



THE STUDY OF CATCHING & BREAKING WILD HORSES

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Introduction

A Call to Action

As we gather in the spirit of unity and purpose, we draw upon the rich metaphor of catching and breaking wild horses to illuminate our mission as Apostolic Pentecostal believers. Just as skilled horsemen understand the intricate behaviors of wild horses, we too must engage in the art and science of reaching souls—those who are lost, broken, and searching for hope. This commentary serves as a guide, encouraging us to embrace both the gentleness of the American Indian approach and the determination of the cowboy, as we fulfill our calling to lead others to Christ.

1. The Art and Science of Catching Wild Horses

A. Techniques Used by American Indians

- Understanding Horse Behavior:
- The American Indians exemplified a profound understanding of the natural world. They observed the social structures and instincts of wild horses, recognizing that to catch a horse, one must first earn its trust. This mirrors our approach to ministry: we must cultivate relationships grounded in respect and empathy.
- Biblical Reference: Proverbs 18:24 reminds us that

“a man who has friends must himself be friendly.”

Building friendships is foundational to our outreach efforts.

- Methodology:

- Utilizing patience and stealth, they created environments where horses felt safe to approach.

As Apostolic Pentecostal preachers, we are called to create welcoming spaces in our churches where individuals can encounter the love of Christ without fear or judgment.

- Practical Application: Host community events that invite people to experience the church environment in a non-threatening way, fostering relationships before sharing the Gospel. Consider organizing open houses, potlucks, or community service projects that allow for informal interactions.

- Tales and Fables:

- The story of The Horse and the Eagle teaches us that true connection comes from honoring the spirit of those we seek to reach. In our outreach, we must remember that every soul has a unique journey, and our role is to guide them gently to Christ.

B. Techniques Used by Cowboys

- Understanding Horse Behavior:

- Cowboys, while often more aggressive in their methods, also studied horse behavior to succeed in their tasks. They understood that recognizing a

horse's instincts was crucial for effective training.

- **Biblical Reference:** James 1:22 reminds us to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. In our ministry, we must not only understand the needs of the lost but also act upon that understanding.
- **Methodology:**
 - Cowboys typically used lassos and physical strength to catch wild horses. They employed techniques like roundups, where they would drive the horses into a confined area, making them easier to catch. They also used their own trained horses to assist in the process.
- **Practical Application:** Develop outreach teams that actively seek to engage with the community, using methods that may require boldness and initiative to bring souls into the fold. This could involve door-to-door outreach, street evangelism, or partnering with local organizations to serve the community.
- **Tales and Fables:**
 - The Legend of the Lone Cowboy reminds us that while we may feel isolated in our efforts, we are strengthened by the community of believers around us. Together, we can catch and nurture those who are lost.

2. The Study of Breaking Wild Horses

A. American Indian Methods

- **Approach:**

- Breaking a horse among American Indians was a process rooted in building trust. They understood that true training comes from partnership, not domination. This is a powerful lesson for us as we disciple new believers; we must foster an environment of love and support, allowing individuals to grow at their own pace.

- Biblical Reference: 1 Thessalonians 5:11 encourages us to “comfort each other and edify one another.” Discipleship should be a nurturing process that builds up rather than tears down.

- Techniques:

- Techniques like desensitization and pressure and release can be likened to our approach in teaching the Word of God. We gently introduce individuals to biblical truths, allowing them to experience the transformative power of the Gospel.

- Practical Application: Implement small group studies that gradually introduce new believers to foundational truths of the faith, allowing them to ask questions and share their experiences. Consider using resources like Bible study guides, discussion questions, and personal testimonies to facilitate dialogue.

- Tales and Fables:

- The Story of the Gentle Touch illustrates that patience and kindness can break down barriers, much like the love of Christ can soften hardened hearts.

B. Cowboy Methods

- Approach:
- Cowboys often relied on more forceful techniques, emphasizing control. While we recognize the necessity of authority in our ministry, we must also be careful not to lose sight of compassion. Our authority in Christ should be exercised with love and grace.
- Biblical Reference: Ephesians 4:15 calls us to speak the truth in love. Even when we must be firm, our approach should always reflect Christ's love.
- Techniques:
- The use of round pen training and sacking out reflects the need for consistent engagement in our ministry. Just as cowboys work tirelessly to train their horses, we must be diligent in nurturing our congregations, providing them with the tools they need to grow in their faith.
- Practical Application: Offer discipleship classes that equip believers with the skills to navigate their faith journey, empowering them to become active participants in the church community. Topics could include prayer, worship, service, and evangelism.
- Tales and Fables:
- The Tale of the Stubborn Horse teaches us that perseverance and understanding can lead to breakthroughs. In our ministry, we may encounter resistance, but we must remain steadfast in our commitment to love and guide those who are

struggling.

3. Implications for Apostolic Pentecostal Churches

- Fivefold Ministry:
- The diverse approaches of American Indians and cowboys reflect the various roles within the fivefold ministry. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers each contribute unique skills to the body of Christ, working together to catch and train new believers.
- Practical Application: Encourage collaboration among ministry leaders to create comprehensive outreach strategies that utilize the strengths of each member of the fivefold ministry. Regular meetings and brainstorming sessions can foster unity and creativity.
- Learning from Both Methods:
- We can learn from the gentle approach of the American Indians, emphasizing relationship-building and trust, while also adopting the determination of cowboys, being bold in our outreach efforts. This duality is essential as we navigate the complexities of modern ministry.
- Building Community:
- Both approaches highlight the importance of community in the process of catching and breaking. Just as horses thrive in social settings, individuals flourish in supportive church environments. We must

cultivate a culture of belonging, where everyone feels valued and empowered.

