

Season 3

Episode 7: Not In Portland

Original Air Date: February 7th 2007

Facilitation Date: February 14th 2007

Episode Information:

Jack is in command as the fate of Ben's life literally rests in his hands. Meanwhile, Kate and Sawyer find an ally in one of "The Others", and Juliet makes a shocking decision that could endanger her standing with her people.

New Characters:

- Edmund Burke - Juliet's Ex-husband - Flashback off Island
- Rachel - Juliet's Sister - Flashback off Island
- Richard Alpert - Mittelos Bioscience Employee - Flashback off Island

Overall Episode Discussion Theme:

- "Not In Portland" deals primarily with the various times in Juliet's life that she has been trapped. In this particular lesson we will be focusing on her inability to take charge of her own life.

Key Show Facts:

- Ben inadvertently awakens during his operation and discovers that Jack is using his life as a bargaining tool in order to help Kate escape.
- Alex Rousseau comes to Kate and Sawyer's aid, offering them a boat, if they assist her in rescuing her boyfriend Karl.
- Juliet confers with Ben and informs Jack that she will help Kate and Sawyer escape if Jack finishes Ben's operation.
- When Pickett attempts to kill Kate and Sawyer, Juliet shoots him in the chest, killing him.
- Juliet allows Kate, Sawyer, and Karl to get into the boat, but prevents Alex from leaving with them.
- Flashbacks reveal more about Juliet's past including information about her job as a fertility doctor, her marriage to Edmund, her sister Rachel, and how she came to be on the island.

Time for speculation on the show – Sample Topics

- Is Alex Ben's daughter?
- What do you think will happen to Jack now?

If you could look back on last week's show and plan this lesson... what would you focus on?

What do we know about Juliet?

- Who is she most like on the island?
- Who is she least like on the island?
- How would you compare her to Kate?

Scripture: **John 8: 31-36 (The Message)**

Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you." Surprised, they said, "But we're descendants of Abraham. We've never been slaves to anyone. How can you say, 'The truth will free you'?" Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave. A slave is a transient, who can't come and go at will. The Son, though, has an established position, the run of the house. So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through.

- What does the teaching mean to you?
 - What is the main theme/point of the passage?
 - What does it imply in terms of being trapped?

- In the context of the show...
 - Who are the Jews?
 - Who is the Son?

- What would it mean to Juliet?

Clip 1 – Trapped – 13:23 – 15:35 – “I Want In”

- What do you think of when you hear that someone is trapped?
 - What does it mean to you?
 - What do you think the definition is?

Definition: **trap** - *verb*

Dictionary.com:

14. to catch in a trap; ensnare: to trap foxes.
15. to catch by stratagem, artifice, or trickery.

- Think of a time when you felt trapped...
 - What emotions/feelings would you associate with that experience?
- Do you think Juliet would consider herself to be trapped?
 - Off the island?
 - On the island?

Clip 2 – Trapped – 19:55 – 22:07 – “I’m Not A Leader”

- Does Juliet seem to enjoy working for her ex-husband?
 - How did she act during her meeting with Richard Alpert?
 - Do you think she wants to go work for Mittelos Bioscience?
 - If so, what is holding her back?
 - Her sister?
 - Her ex-husband?
 - Fear in general?
 - If not, why don't you think she is interested?
 - Why does Richard Alpert say “Privately funded means freedom”?
 - What methods does Edmund Burke use to keep Juliet from leaving?
 - ex. Intimidation?
 - ex. Appealing to her conscience?
- What keeps people in society trapped?
 - ex. Cultural Body Image
 - ex. Financial Security
- Would you like to become trapped?
 - What's wrong with becoming trapped?
 - Is it a bad thing?
 - Why?
 - Is it a choice?

Clip 3 – Trapped – 37:50 (or 41:57) – 42:56 – “I’ve Been On This Island For Three Years”

- How can we free ourselves?
 - What does the scripture say?
 - Secular Advice
 - Always remember that we have choices.

- Where there's a will, there's a way.
 - Think creatively, outside the box, abstractly.
 - What resources are at your disposal?
 - You may have to compromise.
 - You may have to make a hard decision - but remember it's still your decision.
- Why does Juliet seem to find herself moving from one cage to the next?
 - Is there anything she could do better?
 - Utilizing her choices...
 - How could Juliet have enabled herself to work for Mittelos Bioscience without suggesting Edmund get hit by a bus?
 - How can Juliet enable herself to get off the island?
- Is the fact that Juliet helped Kate and Sawyer proof that she is still being controlled, still trapped, or was it a decision she made in order to free herself?

Devotional Activity: (Time expected 10 minutes)

Entrapment: Take a piece of paper and writing utensil, then write a list of ten things you would like to do in the next month. Of course, the more sincere and honest you are the more you will get out of this activity. With another person, go down the list asking for their permission to go and do the requested actions (ex. Can I apply to college out of state?). The partner should then, as firmly as possible tell you "no" to each request. Take your time and let the feeling of being denied your wish set in. Pay attention to your emotions. Once you have heard "no" from your partner ten times switch roles and have your partner ask for your permission, you will of course say "no" to each request. Once you have finished, pick one thing from your list, maybe one of the bigger more ambitious items and share with the group how you intend to actively make decisions to never hear no to this particular goal again.

Further Speculation:

- When Karl is strapped to a chair in the center of a room undergoing a form of aversion therapy. Loud, pounding music is playing. On the wall in front of Karl is a movie showing random images occasionally interspersed with short phrases. Karl is drugged and his eyes are forced open with goggles. Many different images are seen. The following text is displayed:

1. Plant and seed and you will joyfully gather fruit
2. EVERYTHING CHANGES
3. We are the causes of our own suffering
4. God love you as He loved Jacob
5. THINK ABOUT
6. YOUR LIFE

What do you think the significance of this scene, the pictures, and the text is?

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=215048740&p=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.dictionary.com>.

Curriculum written and prepared by Benjamin Kendrick