

## SERMON BULLETIN / OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The Dice on the Cross: A Game of Chance or a Choice of Faith?

**MAIN TEXT:** Matthew 27:35, John 19:23-24

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES:** Joshua 24:15, Hebrews 6:6, James 4:4, Galatians 2:20

**KEY THEME:** The choices we make in the face of Christ's sacrifice

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## SERMON NOTES

### I. INTRODUCTION: THE DICE AT CALVARY

- Dice were literally cast at Jesus' crucifixion (Matthew 27:35)
- More than just a game—a symbol of human distraction during divine moments
- While salvation was being accomplished, soldiers gambled for scraps
- **Key Question:** Are we spiritually gambling while God is moving?

### II. THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT: SYSTEMS OF COMPROMISE

- Two competing systems in Jesus' day:
  - Jewish religious tradition (meant to point to Messiah)
  - Roman political power (offered safety through compromise)
- **Three groups who "threw dice":**
  1. Religious leaders (chose tradition over truth)
  2. Pilate (chose popularity over justice)
  3. The crowd (chose Barabbas over Jesus)
- Each chose temporary benefit over eternal reality

### III. THE DICE IN MODERN HANDS

- We throw "dice" when we:
  - Choose comfort over conviction
  - Remain silent when we should speak truth
  - Judge others to elevate ourselves
  - Use spiritual gifts for personal gain
  - Prioritize worldly security over kingdom obedience
- **Modern Examples:**

- Church leaders focusing on numbers over discipleship
- Believers quiet about faith at work/school
- Choosing entertainment over prayer/Bible study
- Treating salvation like fire insurance rather than life transformation

#### **IV. THE DANGER OF SPIRITUAL GAMBLING**

- Dice represent: Chance, uncertainty, temporary focus
- The Cross represents: Purpose, certainty, eternal focus
- **Four dangers:**
  1. Spiritual instability (James 1:6-8)
  2. Missed divine appointments
  3. Wasted Kingdom opportunities
  4. Re-crucifying Christ through our choices (Hebrews 6:6)

#### **V. HOW TO LAY DOWN THE DICE (PRACTICAL STEPS)**

1. **Daily surrender** - "Not my will but Yours be done"
2. **Holy Spirit guidance** - Ask for direction in every decision
3. **Eternal perspective** - See beyond immediate circumstances
4. **Accountability** - Let others speak into your choices
5. **Scripture meditation** - Let God's Word shape your values

#### **VI. THE RESURRECTION HOPE**

- The empty tomb changes everything
- We're no longer gamblers—we're children of destiny
- Even the soldiers at the cross could find redemption
- **Our identity:** Chosen, called, committed (no more chance!)

#### **VII. ALTAR CALL / APPLICATION**

- What "dice" are you holding?
- Areas needing surrender:
  - Relationships
  - Finances

- Career/Education
  - Time/Resources
  - Hidden sins/compromises
  - Prayer of commitment: Exchange dice for the cross
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## **BULLETIN INSERT / HANDOUT**

### **THE DICE ON THE CROSS**

#### **Today's Reflection Questions:**

1. Where in my life have I been "gambling" with my faith—playing it safe rather than being all in for Jesus?
2. What temporary benefits have I chosen over eternal rewards this past week?
3. When have I been like the soldiers—so close to Jesus but distracted by lesser things?

#### **This Week's Challenge:**

1. **Identify one "dice"** you need to lay down (a compromise, fear, distraction)
2. **Take one step of bold obedience** in an area where you've been playing it safe
3. **Share** with one person what God is teaching you about wholehearted commitment

#### **Memory Verse:**

*"But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." — Joshua 24:15*

#### **Small Group Discussion Starters:**

1. How can we recognize when we're "throwing dice" spiritually?
  2. What practical steps help us maintain an eternal perspective daily?
  3. How do we balance wisdom with bold faith in decision-making?
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