

Riding in a Stagecoach

Back when the West was being settled, the major means of transportation was the stagecoach. We've seen persons riding in stagecoaches in western movies.

We might not be aware, however, that the stagecoach had three different kinds of tickets – first-class, second-class and third-class.

If you had a first-class ticket, it meant you could remain seated during the entire trip, no matter what happened. If the stagecoach got stuck in the mud, or had trouble making it up a steep hill, or even if a wheel fell off, you could remain seated because you had a first-class ticket.

If you had a second-class ticket, you could also remain seated – until there was a problem. In case of a problem, second-class ticketholders would have to get off until the problem was resolved. You could stand to one side and watch as other people worked. You didn't have to get your hands dirty. But second-class ticketholders were not allowed to stay on board. When the stagecoach was unstuck, you would get back on and take your seat.



If you had a third-class ticket, you would definitely have to get off if there was a problem. Why? Because it was your responsibility to help solve the problem. You had to get out and/or push and/or help to fix a broken wheel or whatever was

needed, because you only had a third-class ticket.

Sometimes it seems as if many of us behave as if we held first- or second-class tickets.

What is really troublesome for me – and perhaps for you, too – is to hear someone say, “Well, that’s not in my job description.”

If there is something we *can* do, we should be ready to step in and help solve the problem.

The best leaders are those who are willing to work side by side with their associates to accomplish what is before them.

– Beecher Hunter