUT**
- We need to “**agree**” (repentance/baptism).
- We need to “**trust**” in His Will.
- We need to “**understand**” that God is **revealing His glory through our “sanctification.”**
- We need to “**accept**” that **His plan is centered on Jesus** and in His **“full salvation”** of our lives.
What is Required of Me?

• All our God and His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit ask of us, is that we would through faith and obedience to His Gospel, recognize His plan for our salvation...and that we would cooperate to the best of our ability in His divine efforts to clean up our lives of sin.

• Can you do that? Are you doing that?
What is Required of Me?

• Are you willing to allow Him to come into your life and “clean you from the inside out?”
• That is the work of God.
• That is the power of God.
Men are a Mess!

- The simple truth is - “Men are an unholy mess.”

- But God takes that mess and turns it into something beautiful... if we’ll let Him.
Lastly...

• From the beginning of time, God has specialized in creating order from chaos...

• And throughout time, He has excelled in cleaning up peoples messes and in re-constructing people’s lives...
Lastly...

• *In the fullness of time* He sent forth His Son, to provide **full reconciliation** for our sins, *if we will* obey His Gospel.

• *Tonight, He continues to offer you* the forgiveness you want and the new life you need through obedience to His Will...

• *Any reason He couldn’t clean up the mess in your life tonight?*