

HOPE FOR THE RANCHER DEVOTIONAL

Donn Jibben 5-12-15

“Squeezed by Circumstances”



As cattle ranchers we all know too well the day we get to work the herd. Whether it is preg-testing the cows, vaccinating and working the calves everyones stress levels rises to an alarming and extreme level.

The cattle are nervous and jittery, the dogs are jumpy and...well you know, you are about to loose you're Sunday religion with your vocabulary when the action starts. Huh, be honest, we've all been there haven't we. We all have stories and memories of being kicked bad, hands smashed, getting mauled, crapped on and cows goes over or thru the stockades. When the dust settles and the work is complete you're glad to be in one piece, mostly healthy and alive and for the work to be done!

There is one piece of equipment that is common and that we all use in this process and that is the "squeeze chute." Man, have they ever improved them through the years, that is for sure. Today there are makes and models of many kinds from the Powder River , the Priefert, to the Little Buster, the Arrow, Sioux Steel, Tarter Cattlemaster and Lakeland models to name a few. One thing they all have in common is the ability to put the "Squeeze" on any size animal that you run into the chute, greatly improving your ability to control the animal and accomplish the task at hand. Naturally the animal doesn't like being squeezed or constrained but in the end no harm is done and the needed work is accomplished.

You know we too get put into the "squeeze chute" sometimes by the circumstances we face in life. I believe God allows this to happen for another of reasons but to name just a few, He

desires for us to see us for who we are, what we are really like so that we truly see our real need of Him. You know that God truly desires to change us all into someone who is a whole lot more like HIM! That includes us cattle folk too, whether a horsemen, roper, rodeo-er, cowboy and rancher God desires to change us all by His love and grace!

Truth is, circumstances do not make us what we are; they simply reveal what is in already in our hearts and what we truly are like. The “Squeeze” in the challenging circumstances you maybe facing today is just revealing in an open way what is really already inside of you, in your heart and soul.

First, we must not be deceived into believing that if my circumstances were different than I would be a happier and different kind of person. Second we must humble ourselves and admit to God the sinfulness of our inner and outer attitudes and actions. Third we must ask Jesus Christ to forgive us and last we allow the power of the Holy Spirit to conform us more and more into the image of God’s Son!

God is at work, sometimes He puts the “squeeze” on us...it’s not always comfortable but it’s for our own good. We simply need to humbly yield our hearts and lives to Him and allow Him to accomplish His will in our lives! Give God some Praise, Amen!

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren”

Romans 8:28-29 NKJV

“For all things *are* for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward *man* is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which *are* not seen are eternal. ”

2 Cor. 4:16-17 NKJV

HFTR

In Christ’s love

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