

A set of 10 ten-minute plays, each referencing one of the Ten Commandments. As with all ten-minute plays, the settings are simple and straightforward. A variety of tones are adopted: some humorous, some tragic.

TEN-MINUTE DECALOGUE:
The Ten Commandments Each in a 10-Minute Play
By Paul Dawson

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TEN-MINUTE DECALOGUE

The Ten Commandments each in a ten-minute play



No other Gods



Name in vain



Holy Sabbath



Honor parents



Do not kill



No adultery



Do not steal



No false witness



Neighbor's wife



Neighbor's goods

Paul
Dawson

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ISBN: 978-1-64718-717-0

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Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida.

Printed on acid-free paper.

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BookLocker.com, Inc.
2020

First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Dawson, Paul
Ten-Minute Decalogue by Paul Dawson
Library of Congress Control Number: 2020912960

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Decalogue 1

THE LUCK OF THE DRAW

A ten-minute play in one scene

Paul Dawson

Paul Dawson

CHARACTERS

Radio station anchor

Caller #1

Caller #2

Caller #3

Caller #4

SETTING

Talk radio station studio.

Callers may be prerecorded or perhaps sitting in the audience and calling in on mobile phones.

TIME

The present, immediately after a SixtyBall lottery drawing.

. . .

Anchor on his/her own, live on air.

ANCHOR: Sensation tonight with the winning SixtyBall lottery numbers. The numbers chosen are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Caller #1 - what's your take on this?

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CALLER #1: It's a conspiracy. This was fixed.

SixtyBall know that nobody is going to choose such a special set of numbers. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. What are the odds of that?

ANCHOR: Why would SixtyBall engage in such a conspiracy?

CALLER #1: Easy. There won't be any winners, so they won't have to pay out this week. The jackpot gets rolled over to an even bigger amount next week. More people play next week and SixtyBall just coin it in.

ANCHOR: Thank you, Caller #1. Please stay on the line. We might come back to you. Caller #2. You've got a different opinion, I hear?

CALLER #2: You've left out the important bit. The numbers were chosen in the countdown order 6, 5, 4, 3, 2. Then the final ball number came out as 1. This is obviously a countdown from God. This is Armageddon. The world is about to come to an end and God is signaling to

us to repent all our sins while there is still time.

ANCHOR: Well, that is a troubling thought, Caller #2. Can I ask – are you a minister of religion yourself?

CALLER #2: No, I'm not. But Reverend Flood at my local church agrees with me. He says he's been expecting Armageddon to happen during his lifetime. When he was called to the ministry, he had a vision of God telling him that his name signified how the world was going to end. We shall be flooded, only there will be no Noah this time round.

ANCHOR: Did Reverend Flood give any indication of what will cause the flood. Global warming perhaps?

CALLER #2: Of course not. Don't talk nonsense. Like President Trump said, even before he was elected. *"The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive."* God, in His omnipotence, will cause the flood.

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ANCHOR: Thank you, Caller #2. Please stay on the line. Caller #3 – you have an answer to Caller #1’s question?

CALLER #3: Yes. (S)he asked ‘*what are the odds?*’ The answer is about 36 billion to 1 against these numbers being drawn.

ANCHOR: Could you tell us how you calculated those odds?

CALLER #3: It’s 60 to 1 against the first ball being 6, 59 to 1 against the second ball being 5, then 58, 57, 56, 55. Multiply all those numbers together and you get just over 36 billion.

ANCHOR: Caller #1, what’s your reaction to that?

CALLER #1: That proves my point. It’s all a fix. Those people at SixtyBall are a bunch of lousy...

Caller #1 is cut off before expletive is broadcast.

ANCHOR: We do not allow words like that to be broadcast here. This is a family station: there are people of all ages listening. Caller #2, what’s your reaction to those odds?

CALLER #2: This proves *my* point, not Caller #1's. Armageddon is forecast in The Bible. So there are two possibilities: *either* this is a countdown to Armageddon *or* it's a chance happening with odds of 36 billion to one against. I know which of the two I'm backing.

ANCHOR: Caller #2, where in The Bible is Armageddon forecast?

CALLER #2: Revelation 16:14 'to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.'

ANCHOR: Yes, Caller #2, but that talks about a battle, not a flood.

CALLER #2: You non-believers are always grasping at straws. A flood is a superb way to win a battle.

ANCHOR: Caller #4, you have a different number for the odds?

CALLER #4: Yes. I'm a high school math teacher and this is a common mistake. Caller #3 calculated correctly the odds of those numbers being drawn in that sequence. But the sequence in which the numbers

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are drawn makes no difference in SixtyBall. There are 720 sequences which all give those winning numbers, so the answer to *'what are the odds?'* about 36 billion divided by 720, or about 50 million to 1.

ANCHOR: Caller # 3, what's your reaction to that?

CALLER #3: I suspect Caller #4 is probably right. However, that seems to reinforce the point made by Caller #2. The odds of those exact six numbers being drawn in *any* sequence are astonishingly long - 50 million to one against, as Caller #4 points out. But to come out in that exact countdown sequence is fantastically more improbable. Can you tell me which church Caller #2 attends?

