

Monday – July 16 – *“You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created.” (Revelation 4:11)* You were created for God’s pleasure. Not to be God’s play thing or puppet, but because you are the apple of your father’s eye. We might not always get it right, we make mistakes and we misstep, but we are and will always be God’s pleasure. How do we know this to be the case? We know this simply because of creation. We exist because of God’s love for us. God created us to be in relationship with him, always has been that way and always will be that way. We might think that all of creation is here for our pleasure, but all of creation is here for God’s pleasure. How will you live your life differently today knowing that you, as well as all of creation, is here for God’s pleasure?

Tuesday – July 17 – *“We are writing these things so that our joy will be complete.” (1 John 1:4)* What are “these things” that are being written about? The eyewitness account of Jesus. Telling the story of Jesus makes “our” joy complete because it brings us joy to share it and it brings joy to those who hear it. The collective “our” unites us under the flag of oneness instead of the disenfranchisement of the dreaded “other”. Oneness brings joy and this joy is a benefit of who we are as followers of Jesus. When you tell the story, your story of faith in Jesus, your joy is complete. When people hear your story of faith in Jesus their joy is complete. Complete means “to make something whole or perfect”. This completeness of joy is found in the oneness of the story that is our faith in Jesus.

Wednesday – July 18 – *“Who is able to advise the Spirit of the Lord? Who knows enough to be his teacher or counselor?” (Isaiah 40:13)* I don’t know about you, but there have been plenty of times in my life where I acted as if I was able to advise the Spirit of the Lord or I knew enough to be God’s teacher or counselor. There are things in this life that are well above our pay grade and yet we continue to either play God or act as if it is our business to advise God. We bargain with God when we want something to work out a certain way. We shake our fists at God when we don’t agree or understand why something has happened. We play God when we don’t even consider his point of view. The next time that you feel that God is being unfair or even cruel, the next time you ask why bad things happen to good people or the next time you launch into something without consulting God, remember today’s verse.

Thursday – July 19 – *“I had heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes.” (Job 42:5)* There it is. The difference between someone who knows about Jesus and someone who has made the decision to follow Jesus. Islands #1, #2 and #3 are all about this journey. A journey to be a follower. Moving from someone who has heard about Jesus to someone who has seen Jesus with their very own eyes. Are you asking how you see Jesus? You see Jesus in a worship service. You see Jesus in the love you show to another. You see Jesus in the grace you receive from another. You see Jesus in Bible study. You see Jesus when you hit rock bottom. You see Jesus when you are dancing on the mountain top. Have you made the move that Job is describing? Have you simply heard about Jesus or have you seen Jesus with your very own eyes?

Friday – July 20 – *“You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God’s likeness – righteous, holy and true.” (Ephesians 4:24)* On this, your Journey to Be, you start on Island #1 because you need something. You have a God-shaped hole and you haven’t been able to fill it on your own. Everything that you try works for a moment, but then it all comes crashing down and there you are again, living with a God-shaped hole in your life. You then move to Island #2 where you take a step and you believe there is a God and that you matter to him. You realize that God is the only thing that can fill the hole in your life. Finally, you move to Island #3 and you make the decision to commit your life to the care and control of Jesus. It is at this point that you move from religion to relationship. Christianity is no longer something that you do, it is someone that you know. Christianity is your being and it influences every other aspect of your life. It is also at this point that you change your want to. In other words you “display a new nature because you are a new person”.

“The Journey To Be”

Tropical islands – Set up a home – Live and then move on – Maybe you will revisit

Island #1 - _____

Island #2 - _____

Island #3 - _____

Religion to _____

Change my _____!