

### Season 3

#### Episode 8: Flashes Before Your Eyes

Original Air Date: February 14<sup>th</sup> 2007

Facilitation Date: February 21<sup>st</sup> 2007

#### Episode Information:

A suspicious and determined Hurley enlists Charlie to help him wrangle the truth out of Desmond, who has been acting strangely ever since the implosion of the hatch.

#### New Characters:

- Donovan - Physicist and Desmond's friend - Flashback off Island
- Ms. Hawking - Jewelry Store Clerk - Flashback off Island

#### Overall Episode Discussion Theme:

- "Flashes Before Your Eyes" deals primarily with the choices Desmond makes prior to his break-up with Penny. In particular this lesson will focus on whether or not our choices truly make a difference in the world.

#### Key Show Facts:

- Desmond recalls the time between the destruction of the hatch and his awaking in the jungle.
- Desmond awakes in his flat and finds that he is reliving several days of his life prior to his time on the island.
- Everything appears to be playing out the same as it did in the past, until Desmond attempts to change his future. He is told by Ms. Hawking, the jewelry store clerk, that he cannot change his destiny - directing his attention to a man with red sneakers that moments later is the victim of a life ending accident.
- Out of frustration and concern over his own sanity, Desmond ends his relationship with Penny.
- In one final epiphany Desmond realizes that he is not crazy and sets out to find Penny; but is inadvertently knocked unconscious - awakening in the jungle on the island.
- Desmond tells Charlie that it is his conviction that you cannot change the future. Revealing that every time he has appeared to save Claire, he was actually saving Charlie.

#### Time for speculation on the show – Sample Topics

- How do you feel about Desmond?
- What happened to him?
  - Was it a dream?
  - Did he actually travel back in time?
  - Was the island messing with his head?
- If you could look back on last week's show and plan this lesson... what would you focus on?
- What do we know about Desmond?
  - Is he a good person?
  - Do you consider him a man of faith?

#### Clip 1 – Fate – 15:30 – 18:43 – "You... Hume Will Never Be A Great Man"

- Mr. Widmore says that Desmond will never be a great man.
  - What does it take to be a good man?
  - Is Desmond a great man?

#### Scripture: Quote from John Wesley (The Founder of Methodism)

*"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can."*

- What does the quote mean to you?

- What is the main theme/point?
- What does it imply in terms of our ability to make a difference?
- What would it mean to Desmond?

Definition: **greatness** - *adjective*

Dictionary.com:

- 8. distinguished; famous: a great inventor.
- 9. of noble or lofty character: great thoughts.

- Of these definitions of greatness...
  - Which one would Mr. Widmore find more valuable?
    - Why?
    - Who are a few real-world example of this definition of greatness?
      - What characteristics does this type of person have that makes them synonymous with greatness?
  - Which one would Desmond find more valuable?
    - Why?
    - Who are a few real-world example of this definition of greatness?
      - What characteristics does this type of person have that makes them synonymous with greatness?
- Which definition of greatness best fits with John Wesley's words?
  - Why?
  - What does Penny tell Desmond when he asks why she loves him?
    - Penny tells Desmond, the reason she loves him is "because (he) is a good man".
    - Thoughts?

**Clip 2 – Fate – 26:00 – 28:10 (Longer Version - 31:37) – “You Can Always Tell The First Timers”**

- Ms. Hawking tells Desmond that he may not like his path; but it is his path.
  - Do we have control over our choices?
  - Or is everything already laid out for us?
- Ms Hawking would say that Martin Luther King, Jr. rose to the height of greatness and changed the way America thought about equality because it was his path.
  - Do you agree? Was he able to change the country's attitude because he was destined to?
  - Does it take more than that?
    - What else did it take?
      - God given talents that help us achieve admirable goals?
      - Passion, will, and dedication?

**Clip 3 – Fate – 35:52 – 40:14 (or 42:52) – “I Can Still Change It”**

- Is Desmond right?
  - Has he lost faith or can we truly not change it?
  - We may never know...
    - So why bother?
    - Until we know - can we TRY to change the world?
      - What does it take?

**Devotional Activity: (Time expected 10 minutes)**

Do All The Good You Can: Take a piece of construction paper. At the top, in bold letters write, “Thank You For Making A Difference”. Then on the backside of the paper, write one thing of which you are most proud - a time when something you did, made a positive impact on your family, friends, community, or the

world. Once everyone has written something on the back of his or her paper, pass your paper to your left. When everyone has passed their papers, you will draw your neighbor a picture of their proud moment on their sheet of paper and hand it back to them when you are done. These drawings will serve as a reminder of how our better actions serve as a positive impact on those around us.

**Take Home Reading:** Hand Out Copies of Devotional Reading - “Rage Against The Horror”

**Further Speculation:**

- When was Charlie supposed to have died?
- The next episode is a Jack episode, he’s just saved Ben’s life and helped Kate and Sawyer escape, what will happen to him now?

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/viewVideo?id=215048742&p=200507719&s=143441>). Most recent episode also available at <http://dynamic.abc.go.com/streaming/landing> - streaming only. Definitions courtesy of <http://www.dictionary.com>. Curriculum written and prepared by Benjamin Kendrick