



TRAIL TIP:

Never Tailgate on a Trail Ride.

Several years ago we ventured to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon on a mule ride that goes down into the Canyon on an extremely narrow trail.

While sitting on the mule you can touch the Canyon wall with one hand and if you look to your other side all you see is the bottom of the Canyon. You can't see the trail you are on because it is extremely narrow.

Just like on a Trail Ride with horses, the mules go single file the majority of the time. So that means one horse, or mule in this case, lines up behind another one and just follows the leader.

One of us was on the mule named Chubby. He had earned this name by his reputation. He liked to stop and eat along the way from whatever clump of grass or vegetation was growing on the side of the Canyon wall. Because he liked to eat a lot, he eventually got the nickname of Chubby and he was a little broader than the rest of the mules on the trail ride.

Thing about it is, when Chubby would stop to munch, the mule behind him wanted to keep the trail ride going and on schedule so he would end up "tailgating" Chubby. Chubby felt crowded and the next thing you know you have a little "kicking" and "bucking" going on while you are sitting on this mule at elevation 8000+ feet above the Canyon floor on a trail about six inches wide.

Chubby was holding up the mule train! Progress was not being made down the trail! Everyone behind Chubby was in jeopardy of being left behind! We had to make mid-trail marker by lunch time or we wouldn't be at our destination by nightfall! Chubby was a problem, an obstacle, a hindrance to getting the job done.

In fact, Chubby was holding up the trail ride; kicking the next mule in the face; & being a general nuisance all for his own pleasure stroll down the side of that very dangerous trail. He had a job to do; get the rider safely to the next destination, but instead, he had side-tracked on his own agenda.

I've lived long enough now to tell you that you don't want to be the hindrance on the trail to getting things accomplished for the Lord. Taking your own leisurely trip may look like the easy path and the fun path, but you might be hindering the work of the Lord and you might have to be moved to the back of the pack or even worse, left up at the stables because you are more of a hindrance than a help.

But here's the thing: It was the Trail Boss's job to decide what to do about Chubby; it was not the mule behind him that needed to crowd or tailgate Chubby into compliance.

Romans 14:10 *"But why dost thou judge thy brother?..."*

Truly, sometimes a Christian brother must be dealt with, but this should be done the Bible way per Jesus' own plan from **Matthew 18: 15-17**. There is a proper way to deal with offences and hindrances. If you try to tailgate or crowd to solve an issue with someone, you could get a swift kick in the teeth.

1 Corinthians 14:40 *"Let all things be done decently and in order."*