

Season 3

Episode 4: Every Man For Himself

Original Air Date: October 25th 2006

Facilitation Date: October November 1st 2006

Episode Information:

Sawyer discovers how far his captors will go to thwart his and Kate's escape plans while Jack must scrub up to save an Other's life. Meanwhile, Desmond's behavior perplexes the survivors when he starts constructing an unknown device.

New Characters:

- Warden Harris - Sawyer's Prison Warden – Flashback off Island
- Clementine Phillips - Sawyer's daughter - Flashback Off Island
- "Others" - Matthew and Jason - On Island

Overall Episode Discussion Theme:

- "Every Man For Himself" deals primarily with the Sawyer's firmly held belief that a person has no greater responsibility than to assure his or her own survival - at any cost.

Key Show Facts:

- Sawyer is taken from his cage, after a failed escape attempt, where then the "Others" pretend to implant a device in his heart that will explode should his heart rate reach a certain point.
- Sawyer lies to Kate, in order to protect her, about what happened to him when the "Others" took him.
- The "Others" attempt to operate on Colleen who was previously shot by Sun, they bring Jack in for help but Colleen dies anyway.
- Sawyer is taken from his cage and led up a mountain where he discovers that nothing was implanted in him, as well as the fact that he, Kate, and Jack are on a separate "Prison" island, not the same island as the other flight 815 survivors.
- Flashbacks reveal more about Sawyer's past, the time he spent in jail, his daughter, and his general lack of interest in helping anyone but himself.

Time to speculate on the show – Sample Topics

- Whose X-Rays did Jack see?
- Why is Desmond suddenly appearing to have pre-cognitive abilities?

Scripture: **2 Timothy 3:1-5 (The Message)**

"Don't be naive. There are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God. They'll make a show of religion, but behind the scenes they're animals. Stay clear of these people."

- What does 2 Timothy 3:1-5 mean to you?
 - What is the main theme/point of the passage?
- If you were Sawyer, and someone gave you this passage to read, what would you be thinking?
 - What does the passage mean for Sawyer's nature?

Clip 1 – Selfishness I – 4:09 – 5:30 – Are you smiling?

- What is the significance of Sawyer smiling?
 - What does it say about his attitude toward others?

Definition: **Selfishness** is, at base, the concept and/or practice of concern with one's own interests in some sort of priority to the interests of others; it is often used to refer to a self-interest that comes in a particular form, or above a certain level.

- What does 2 Timothy 3:1-5 say about selfishness?
- What are some times in your life when you have felt either you or someone else was being selfish?
 - What's the story?
 - How did you feel?
 - What happened as a result?

Is it possible that sometimes we need to be selfish?

- Is this what the "Others" are doing?
- Are they maybe being selfish for a reason?

- Selfishness as a virtue: "Ayn Rand rejects altruism, the view that self-sacrifice is the moral ideal. She argues that the ultimate moral value, for each human individual, is his or her own well-being. Since a concern with one's own interests is a character trait that, when translated into action, enables one to achieve and guard one's own well-being, it follows that selfishness is a virtue. One must manifest a serious concern for one's own interests if one is to lead a healthy, purposeful, fulfilling life." - J. Raibley

http://www.objectivistcenter.org/ct-406-FAQ_Virtue_Selfishness.aspx

Definition: Virtue (Latin *virtus*; Greek *ἀρετή*) is moral excellence of a person. A virtue is a character trait valued as being good.

Do you think Sawyer believes selfishness, the every man for himself attitude, is a virtue?

- If no, why then does he choose to pursue a life of self-centeredness?

- An individual might ask himself why he ought to choose to act unselfishly anyway if he has no guarantee in advance that others in the world will not act selfishly. One will tend to act selfishly for one's own self-protection, in a world where one mainly encounters others doing the same.

- Why then is selfishness a bad thing?
- If everyone were concerned only with his or her own self, what would the world be like?

- What would you do if everyone else were selfish?

What then is the opposite of selfishness?

