

Good News for Sinners, Freaks, and Misfits



(for the self-righteous, not so much)

The Wisdom of the Horse Tamers

Seeing It Reflected in Paul's Transformation

- “What you have to do is to catch the attention of the horse.”
- “I shoo it away a few times until it realizes that when it's looking at me there will be calm, but if it looks somewhere else I'll scare it.”
- “This mare has gone from wild to tame as she begins a new life with the gauchos.”

The Wisdom of the Horse Tamers

Seeing It Reflected in Paul's Transformation

- God has taken the wildest, most violent blaspheming torturer and has transformed him into not only a believer but also a trusted friend and partner
- If God can do that with Paul, there is nobody that remains outside the reach of God's mercy
- Augustine: "This was so that others could all say to themselves, 'If Paul was cured, why should I despair?'"



“I hope for some sort of peace—but I fear that machines are ahead of morals by some centuries and when morals catch up perhaps there’ll [be] no reason for any of it. I hope not. But we are only termites on a planet and maybe when we bore too deeply into the planet there’ll [be] a reckoning—who knows?”

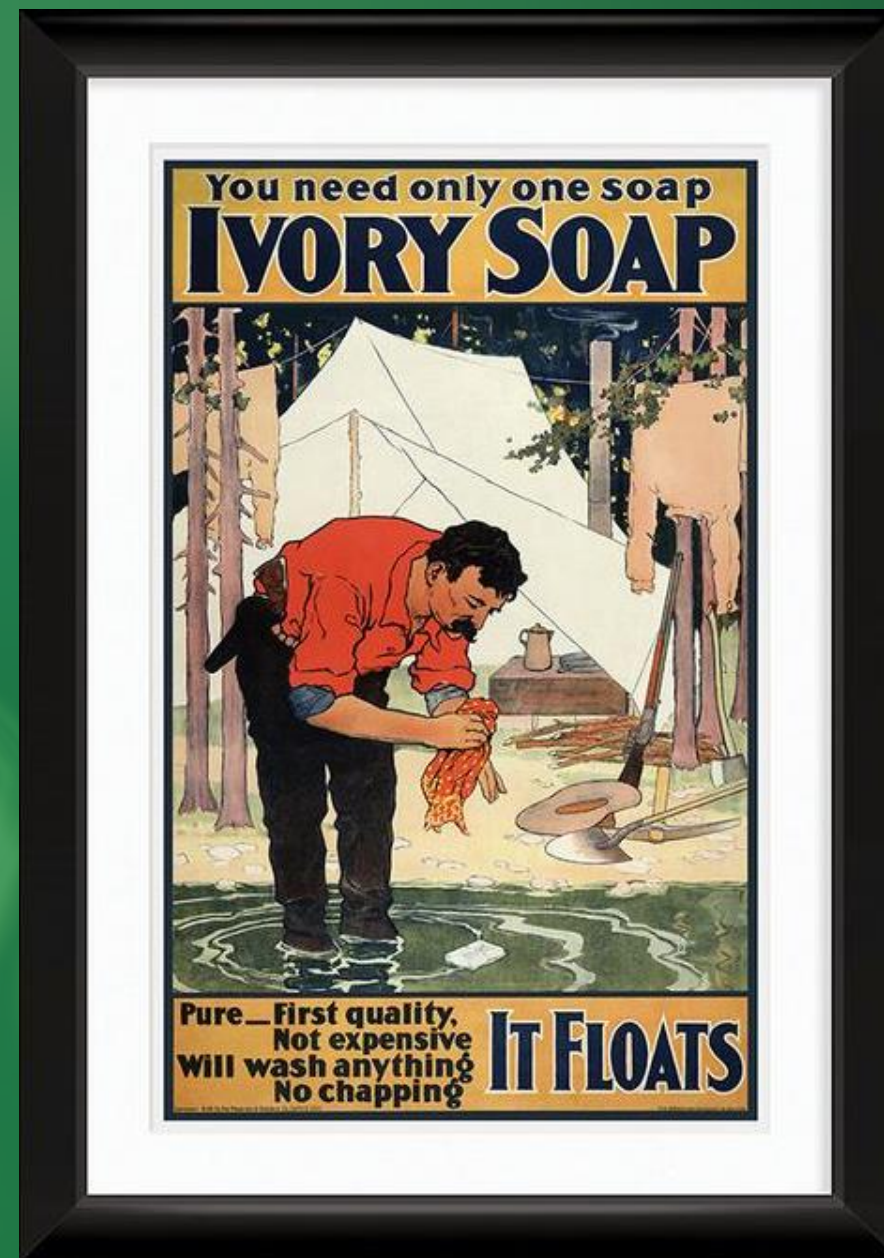
[President Harry Truman in *The Accidental President* by A. J. Baime. (p. 282). HMH Books.]

Paul's Outlook Was One of Hope

If He Could Be Rescued, Who Couldn't Be?

- **Acts 2:21** NEW LIVING TRANSLATION
“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!”
- Yet here is an impossible impossibility: some won't call on the name of the Lord because they don't believe they have any need of being saved

So Pure It Floats!



Are There Any Beyond God's Saving Grace?

Only Those Who Refuse It

- **Luke 5:32** NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

“I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.”

- **Luke 5:32** THE VOICE TRANSLATION

“I haven't come for the pure and upstanding; I've come to call notorious sinners to rethink their lives and turn to God.”

Are There Any Beyond God's Saving Grace?

Only Those Who Refuse It

- Jesus is saying, "Some reject my help outright; therefore the focus of my life and ministry will be those who are sick and know they need a doctor."
- C.S. Lewis: "The gates of hell are locked on the *inside*."

[The Problem of Pain, (The Centenary Press: London) ©1940, p. 115]

“Come, the Banquet is Ready”

The Parable of the Banquet in Luke 14

- Jesus makes clear that it isn't that the Pharisees, scribes, and religious elite of his time and place aren't invited, it's that *they have refused to come*
- The reason why: their starting place is wrong—it isn't the Father

Those Who Think They Are Righteous

And the Problem They Cannot See

- They've fallen into a brutal trap: they believe that *they* are pleasing God and that Jesus is endangering the spiritual lives of the people
- **Luke 11:35** NEW LIVING TRANSLATION
“Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness.”

The Gospel is Good News for Sinners, Freaks & Misfits

(That's All of Us)

- “You are not what people say you are, you are not even what you say you are. You are what Jesus is shaping and forming you to be.” [Pastor Lindsay, *The Journey*, September 8, 2019]
- **Luke 13:30** THE PASSION TRANSLATION
“And take note of this: There are some who are despised and viewed as the least important now, but will one day be placed at the head of the line. And there are others who are viewed as ‘elite’ today who will become least important then.”

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- Remember: if God can tame the untamable Paul, no one is outside of his mercy, grace and love
- “And even when we run from Him, God reverences our resistance and uses our resistance to shape and form us.”

[Pastor Lindsay, *The Journey*, September 8, 2019]

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