- **Practical Application:** Foster small groups or ministry teams that encourage fellowship and support, creating an environment where individuals can share their struggles and triumphs. Regularly scheduled events like game nights, prayer meetings, or service projects can strengthen these bonds.

4. The Study of Horse Behavior

- **Understanding Instincts:**
 - Recognizing that wild horses have strong survival instincts teaches us to approach outreach with sensitivity. We must be aware of the fears and struggles that individuals face as they encounter the church.
 - **Biblical Reference:** 2 Corinthians 5:16 reminds us to view others through the lens of Christ, recognizing their potential rather than their past.
 - **Social Structures:**
 - Horses are herd animals that rely on social structures. Understanding this can guide us in fostering relationships within our church community, encouraging individuals to support one another in their spiritual journeys.
 - **Practical Application:** Encourage mentorship programs within the church, pairing seasoned believers with new members to foster growth and

accountability. This creates a supportive network where individuals can thrive.

- Communication:
- Observing the communication styles of horses—through body language and vocalizations—reminds us of the importance of non-verbal cues in our interactions. We must be attentive to the needs of those around us, responding with love and understanding.
- Biblical Reference: Colossians 4:6 instructs us to let our speech be seasoned with grace. Our words and actions should reflect the love of Christ.

5. Instructions for Catching Wild Horses

The Kickapoo tribe, like many Native American tribes, had deep connections to the land and utilized various methods for hunting and capturing wildlife, including wild horses. While I can provide a general outline of traditional methods used by Native Americans for capturing wild horses, it's important to note that specific techniques may vary based on local customs, geography, and available resources.

Here's a list of general instructions that might reflect traditional practices for capturing wild horses, inspired by the methods used by various Native American tribes, including the Kickapoo:

1. Preparation and Planning:

- **Study the Herd:** Observe the wild horses from a distance to understand their behavior, movements, and routines.
- **Identify a Suitable Location:** Look for areas where horses frequently graze, drink, or rest, such as near water sources or open plains.

2. Gathering the Right Tools:

- **Lasso or Rope:** Use a strong rope or lasso for capturing horses. Traditional methods might involve braided rawhide or other durable materials.
- **Bait:** Consider using food or water as bait to attract the horses to a specific area.

3. Setting Up a Corral:

- **Construct a Corral:** Build a temporary corral using natural materials like branches, logs, or brush. Ensure it is sturdy enough to contain the horses once they enter.
- **Create a Funnel:** Design the corral to funnel horses into a smaller area, making it easier to capture them.

4. Using Decoys or Other Horses:

- **Utilize Trained Horses:** If available, use trained horses to help attract the wild horses. They can act as decoys, making the wild horses feel more comfortable approaching.
- **Mimic Horse Sounds:** Some tribes would use

sounds to mimic horses, attracting wild ones to the area.

5. The Capture:

- **Wait for the Right Moment:** Be patient and wait for the wild horses to approach the bait or enter the corral.
- **Use the Lasso:** When a horse is within range, throw the lasso to catch it around the neck or body. Aim for a quick and gentle capture to minimize stress for the animal.
- **Teamwork:** If possible, work with others to encircle or guide the horses into the corral.

6. Handling the Captured Horses:

- **Calm the Horses:** Once captured, approach the horses calmly and quietly to avoid startling them.
- **Secure the Horses:** Tie them safely within the corral using ropes to prevent escape.
- **Provide Water and Food:** Offer food and water to help the horses acclimate to their new surroundings.

7. Caring for the Horses:

- **Observe Health:** Check the horses for any injuries or signs of distress. Provide care as needed.
- **Training:** Begin the process of training and taming the horses gradually, using patience and gentle methods.

Note

These instructions are a general representation of traditional practices and may not accurately reflect the specific techniques used by the Kickapoo tribe. Additionally, capturing wild horses can be a complex process that requires knowledge of animal behavior and local customs. It is essential to approach such activities with respect for the animals and the environment.

Conclusion: The Call to Catch and Break

As we reflect on the study of catching and breaking wild horses, let us embrace the lessons we have learned. The art and science of outreach and discipleship require both gentleness and assertiveness, patience and boldness.

In our pulpits, let us proclaim the transformative power of Christ, drawing upon the rich tapestry of our shared experiences. May we become skilled horsemen in the Spirit, catching the wild horses of our communities and breaking them in with love, understanding, and the truth of the Gospel.

Together, as Apostolic Pentecostal believers, let us embark on this journey, knowing that we are called to lead others to the abundant life found in Jesus Christ.

Let us be the hands and feet of Christ, reaching out to those in need, and guiding them to a place of healing and restoration.

As we move forward, may we continually seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our efforts, praying for wisdom, strength, and compassion as we engage in this vital work. Let us remember that every soul matters to God, and our calling is to reflect His love in all that we do.

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Read and Obey Acts 2:38