Clip 2 – Selflessness II – 28:25 – 31:18 – Live Together, Die Alone

- What exactly is happening inside Kate's head in this clip?
- What about Sawyer's?
 - He's lived by this Every Man for Himself mantra all his life; but, in this clip he seems to have a reversal of the concept. He's externally concerned about Kate and using his mantra as a reason for her to leave.
 - Thoughts?
 - Can the mantra even be credible if it's being used externally?
 - Doesn't it kind of defeat itself?
 - Especially considering the fact Sawyer wouldn't ever leave Kate behind.

Definition: **Selflessness** or **Altruism** is unselfish concern for the welfare of others. It is a traditional virtue in many cultures, and central to many religious traditions. In English, this idea was often described as the Golden rule of ethics. In Buddhism it is considered a fundamental property of human nature. Altruism can be distinguished from a feeling of loyalty and duty. Altruism focuses on a motivation to help others or a want to do good without reward, while duty focuses on a moral obligation towards a specific individual (for example, a God, a king), a specific organization (for example, a government), or an abstract concept (for example, country etc). Some individuals may feel both altruism and duty, while others may not. Pure altruism is giving without regard to reward or the benefits of recognition.

- Is it fair to say that Sawyer has never really made a commitment to anyone in his life before?
 - He says, "You never get attached. Cuz when you care - that's when they can come after you."
 - What about now? With Kate?
 - Are his acts (not telling her about his incision, encouraging her to leave him) selfless?
 - Even Ben Linus admits that threatening Sawyer's wasn't much of a successful restraint; but, threatening Kate was far more effective.
- What biblical characters do we identify with selflessness?
 - Moses, Jesus, etc?
 - What makes them selfless?

Clip 3 – Family III – 35:43 – 38:03 – Make it out to Clementine Phillips.

What does the last part of the clip say about Sawyer?

Devotional Activity:

Selfishness Quiz

Copy and print this portion of the lesson. Give a copy to each person and have them circle their answers. While there is no mathematical equation to determine how selfish a person is, by looking at the overall answer choices, you should be able to infer a bit into how selfish or selfless each person appears.

When going to the movies with a friend or date, you coax them into seeing your first choice.

- Often - Always - Sometimes - Never - Rarely -

As a policy, you don't lend things out to people.

- Often - Always - Sometimes - Never - Rarely -

You have difficulty listening to other people's problems.

- Often - Always - Sometimes - Never - Rarely -

You'll only do a favor if you're going to get a better favor back in return.

- Often - Always - Sometimes - Never - Rarely -

You have a bad track record when it comes to caring for pets and plants.

- Often - Always - Sometimes - Never - Rarely -

When living with roommates and / or your family, you've been known to leave stuff and messes around the house. - Often - Always - Sometimes - Never - Rarely -

At holidays, you tend not to give someone a gift unless you expect to get a gift back in return.

- Often - Always - Sometimes - Never - Rarely -

When you get together with your best friend, most of your conversations tend to revolve around what is happening in your life.

- Often - Always - Sometimes - Never - Rarely -

You've been called self-centered and / or selfish by most people who know you well.

- Often - Always - Sometimes - Never - Rarely -

You will pressure or manipulate people to get your way, when you deem it necessary.

- Often - Always - Sometimes - Never - Rarely -

Quiz courtesy of <http://www.blogthings.com>.

Further Speculation:

- Why do the others need Sawyer's respect?

- How did the Polar Bears get to the other island?
- Are the “Others” evil?
 - What if you were charged with an unimaginable task? One that required sacrifice? What if the “Others” are saving humanity and all it’s requiring is the mistreatment of the survivors of flight 815. Ex. Noah?

Clip times refer to episodes presented without commercials (i.e. On a DVD or legally downloaded through iTunes - <http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewTVSeason?i=201175874&id=200507719&s=143441>). Most recent episode also available at <http://dynamic.abc.go.com/streaming/landing> - streaming only. Scripture courtesy of <http://www.biblegateway.com>. Definitions courtesy of <http://www.wikipedia.com>. Curriculum written and prepared by Benjamin Kendrick