

JUST ROLL THE DICE

ser4074 Get Out of the House, Pt 2

September 12, 2021 E & L

I. **(HOOK)** JUST ROLL THE DICE

A. What comes to your mind when you think of the phrase, “Just roll the dice!”?

1. Is it a childhood chalk game on the sidewalk?

(show photo)



2. Is it the soldiers gambling for the robe of Christ at the foot of the Cross?

(show photo)



3. Is it playing Monopoly, praying you'll roll a 4 so that you land on Pennsylvania Railroad,

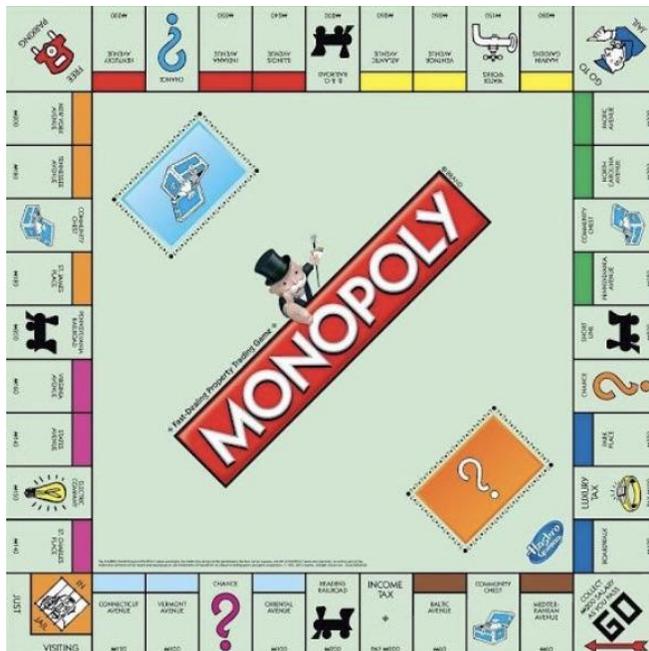
purchase it, and now own all four railroads? **(show photo, p2)**

4. Is it James Bond gambling to save the world? **(show video clip – James Bond playing craps, 56 seconds)**

5. Or, maybe it is you winning your first four hands at craps in Atlantic City thinking it's your lucky day. But it wasn't, and you went home in the hole ... big time.

B. There is still another kind of scene where the dice are rolled, but the dice are not dice, it's merely an expression to explain a situation where the *outcome* is unknown, until the hand is played.

Let's look at it!



II. (BOOK) OUR TEXT

A. Acts 23: (selected)

Here's the setting. After his conversion from Saul of Tarsus to Saint Paul, the apostle travels throughout Asia proclaiming the gospel. If he stays one place for any length of time, in more cases than not, the Jews who oppose his message band together, trump up falsehoods, and seek to have him killed. So, Paul is constantly on the run, moving from one place to another, seeking to save his own life.

In this particular instance, Paul has traveled with his trusted companions to Jerusalem to give the elders and council an update regarding his mission work among the Gentiles and Jews. While in the Temple, Paul is arrested for supposedly bringing a Gentile into Temple. The angry crowd is screaming for his head. The Roman soldiers intervene and save his life. The next day Paul is brought before the chief priests and Sanhedrin. ([Let's pick up the story here.](#))

Acts 23: 6-10

⁶ But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Men *and* brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!”

NOTE: This is not completely accurate, but neither is it totally inaccurate. But that’s for another time. What he does here is find a way to divide the court, to get a split jury.

⁷ And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided. ⁸ For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both. ⁹ Then there arose a loud outcry. And the scribes of the Pharisees’ party arose and protested, saying, “We find no evil in this man; ^[a] but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God.”

¹⁰ Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring *him* into the barracks.

B. [LOOK] What has St Paul done here?

He has rolled the dice. He doesn't know if he's going to roll a seven, two, six, eight or snake eyes. The Preacher said in *Ecclesiastes 9:11*, "time and chance happen to everyone;" and this apostle is counting on this being his LUCKY day. He's praying for an eight—new beginnings—and the LORD gives him one. (Let's read one more verse from *Acts 23*.)

¹¹ But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, ^[b]"Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."

