Dirty Hands Dirty Faces (Parker McGee)

I deciphered this tablature while reviewing the video of Michael’s performance at Bemidji MN in 1995. I never got a chance to see him perform personally and I am the poorer for that. But through MJBLUE his music lives on, and I do my best.

I have written the tab as accurately as I could for the first verse, choruses and bridge to give a good idea on how to play the entire song. Michael adds embellishments and uses different fingering patterns through subsequent verses, but this presentation serves me well and I let my fingers go where they want on occasion anyway.

Michael plays this song at Bemidji with a capo on the first fret, while playing it tuned down elsewhere, so put it where it best suits your voice.

It should be kept in mind that while music needs to be structured, it mustn’t be ‘rigid.’ There is a difference. I have noted the song’s tempo and it pretty much plays at that speed, with variations where they are necessary of course.

There are a few quick fingering changes that with practice I hope to master myself. I don’t go in for labels; beginner, novice, advanced sort of thing. From what I’ve seen of Michael’s songs his fingering is not complicated, just a bit ‘tricky’ at times so his tab should be accessible with a little dedication and practice.

I have been playing for a lot of years and through habit have become somewhat complacent in fingering patterns. It is such a treat to be shown different fingering and chord transitions and I’m still learning, with help from the master.

And of course my thanks to Paul Ashley who gave me the idea to do this for you.

Enjoy,

Dale Dickson
February 2019
Amended June 2020

https://youtu.be/t1Dem2XFVs0 39:11 mark (video)
DIRTY HANDS DIRTY FACES (Parker McGee)

INSTRUMENTAL  

1. Dirty hands, 
2. The day to day, it slips away, you're in diapers and then you're dancing 
what am I gonna do about you 
and the music that you hear is not for me 
you've been out playing in those forbidden places 
Sometimes I forget about the things that really matter, I'm holding 
so run along and wash 'em up your supper's getting cool 
tighter, you're running faster, as you struggle to be free, (go to Chorus) 
hurry up, slow down, how can you be so clumsy 

D7sus4  Em7sus4  D/F#  Dmaj7/F#  A7sus4  G 
D6   E7sus4  Em7sus4  D/F#  Dmaj7/F#  A7sus4  G 
Bm7sus4  E7sus4  Em7sus4  D/F#  Dmaj7/F#  A7sus4  G 

Tuning - Drop D  
Capo - 1  
Tempo - 76 

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Tuning - Drop D  
Capo - 1  
Tempo - 76
DIRTY HANDS DIRTY FACES – 2

and go to your room and shut the door and see if I care

(Chorus) Yes but someday, when we're standing eye to eye

And your trucks and your guns are all behind

Well I hope you'll be more kind and understanding with your daddy

Than I was with mine

(first time through go to verse 2, second time continue to bridge below)

(Bridge)

So on your way, my little one

You've got some dreams to find

Still I hope you'll be more kind and understanding with your daddy

Than I was with mine

Tablature Below
Dirty Hands, Dirty Faces  (DADGBE)  

by Parker McGee  
capo 1  
tempo 76  
arr. Michael Johnson  

[Music notation with lyrics]

1. Dirty hands, dirty faces, what'm I gonna do about you?
   You've been out playin' in those
   For...biden pla...ces
   So run alo...ng and wash 'em up, your 'supper's gettin' cool.

2. The day to day it slips away, you're in diapers and then you're dancing and the music
   That you hear is not for me.
   Go on and an...ser me before I get an........gry
   And go to your room, shut the door, and see if I care.
   Sometimes I forget about the things that really mat...ter, I'm holding tighter, you're running fas...ter
   While you strugg...le to be free.

3. Some day when we're standing eye to eye
   And your trucks and your guns are all behind
   And hope you'll be more kind
   And under........standing with your daddy
   Than I was with mine.

4. [Music notation with lyrics]
Dirty Hands, Dirty Faces  (DADGBE) capo 1 tempo 76 arr. Michael Johnson

still I hope you'll be more kind and understanding with your dad

than I was with mine.

NOTES:

When you see this \( \frac{3}{2} \) etc. it means play all the joined notes together as one.

When you see this \( \frac{24}{2} \) it means play the notes quickly in arpeggio fashion.

When you see this \( \frac{24}{2} \) it means play the notes in a strumming fashion.

Muted strings are indicated with an 'X' usually with an adjacent finger.

\[ \text{\underline{Still I hope you'll be more kind}} \] \[ \underline{and understanding with your dad}} \] 

\[ \text{\underline{than I was with mine.}} \]