ANCHOR: It is strictly against station policy to advertise religious establishments. You might try googling the name of the religious minister Caller #2 identified. Caller #1 is back on the line - watch your language, Caller #1. Any repeat of what

you tried before will result in a permanent ban.

CALLER #1: We have God versus Mammon here. Caller #2 and now, apparently, Caller #3 are taking this as a sign from God. I don't believe in God, but I am curious as to why those who do would expect Him (or Her) to send a warning in such an oblique manner. I'm sticking to my view that this is evidence of corruption within SixtyBall.

This radio station and, I assume, plenty of other news media as well, has given them a great deal of publicity. Assuming nobody has been crazy enough to choose such a wildly improbable set of numbers, there will be no winner this week and the jackpot rollover, together with the publicity, will generate a huge increase in sales for SixtyBall next week. Callers #2 and 3 are saying this is God speaking. I disagree: this is SixtyBall serving Mammon.

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ANCHOR: News is coming in that there is a single winner with those numbers. We have no information as to who or where he or she is, but that lucky winner is now more than \$13 million richer. Caller #1, is this still a fix by SixtyBall?

CALLER #1: Definitely. There's been some insider trading here. As we've heard; the odds of choosing 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 are 36 billion to one against. SixtyBall have set this one up and given the - quote - lucky winner - unquote - the inside track.

ANCHOR: Caller # 2, we haven't heard from you in a while. Is this still a sign from God of Armageddon being imminent?

CALLER #2: Of course. What difference does it make if there's a winner or not? God has sent a sign that the winner will not have long to enjoy the winnings.

ANCHOR: News is coming in that the SixtyBall website has been overloaded with complaints and has been driven offline. The principal complaint seems to match Caller #1's allegation that this is insider

trading. Caller #1, please tell us what you think has gone on at SixtyBall.

CALLER #1: Well first of all, I have no wish to be hounded by SixtyBall's attorneys. I am not saying that the company itself fixed the draw, but that a rogue inside SixtyBall fixed things so that the numbers would be this fantastically unlikely sequence. Because of that vanishingly small probability, nobody could be expected to choose those numbers and so the rogue tipped off a friend to pick them and thus be the sole winner. I imagine they'll share the winnings with the insider rogue.

ANCHOR: You've changed your tune, Caller #1. Originally you were claiming that SixtyBall itself rigged these numbers for publicity purposes. Why have you changed? Fear of SixtyBall's attorneys?

CALLER #1: No. As a great economist once said "*When the facts change, I change my mind. What do you do?*" I didn't think those numbers would produce a winner

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because only a complete idiot would choose them. Discovering that there is a winner changes the facts.

ANCHOR: Caller #4, you have another mathematical insight to contribute. Please bear in mind that our listeners may have let go of the high school math that you teach.

CALLER #4: I've just checked online. Last week's numbers were drawn in the sequence 57, 17, 14, 29, 43, 28. Guess what! The odds against those numbers being drawn in that sequence are also about 36 billion to one and against them being drawn in any sequence are also about 50 million to one. It doesn't matter what the drawn numbers are. Those same odds apply for *any* drawing of six numbers out of 60. There's nothing more special about this week's numbers than there was about last week's.

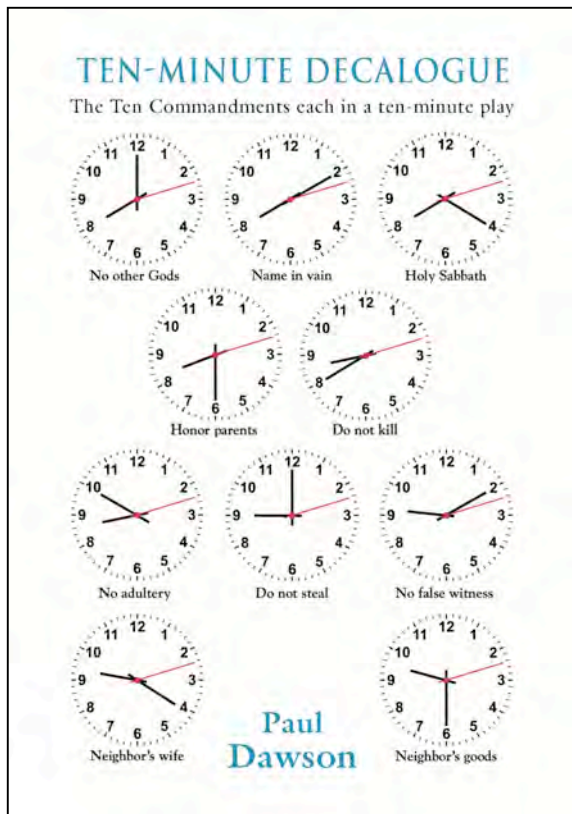
ANCHOR: The FBI have issued a statement.
"Lottery rigging is a felony and we shall be tracking down those responsible for today's

Paul Dawson

events. Those preparing themselves for Armageddon are free to enjoy their First Amendment rights, but they must recognize that the same rights are also enjoyed by those who are not anticipating imminent Armageddon."

. . .

END OF PLAY



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