

The Idol in Your Pocket

Over the years, the TV reality show Survivor has attracted a wide viewership. Now in its 46th season, show producers have added twists and turns to how the social game is played. One thing that has been a constant is the “hidden immunity idol.” A player possessing the hidden immunity idol can play it at the tribal council and avoid elimination from the game that night. Any votes cast against them that evening will not count against them. Part of the gamesmanship is “blindsiding” a person into thinking they are “safe from the vote,” so they don’t play their idol at tribal council. The unsuspecting player keeps the idol in their pocket, saving it for when they think they will be more at risk. Instead, their torch is extinguished, and they are out of the game. They regret not having played their idol, but it is too late. The familiar words are said, “The tribe has spoken,” as the contestant walks down the path with the now worthless idol in their pocket.



Leading up to this week’s Survivor finale, the past three people were “voted off the island,” and each left the game with a hidden immunity idol in their pocket. They miscalculated when the end of their game would come.

As we live, we have no idea how long our “game” will last. Sometimes, a lingering illness warns us, but our time may end more suddenly than expected. Proverbs 27:1 says, *“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.”* Sometimes, a sudden change in life events terminates our ability to do what we should. Don’t be fooled by Satan’s gamesmanship, thinking you have time to serve God when you don’t.

The immunity idol is an asset. It prevents someone from being voted off the game of Survivor. In real life, we have opportunities to use our time to help others. God intentionally places people and situations in our path for a reason. If we delay helping them, we may lose the opportunity. Proverbs 3:27-28 says, *Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbors, ‘Come back tomorrow, and I’ll give it to you.’* We are not promised tomorrow. We live today. God provides the opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life or in the community.

Live your life as a difference-maker, helping others during their time of need. Don’t leave the opportunity in your pocket, planning but not acting when it is needed. *A man’s heart plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps (Proverbs 16:9).* Play the idol when you can.

Question: What current opportunities do you have to help someone in need?

Prayer: Dear Lord. Too often, we delay doing what You want us to do. We place our needs in front of the needs of others. We thank you for the opportunity to help someone else and pray that we will act upon those opportunities. Amen.