A SIDE NOTE ABOUT FLIPPING THE COIN. *Proverbs 16:33* says, The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD. In the Old Testament the casting of lots was often how decisions were made from the selection of duties in the Temple, to the allotment of land to the twelve tribes. It was how Jonah was revealed. The Romans cast lots for Jesus garments. It was also how the disciples replaced Judas with Matthias. They cast lots, or if you please, flipped a coin, between Joseph and Matthias and the lot fell on Matthias. Stay with me for a moment. (Let's read it!) *Acts 1:23-26*

²³ And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

I’m not saying God can’t make the coin come up heads or tails; He can. However, why would we rely on flipping a coin when we can hear from the Holy Spirit. In **Acts 13:2-5 (selected)**, we read,

² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.

⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they ... preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John [Mark] as *their* assistant.

II. **(TOOK)** WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE WHEN YOU ROLL SCRIPTURAL DICE?

A. There are many places in life we roll the dice.

1. **Job** – if you find a job you love, it’s not just a job—it’s a joy.

2. **Profession** – some change professions many times in their lives, unable to find their fit.
3. **Spouse**—some get it right the first time, others the second or third, some never seem to get it right. Hummm!
4. **Casino** – not a good idea.
5. **Following Christ**—the Parable of the Sower gives us four types of Christ followers.

NOTE! Sadly, some look at all of life as a crapshoot. Not knowing the end result.

B. As disciples of Christ, there are certain areas in which we roll the dice, and no matter what, we are promised a victorious outcome.

Why do we know that is true?

Psalm 126:5

Those who sow in tears
Shall reap in joy.

⁶He who continually goes ^[c]forth weeping,
Bearing ^[d]seed for sowing,
Shall doubtless come again ^[e]with rejoicing,
Bringing his sheaves *with him*.

Isaiah 55: 10-11

Rain and snow fall from the sky
and don't return without watering the ground.
They cause the plants to sprout and grow,

making seeds for the farmer
and bread for the people.

¹¹ The same thing is true of the words I speak.
They will not return to Me empty (KJV void).
They make the things happen that I want to happen,
and they succeed in doing what I send them to do.

C. When you *get out of the house*, cast God's seed wherever you go, it will not return empty.



1. Give someone a WFYT. (**photo of WFYT**)

2. Put a GCCC lamb & cross on your car. (**photo of lamb & cross in the circle**)



3. Hand someone a PIC (Proclamation Invitation Card). (**show photo of 9:15 & 11:15 business card**)

4. Wear a GCCC, or some other t-shirt, that proclaims Christ. (**show photo**)

5. Invite someone to Church.



6. Do a kind deed. Tip generously. Lend a helping hand. Prepare a meal. (On second thought, if you can't cook, buy and a deliver meal. LOL!)



ILLUSTRATION: My first personal secretary, Marilyn Formica, Jewish in upbringing, came to know Christ because when her husband left her with three small children, a little church down the street heard about it and delivered her groceries.

7. Introduce someone to WIAMRadio, Forever Young, Grief Share, Friends Needing Friends, Divercity, The Rising, Riders of the Lamb, a COF, Kingdom Kidz, Chain Breakers, then walk along side of them until they feel comfortable and have found a home.

ILLUSTRATION: Over the past year and a half, Chain Breakers, in spite of the COVID restrictions, has gotten out of the house and taken the GOSPEL to five non-religious treatment centers. The result has been 12 people saved and baptized, and another 300 FTDs



where they have planted a seed (the word of God). ([show photo](#))

D. Haunting words from the Apostle Paul in *Acts 20:26*.

²⁶ Therefore, I [s] testify to you this day that I am [t] innocent of the blood of all people.²⁷ For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

Now, is Paul speaking about the ENTIRE world? No! He's speaking in the context of where he's been and the efforts he has made. "Lord, let us be able to say the same." And the Church said, "Amen!"

IV. CLOSING/INVITATION

In closing, let me not be guilty of your blood. Let me give you an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ and be saved. **Here's how:**

Admit – your sins have separated you from God.
(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)
(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

ser4074, *Just Roll the Dice*, (Get Out of the House, Pt 2). 1652 words (approximately 12.42 minutes)