

Trail Boss, Coosey, & Hoodlum



Trail Boss, Coosey, & Hoodlum

Suggested Props to Use:

- † A Chuck Wagon if you have access to one.
- † Pictures or Visuals of Old West Cattle Drives

Introduction:

Everyone on a trail drive had an important function: without them, the job of getting the cattle to market was much tougher. You could not go very far on the drive without the chuck wagon and coosey (cook). The cowboys needed more than jerky to survive.

Without the coosey and the chuck wagon they would not have gone far before everyone was too weak or sick to do their job and then no one would reach their destination. The coosey needed some help to prepare the meals and doctor the cowboys along the trail. He had a helper, that he was in charge of, that was called the “hoodlum”.

When we call someone that name today we are calling the person a trouble-maker and possibly a criminal. Actually the name hoodlum meant something quite different only 150 years ago.

This was the lowest ranked person on the drive. It was usually a young man, possibly a teenager, that was going on his first drive and had the position so he could watch and learn while he did what the cook told him.

When someone wanted to be a cowboy, they had to start at the bottom as a hoodlum. A rancher that wanted his son to learn about trail drives would start him at the bottom as a hoodlum so he could work his way up and understand everything involved in ranching.

Think about the son of a rancher that will inherit his dad’s big ranch someday and be wealthy but first he takes the lowest position of anyone on the ranch. To some that doesn’t seem right and it doesn’t seem fair, but it is in some ways a picture of what God has done for us.

John chapter 1 tells that in the beginning, God the Father and God the Son were one. They together created all things. However, God the son CHOSE to leave his splendor and power in Heaven to take on the body of a man, Jesus Christ, to become a lowly servant. He came to be abased and made fun of. He came to take on a lowly job on this trail drive of life to be similar to the hoodlum.

Matt. 2:1-2 & 25:34 (King James Version)

1Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Why did Jesus, who is all powerful and all knowing, chose to take this lowly position when he came to earth? Let's read:

Matthew 25:34 (King James Version)

34Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world

He did it for you and me. He became the servant of mankind and offered himself so we could receive the gift of His perfect, sinless life. Jesus came to earth and did not demand that we hold him up as a king even though He is the "King of Kings". He planned to come as the "low man in the trail drive" from the foundation of the world.

Who recognized that He was really a King instead of a servant?

Very few knew who He was even though so much was written about him before he came. A few wise men from the East understood. These were Persian descendants of wise men or magicians that had been trained by Daniel back when he was taken captive to Babylon. *They studied what God had given to Daniel and believed his writings, **but most of the Jews, God's chosen people, did not.*** The few that understood went out and told as many as would believe and they told others. This has continued on until today just like I am telling you.

The hoodlum had the lowest position on a trail drive but his job was necessary to achieve their goal of reaching Kansas.

Jesus CHOSE the lowest position of servant but His job was necessary so we could have the opportunity to accept the free gift that He offered and we can reach the goal of eternity in Heaven if we choose to accept Him as Savior.