

Saddle Bags

**Are the Right Things in Your Saddle Bags?  
(How to Survive the Storms on the Trail)**



**Suggested Props to Use:**

- † Cowboy Hat for Cowboy Hat Message
- † Drovers Coat [ if you use this portion of the message]
- † Cowboy Boots [ if you use this portion of the message]
- † Bottle of Sun block
- † Sunglasses
- † Gatorade
- † Bottle of Water
- † Small to medium sized electric Fan
- † Ball cap
- † Umbrella
- † Shampoo, hair conditioner, hairspray
- † Other items to illustrate the many uses of the Hat

**Method of Presentation:**

Message is highly illustrated. There are about three different messages condensed into one. We have shared this message sometimes with just the Cowboy Hat section alone. No matter if you use one portion or all three; the main thing we always emphasize is that you bring the plan of salvation at the end of the message, offering an opportunity for salvation.

*Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*

**Message Theme:**

When you see a cowboy riding his horse across the prairies of the West, you are looking at someone who has stripped away everything that is not essential and is carrying only what he needs.

He has made up his mind that he wants to be a cowboy and this style of life is more important to him than all the worldly stuff that most people crave and depend upon. A traveling cowboy can be a picture of what Christians should be like as we travel through this life.

While you are at the age of 8 through 12 you need to figure out what you need to travel through this life and then get rid of, or stay away from all that other stuff that is not necessary and only weighs you down. Some things that you may need to get rid of or stay away from may not be sinful, but are just weights that will bog you down. In stripping away all of the non-essentials of his life, the cowboy even picked his clothing to minimize what he had to carry. I'll illustrate a few:

**The Cowboy Hat:** This hat was not designed for the style conscious. The cowboy hat serves many purposes all rolled into one package.

- The big brim functions as shade from the hot sun as you ride across the prairies or deserts. A cowboy didn't need sun blocker to keep him from sunburns. His hat was like a shade tree that traveled with him.

- The shade from a cowboy hat also kept him cool.
- The hat was also like an umbrella to keep him from getting soaking wet.
- The cowboy hat was like a pair of sunglasses to keep the bright sun out of his eyes
- His hat also kept the wind and the dirt from tangling and matting his hair into such a mess that it would be impossible to comb.

### Equivalent to the Cowboy Hat:

[ Have a duffle bag or saddle bags filled with some of the following items; then take each item out and tuck them into your belt or under your arm; just look ridiculous to make the point that there is way too much stuff taking up space on the horse or in the saddle bags----kids LOVE this part of the message and go away with the memory of “way too much stuff” taking the place of what really is important. ]

Think about what a Western Movie would look like if the cowboy carried what we think we have to have to have the **equivalent to the Cowboy Hat**:

- First you start with a ball cap with you're your favorite team Logo.
- Got to have the Sun blocker
- Medicine for a raw sunburned face and chapped lips.
- Extra water, Cokes, and Gatorade to replace all that he would sweat out.
- He would need a fan to keep from getting sun stroke. Oh yes, I need an extra extra long extension cord for this.....might be a long ride.
- He would have to carry an umbrella to keep from getting pneumonia.
- Don't forget the designer sunglasses.
- Then for your hair, you have to have regular shampoo, conditioner, special tangle free conditioner, extra combs and brushes, hair dryer, and hair spray.

Man! What a load to carry in your saddle bags! You will be heading into a time in your life, if you are not already there, where you are overly concerned with your appearance. You will spend 30 minutes fixing your hair, you want to color your hair (boys, as well as girls), put highlights in it, put glitter in it, and put a moose in it, oops! That is “mousse it”. There is way too much vanity in our culture.



**A Good Coat:** This Drovers coat is not meant to be a fashion statement; it was made to be durable and waterproof. It could keep you dry in a rain storm without getting you too hot (yokes let air circulate), but in cold weather it could be fixed to keep you warm. It had straps to keep it from blowing up in a storm so your legs would stay dry.

Today we have to have several coats. You wouldn't want to have on the wrong coat for the right occasion!

- Gotta have several for Church. Girls should have a different one for each outfit, right?
- Designer jacket that is in style for your trips to the mall.
- A jersey type coat with the logo of your favorite team.
- A different one for golfing.
- And, oh yeah! You need a coat to keep you from getting cold.

Don't we spend way too much time considering what other people think and too little concerned with what God thinks?

*I Samuel 16: 7b For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance but the Lord looketh on the heart.*

**Cowboy Boots:** These boots have pointed toes to allow a cowboy to get his foot in the stirrup easily. The deep shank makes it easy to keep your foot in the stirrups. The tall tops keep the thorns and branches from scratching your ankles and legs. Not to mention, they keep snakes from biting your lower legs.

Today we have 50,000 varieties of tennis shoes: some for running, some jogging, some walking, some basketball, and even some for playing tennis. We have golf shoes and baseball shoes. We have loafers and lace-ups. Platform shoes and hiking boots. Do we really need all of these shoes? The cowboy who was focused on what he chose to do didn't need to carry a bunch of shoes in his saddle bags.

In the way that a cowboy decided what was important to him, we need to look through what we value in our life to see what is profitable.

*Matthew 16: 26 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"*

What we do for the Lord is all that matters. Everything else is just useless baggage and weight that slows us down along the trail and will distract us from where we are going.

When the Israelites crossed into Cannan, two tribes didn't go. They got their eyes off of where God was directing and instead focused on their stuff.

I don't want to see any of you let this world's stuff stop you short of what God has picked out for your life.