

6/27/21

ACT 41  
FB 10

## Sermon – Skins or Shirts

Scripture- Ephesians 1:8-11, Isaiah 55:8-9, Isaiah 46:9-10, Romans 8:28, Gen 50:20

### Main Message –

When I was in school, particularly junior high my favorite GYM activity was a dodgeball variant called prison-ball. (Explain Prison-ball) Back in that day the teams were divided in a way that no one would ever do today – We were separated by shirts vs skins. Any form of dodgeball can sting a bit more by not having a shirt on. The skins team was a bit more motivated because they didn't have any layer of protection and that ball could come from both directions. It was a game. Nearly every game has sides. Every game worth playing has a winner and a loser. Dodgeball is a game of skill, not chance.

Life is a game of skill – not chance. A great excuse is to say, “oh, that's bad luck.” Searching the KJV of the Bible, you will not find the word LUCK in there one time. Saying there is good luck, bad luck, or whatever, denies the sovereign authority of God. Nothing happens without him knowing, allowing, or directing. God knows all things. What looks like “Luck” to us is nothing more than His plan being fulfilled even when we do not see it. **Ephesians 1:8-11**

If a deer runs in front of your car, or worse, motorcycle is it bad luck or does it fit into God's purpose. We don't know, so we distill our feelings on the matter down to a statement of Bad Luck. We are very finite creatures. The seemingly random acts of life are actually the complex interactions that make things happen to a greater purpose that we cannot fathom. **Isaiah 55:8-9**

It's like that clock up there on the wall. We can tell the time by looking up there and seeing where the hands are. The hands are only the results of complex machinery inside. If I take the hands off, its still a clock but we can't tell the time because what is obvious to us is now missing, but the clock is still ticking away, fulfilling its purpose. God's creation works like a clock with no hands to us. We can't see the purpose easily, but it is still there. **Read Isaiah 46: 9-10**

We might find life less frustrating, or aggravating, or confusing or however your feeling when you pause and realize that God is truly in charge of all things. If you are inundated with feelings of “bad luck” it could be that you are lacking in skill, because just like dodgeball, life is a game of skill, not chance. Accept that God has you the way you are for good purpose. Learn that purpose. Learn his will for your life and then your thoughts of luck can be thrown out the window.

There is a saying out there that says, “I am a great believer in luck. The harder I work, the more of it I seem to have.” It's a clever quote, but that still misses the mark. You can work hard on things that God would not have you do and you will find frustration and difficulty and little, if any success. What you must want is to be called according to HIS perfect purpose for you. **Romans 8:28**

If you are to look into this world and see all of its issues and problems and anger and hostility and any other negative adjective you can imagine it can steal your peace. BUT if you recognize that God is in charge, even though what you can witness looks terrible, you can hold onto your peace. If you don't see that God is in charge, you risk being swept away by the world and fall into depression, anger, or some other bad place.

Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and had a terrible time, but he stayed true to God and remained faithful even though evil was done onto him. This is what he said to his brothers in **Genesis 50:20:... but as for you...** That is the right perspective on the matter. GOD is in charge. Whether the days look good or evil, He will see his will done.

So, is it bad luck to get picked as skins? It may feel like it, but it is actually fulfilling God's purpose. With great skill, you may even get to win the game. So it is with peace in your heart in this life. Trust in the Lord and lean not unto your own understanding.

AMEN