

C. Moving on Down the Trail: Colorado or the Jornada?

When a wagon train made it to Dodge City it was well known that it could choose one of two established trails to Santa Fé. There was the mountain route that ran into Colorado which followed the Arkansas River west to Bent's Fort where there it turned southwest through the Raton Pass² into New Mexico. This was the longest but safest route. The other was known as the Cimarron Cutoff. At the Cimarron River the train would ford across it into a vast, dry, desert landscape known as the Jornada. There were no landmarks in sight as guideposts. It was a flat, hot, waterless wasteland, but if you could make it to Fort Union, it cut a lot of time off the trip.

The best description of these two options is given by Frank Waters' chapter, "The Santa Fé Trail," in his book, *The Earp Brothers of Tombstone*:

The Mountain, or Pike's Peak Route continued up the Arkansas to the junction of the little stream from the Colorado Rockies called Las Animas by the Spaniards, the Purgatoire by the French, and later the Picketwire by the cowboys. Here, at the most famous rendezvous of trappers, prairie and mountain men in the west, stood Bent's Fort.

From here the wagons turned southwest, crawling over Raton Pass at a rate of three or four miles a day and crossing the range to the high plateau on which stood Taos; thence down into the deep gorge of the Rio Grande and so through the river valley to Santa Fé. Or else the wagons from Trinidad [Colorado], at the bottom of Raton Pass, could follow along the base of the mountains to Las Vegas, where they met again the Cimarron Cut-Off.

The Cimarron Cut-Off was less arduous than the Mountain Route, but perhaps more dangerous. This region between the Arkansas and the Cimarron, commonly called the Jornada, was a stretch of desert where men traveling fifteen miles a day might go for days without water.³

There are several books available about the Santa Fé Trail. Surely one of the best is Josiah A. Gregg's *Commerce of the Prairies*:

The ordinary supplies for each man's consumption during the journey, are about fifty pounds of flour, as many more of bacon, ten of coffee and twenty of sugar, and a little salt.

² Raton Pass \re-tón\. Mountain pass, Las Animas country, southeast Colorado, on Colorado-New Mexico boundary just north of Raton, New Mexico; 7834 feet; formerly traversed by a branch of the Santa Fe Trail" (*Merriam-Webster's Geographical Dictionary* (2007), s.v. "Raton Pass.")

³ Frank Waters, "The Santa Fé Trail," in *The Earp Brothers of Tombstone* (New York: Clarkson N. Porter, 1960, rept. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1976), 49–51.



The buffalo is chiefly depended upon for fresh meat, and great is the joy of the traveler when that noble animal first appears in sight.

The wagons most in use upon the Prairies are manufactured in Pittsburgh; and are usually drawn by eight mules or the same number of oxen. (p. 10)

Oxen were found, to the surprise of the traders, to perform almost equal to mules. They possess many advantages, such as pulling heavier loads than the same number of mules, particularly through muddy or sandy places; but they generally fall off in strength as the prairie grass becomes drier and shorter, and often arrive at their destination in a most shocking plight. (pp. 10–11)

The inferiority of oxen as regards endurance is partially owing to the tenderness of their feet; for there are very few among the thousands who have traveled on the Prairies that ever knew how to shoe them properly. Mules, for the most part, perform the entire trip without being shod at all.

Supplies being at length procured, and all necessary preliminaries systematically gone through, the trader begins the difficult task of loading his wagons. Those who understand their business, take every precaution so to stow away their packages that no jolting on the road can afterwards disturb the order in which they had been disposed. The ingenuity displayed on these occasions has frequently been such, that after a tedious journey of eight-hundred miles, the goods have been found to have sustained much less injury than upon our western steam-boats.⁴ (p. 11)

From Gregg's comments we are able to develop some principles of problem-solving. Here are a few:

1. The major incentive for blazing the Santa Fé Trail was free enterprise. Biblical principles are observed in the traders' preparation process.
2. Christianity and the profit motive associated with free enterprise are mutually complementary. In order to prosper, one must provide the best product to get the best possible price.
3. Further, the more products he is able to sell, the greater the profit. These traders believed there was a bull market in Mexico.

⁴ Josiah A. Gregg, *Commerce of the Prairies* (London: Pantianos Classics, 2019), 10–11.



4. Extreme care in packaging their merchandise meant a maximum inventory would arrive unharmed in Santa Fé.
5. The first order of business for these traders was to pack as many of their wares in the limited space provided and to so do in such a manner that they could survive an 800-mile trip without benefit of what is referred to today as infrastructure.
6. Christianity provides the entrepreneur with norms and standards which will enable him to earn the highest profit on his goods. These principles simply make sure that both the trader and his customers benefit equally in their transactions.
7. Some of these principles can be seen in the following verses:

1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done professionally and in an organized manner.

