

Monday, July 23 – *“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”* (Hebrews 10:22) Drawing near to God is the goal. Why was the universe, our world and even little old us created? To draw near to God. The problem is that God can't draw near to sin. It's like putting two magnets together. They can't connect, they simply repel each other. God's desire for creation, for humanity, for you and for me has always been to draw near. Yet, our sin keeps us separated. Island #4 on our Journey to Be is about getting real with God. Drawing near to God with a sincere heart, free from guilt and shame, being washed clean by the pure water of baptism. This all starts with you surrendering your secrets to God and taking off all of the masks that you have been wearing in order to hide the real you. Until you get real with God, God will never be real to you!

Tuesday, July 24 – *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”* (Matthew 7:7) If you are reading this passage and asking for the winning lottery ticket, you have missed the point. You don't want the winning lottery ticket, you want peace and happiness in your life. The world has taught you that you must be rich in order to achieve that goal. You already know it isn't true, but that still doesn't change the fact that you thought about getting rich or gaining some other type of material possession when you read this verse. This verse is about relationship; it is about “asking”, “seeking”, “knocking” and opening. It is about gaining access to someone that will change everything in your life. Open the door today, open your heart today, and open your life today. Get real with God so that God will be real to you. That is truly your winning lottery ticket!

Wednesday, July 25 – *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”* (Revelation 3:20) You have probably seen this verse in picture form. It is a picture of Jesus standing by an ivy covered door with no door knob and he is knocking. The door represents your life. Jesus wants to come in and eat with you, the sign of a deep relationship, but he won't enter until you open the door and invite him. The word I want you to dwell on today is “anyone”. This verse isn't just for the Jew or the Christian or the rich or the poor or the white or the black or the male or the female, this is verse is for anyone who will open the door to Jesus. This verse is for anyone who is willing to get real with God; for anyone who is willing to surrender their secrets and take off their masks.

Thursday, July 26 – *“Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.”* (Psalm 24:3-4) How do you get clean hands and a pure heart? You get real with God. You surrender your secrets and you take off your masks. None of your sins surprise God. God already knows everything, he now desires for your heart to be clean. This is what it means to “come clean” about everything. Everyone sins and falls short of the mark, there is no guilt or shame in your sin (unless you give guilt and shame the power). There is power in confessing to God. There is power in surrendering your secrets so that they can no longer hold any power over you. God knows all and he still loves you. Isn't it time that you surrendered all and loved yourself?

Friday, July 27 – *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”* (Matthew 5:8) The only thing that is preventing you from seeing God is you. The secrets that you are holding on to and the masks that you are wearing are all preventing you from seeing God. Your secrets and masks take up so much of your time and energy that you hardly have time to focus on anything else in your life, especially God. “Pure in heart” doesn't mean perfect, it simply means complete. Blessed are those who have surrendered their secrets and taken off their masks, for they are complete. Seeing God isn't the goal, having a complete heart is the goal, for a complete heart means that you have found your “being”. Once you find your “being” you will see God because you will be complete.

Entry Ticket: After Island #3, you move from _____ to _____.

Island #4 – “ _____ ”

Surrender your _____.

Take off your _____.

God will never be _____ to you until you get _____ with God!