

A new perspective of THANKFULNESS



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When my seventeen-year-old son, Jace texted me in August I was rendered so speechless that I could only repeat what I read. Here's how the conversation went:

Jace: I might do turkey insemination for an occupation while I'm in school

Me: Turkey insemination?

Jace: That's right

Me: How much?

Jace: 19/hour

My friends, Have you ever considered what might go into producing your Thanksgiving turkey? I never have! Nor did I ever think my son might have a role in providing it. But here I am a few months later, a proud mother of a genuine turkey "reproductive specialist."

Of course, softening the name in this way does not give the job the hard-working value it deserves. It's such a dirty job that it actually made it in the well-known Mike Rowe TV series "Dirty Jobs." It's is dirty, stinky and physically exhausting, yet our boy doesn't complain and he's quite pleased with the paycheck he is earning.

Hard working youth seem a bit rare these days, so as this young man works hard, reaps the financial benefit from his labor and finishes high school, I am in awe of his motivation, drive and determination to be great in all he does. He truly lives out Colossians 3:23.

Blessedly, I dwell among hard workers—not just at home but also at work. Have you ever considered what mechanics go through to take care of your vehicle? Have thought about the different aspects of their job and what they might endure?

For the sake of this article, I decided to go to the experts—the honest-to-goodness mechanics at our shop. I asked each of them "What's the worst part of being a mechanic?" A few said "Do you really want to know?" and when I said "Yes," they proceeded with a list of not-so-savory things this job entails. But as I quizzed each of them there seemed to be a consensus of four top "worst parts" that they began discussing with one another and even offered advice in how to help with one of them.

#4) Let's start with the not-so-dirty part that is a challenge for many, and two of our mechanics agree that it's the worst part for them—EVER CHANGING TECHNOLOGY. Not only is every vehicle make/model different, but mechanics have to keep up with all of the added technology as manufacturers make changes and upgrades in vehicles. Additionally, the more computers and features vehicles have, the more things that can break and the more knowledge is needed by a technician to repair them. Mechanics, especially those with a lot of knowledge and experience, are priceless.

#3) Next up is a dirty and dry "worst part" of the job—SKIN. Several of our mechanics agreed that this is one of the worst parts, giving me answers including: "My hands are always black," "Dirty fingers," "Dry skin," even

"Alligator skin." Though some mechanics choose to wear gloves to combat this, there are many that prefer to touch their work without the nuisance of gloves. And this decision comes with black hands – that are hard to ever get completely clean. Furthermore, as we move into the winter months, the dry, harsh air and constant washing lead to ultra-dry skin that often becomes cracked and painful for the entire season. One mechanic even took me to his box where he stores "working hands" lotion—offering it as a solution he has found to help combat the worst part of his job. I love people with solutions to problems—and mechanics solve some of the most challenging ones beyond dry skin!

#2) Rolling up into this slot is none other than one of the biggest problems our industry faces that comes with little solution—RUST. This was on the top of one of our mechanic's list and many agreed. There is so much rust and corrosion on so many parts of vehicles in our region that it has become the archnemesis of many mechanics. Driving over the salty wintry roads wreak havoc on your vehicle and pose a great challenge to mechanics. As one of our mechanics said, "everything just sticks together with the rust." When parts are being replaced and being unstuck or pried away from other parts, it can cause further problems. Rusted screws can be very difficult to remove and they can break or strip out—making repairs frustrating and much longer than anticipated. When connections or metal parts (like hoses) are removed to be replaced, simply

bumping another line can cause a leak to occur since accumulated rust makes everything so fragile. Mechanics are rust super heroes!

#1) The number one "worst part" is about to rear its ugly head ... DRIPPING. Every single one of our mechanics agreed this is close to the top of their list. When your vehicle is lifted on a hoist, sand and salt drip off it and into/ onto every part of a mechanic. I was also told that if their head is tilted just right, it may even make it into their ear—a new kind of Wet Willii! Mechanics, especially those living in areas of weather extremes, are overcomers. They endure the heat of the summer, frigid temps of winter and get dripped onto and into! Not only that, but they stay positive, have incredibly kind hearts and are extremely hard workers.

Perhaps you are wondering at this point: "How does this article help me?" It's really quite simple and perfectly placed in the month of November—Thankfulness. Maybe it will give you a new perspective about things you may have never even thought about or considered. Maybe it will open your eyes to how others contribute to our world and all they endure to benefit you—like with a smooth ride or a nice plump turkey on your Thanksgiving table. Maybe, if you have had times of complaining about your job, you may see that there are other professions that seem worse and you now feel blessed in where you work every day. And maybe, just maybe, you can spend this entire month of thankfulness being extra appreciative of everyone that comes across your path and do your part to live out Colossians 3:23.