Deuteronomy 25:15 You shall have a full and just weight; you shall have a full and just measure, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

Romans 12:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another.

Proverbs 30:24 An excellent wife makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies belts to the tradesmen.

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work from the soul, as for the Lord rather than for men;

v. 24 Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.

1 Thessalonians 4:11 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you;

v. 12 so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and have need of nothing.



2 Thessalonians 3:10

When we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat.

v. 11

For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

v. 12

Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

It was on May 15, 1831, that our little party set out from Independence. The general rendezvous at Council Grove was our immediate destination. It is usual for the traders to travel thus far in detached parties, and so to assemble there for the purpose of entering into some kind of organization, for mutual security and defence during the remainder of the journey. (Gregg, p. 11)

8. The ultimate objective is Santa Fé, but the current objective is in Council Grove. You do not seek to make the trek to the ultimate objective alone, you must become organized for security and defence.
9. The spiritual application is that no one makes it to experiential sanctification alone, that is attempting to do it by yourself through human energy.
10. The soul must be fortified if it is to maintain an environment in which safe travel is possible. Fortification occurs during the exercise of the two power options: (1) the filling of the Holy Spirit and (2) a high inventory of working objects in the stream of consciousness.
11. Your spiritual Council Grove is the rendezvous with the Holy Spirit through confession alone to God alone. He will teach you all you need to know to make the journey and retain that information in your memory traces for recall and application along the way.
12. Preparation for the advance to your spiritual Santa Fé demands proficiency in the three spiritual skills: (1) the filling of the Holy Spirit, (2) facilitation of biblical absolutes in the frame of reference, and (3) modus operandi of the protocol plan of God.



13. The filling of the Holy Spirit energizes the system, positive volition to the teaching of the Word of God facilitates biblical truth as spiritual growth advances through positive volition. The protocol plan is basically the coordination of the plan of God for your life with your positive response to His leadership and guidance from your biblical inventory.
14. **Principle:** The sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist by divine decree. The believer's free will functions in unison with the integrity of God in order to execute the plan of God.
15. Therefore, every believer is the product of his own decisions whether positive or negative. Volition is the source of a believer's spiritual status quo.
16. It is beneficial to associate yourself with others who are of like mind. Circumstances will present themselves which require the assistance of others whose destination is the same as yours.
17. This principle is found in church unity and the mission which comes from it which is to function with fellow believers in the advance toward this ultimate objective.
18. On occasion, one believer can help a fellow traveler reach an immediate objective, after which he is then able to continue his advance toward the ultimate objective: arrival at his spiritual Santa Fé.
19. No one can make it to Santa Fé alone. Each of us needs the Holy Spirit's mentorship and the support of our fellow believers in Christ.
20. Christian fellowship is primarily the display of a believer's mental attitude of encouragement, comfort, and sometimes guidance.
21. The power in the unity of believers occurs when they are able to consistently defend their souls during the long, grueling journey to our spiritual Santa Fé.

Hebrews 10:24 Let us consider how to stimulate one another to unconditional love and divine good production,

v. 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as the habit of some is, but encouraging one another ...



Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

22. The coming together for the purpose of security and defense not only emphasizes the unity of the believer in Christ under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit, but also the unity of the royal family.
23. This unity is the emphasis of Ephesians 4:1–6 which we will now note and analyze under the Doctrine of Unity. This doctrine will inform us of our duties with other members of God's army in the scrum of the Invisible War.
24. This doctrine will bring us back to James's comments on horses. If you can learn about unity among members of the royal family of God from the principles applied on the Santa Fé Trail, then we can apply how all of this applies to the use of the tongue.



D. The Doctrine of Unity

1. We begin this paragraph with the expanded translation of the following passage:

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, continue to encourage you to walk [**behavior patterns**] in a manner worthy of your station in life [**royal family**] into which you have been called [**election**],

v. 2 associated with all grace thinking [**doctrinal orientation with emphasis on enforced humility**] and courteous considerateness [**grace orientation to one's saved status with emphasis on genuine humility**] with patience, tolerate one another by means of virtue love,

v. 3 be diligent to preserve the unity from the Holy Spirit by which we are bound together [**positional truth**] by means of peace [**reconciliation**].

v. 4 There is one body [**Royal Family**] and one Spirit [**His ministries**], just as also you have been called [**election**] to one hope [**confidence**] with reference to our station in life [**sanctification**];

v. 5 one Lord [**none other**], one faith [**in Jesus Christ alone**], one baptism [**of the Holy Spirit**],

