

Mission CriTikal

#24 – Mud Mountain

THAT'S A WHOPPER OF AN IDEA!

The teens of Mission Critikal Tent Mission may have thought that old people are just 'stick in the mud' folks that don't remember what excitement looks like any more. But Ol' Tom really lit a fire under the teens. "Let's have a Mud Mountain Meet," was his brainstorm.

Tom knew that more than girls, boys are into construction, competition, loud, flashy, and certainly messy activities. Well, that's a great first description of a Mud Mountain Meet. But more than that, Ol' Tom had a hidden agenda - we'll learn about later.

The contestants had 60 minutes to create the tallest mountain of mud inside their assigned circle, using only pure mud, obtained from the creek bank about a stone's throw away. The meet would happen two days from today.

The meet began with a heart-felt prayer for God-honoring fun and safety, and maybe some lessons learned too. Toby banged the rusted out wash tub that started the race. The four contestants raced for the bank mud, their first of several trips. Ben must have not understood the idea of the contest. The other three began right away to start building their pile of mud – their mud mountain.

However, Ben had everyone really befuddled. Instead of starting on his pile, he spread out several large leaves and began putting his mud on the leaves. What is he doing? Is he going to make mud pies and start a bakery? Out of the corner of their eyes, the other three mud mountain builders were wondering what Ben had in mind.

The hot afternoon sun was almost baking Ben's mud pies on the leaves, as he began building his mud pile as the others had long-since started. He could see the others were having a real problem getting the oozing mud to stay in place. They'd stack more mud on the top, and it would just ooze out flat. Their mountain was growing out, not up.

With about 10 minutes left, Ben took his somewhat dry mud pies off the leaves and stacked them in a circle on edge, to form the wall of the lower portion of his mountain. This kept the oozy mud

in place. He continued the process as his mud mountain grew taller.

Everyone could see Ben would be the winner – without question. As the contest ended, Ben was given a crown – made of a couple vines with many leaves. He took a smiling bow to everyone.

Ol' Tom had everyone sit Indian-fashion on the ground facing him, close by.

Tom explained that Ben won, using some clever planning. The dark-skinned Christian told about an odd phrase in the Bible, and no place else on earth. "...*more than conquerors.*" He said, "Ben was the winner, but how could he have become more than a winner? How could he become 'more than a conqueror'?"

Everyone looked at each other with the same blank 'I have no idea' expression. Tom explained the way to do it is to become one of the judges or leaders in the next mud mountain contest.

Though Tom was totally blind, he spoke with such feeling everyone thought he was looking directly into their heart. He slowly explained the beginning of the detailed Bible process. He said, "The Bible begins with a basic list of all the struggles and hazards you and I face each day, all our lives. It then says we become more than conquerors as we put our trust, actions, and attitudes totally in Jesus Christ and His power and love for each of us."

"Remember now, this is the only place that explains that we have this 'more than victorious' opportunity – it's in God's precious word. I'm a little hesitant to say it this way, but I hafta tell you the yummy verse that becomes the mountain peak promise to everyone that has made Jesus Christ their Lord and Master. In the last book of the Bible – Revelation, we're told we'll 'rule and reign with Him a thousand years.' I mean is that fantastic or what?"

"So, even better than being a winner at the Mud Mountain Meet, and then becoming a judge and leader in the next one, we'll get to rule and reign with our Lord Jesus Christ, a thousand years. That is, if we've truly invited Him into our life, and live for Him and His will for ever. - Wow! Knowing that, who wouldn't want to become saved and serve Him with all our heart?"

(Romans 8:35-37 and Revelation 20:6)

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