

## Devotional Supplement for LOST Season 3, Episode 8

### Rage Against The Horror

Hey All,

It is no mystery that I have used the television show LOST as a theological instruction device before. In last week's episode ("last week" being when I actually wrote this), "Flashes Before Your Eyes", one of the characters relives a fraction of his life. Ultimately, he is faced with the overarching question, if I have this second chance, if I know what happens, can I fix my mistakes? Can I prevent tragedy? In a way, this is one of the biggest, most troublesome, questions of humanity. Not directly, rather metaphorically, not many people get to actively relive a chunk of their life; but here are the questions most of us ask, "Is my life of any particular consequence? Do my choices actually contribute to the wellbeing of the world? Can I make any kind of difference?" You might ask, "Does my vote count?" But, let's not place too much importance here, my intention for this devotional is to inspire, and since only 54ish percent of eligible Americans turn out to the polls during presidential elections, inspiration is in scant quantity.

It is depressing that Americans feel so unimportant, so stale, but this lack of enthusiasm is important - it gives us somewhere to start. One major source of apathy that prevents us from doing anything genuinely good with our lives is the belief that we can't change things, we know how everything is going to unfold, so we might as well sit back and watch the world play out around us. If you've seen the movie *Armageddon*, you'll remember Steve Buscemi's character, Rockhound, going a touch mental on the surface of the asteroid. Instead of knuckling down and participating in the whole "saving the world" operation, he opts to spend the remainder of his time in outer space wandering around the asteroid in search of the best place to park his rear end, and sharing cheerful remarks, "*Guess what guys, it's time to embrace the horror! Look, we've got front row tickets to the end of the earth!*" Of course, it's easier to embrace this attitude, if you don't expect much of life, others, or yourself, you'll likely never be disappointed.

But in *Armageddon*, a global catastrophe wasn't averted by guys like Rockhound, it took people with faith. People who kept believing, in spite of every let down, every failure, that they could make a difference. This is the call to our people, this is what we must do, what we must own in our hearts. Every single life is a miracle. No matter how much you attempt to break it down, familiarize it, compare it; it's miraculous, when you peer into your soul you are unlike anyone else. You have your own thoughts, beliefs, ways of doing things, your own little quirks. So when you feel you are of no significance, that your vote doesn't count, that you can't make a difference. Remember that without you, without what you believe to be important, one distinct voice will be missing from the world's pulse. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, has a famous quote, "*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*". "*Do all the good YOU can*", remember this in times when you lose faith in your own importance, "*In all the ways YOU can*", remember that even the smallest gestures sometimes mean the most, "*As long as YOU ever can*", remember to never give up - you have the blessing to make a difference until your very last breath.

Peace,

Benjamin Kendrick