



Links Players

ON LOCATION 13: ROOM FOR REFLECTION

I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread. (Psalm 37:25, NIV)

TODAY IS MY FATHER’S 80TH BIRTHDAY. He has taken to shooting his age rather often, so I am sure he is happy to be given another stroke’s leeway in doing so. We’re playing together as part of his celebration, so I only hope I can hold him off.

Many of my memories of the game include my dad. This is true for a lot of golfers I talk to. Though it was never a whole family sport for us, he and I shared the game with other fathers, sons, and daughters, so it’s easy to look back and take pleasure in the opportunities we have been given to enjoy time together around the game. Golf can be the most social of games and the most individual; it may be unique in that way.

If you play the game alone from time to time, you recognize the quiet a course can offer, especially at the ends of the day when the shadows are longer with the light playing through the trees. The serenity that comes with so much open space to oneself allows for reflection and a resulting peace.

Scripture encourages us to look both backward and forward. When we see the blessings and promises that God has delivered, we find hope that he will come through again. So we want to make time to reflect on the work of God no matter where we are in life—as those who are young, those who are old, and those who are in-between. The golf course provides room for such reflection, as does time spent in biblical places such as the Psalms.

As you hear in today’s accompanying video, Lewis Greer especially appreciates Psalm 37. One of the themes of this psalm, written by David, is God’s support of the righteous. Its words leave much room for reflection, as it describes the practices of the righteous, the attacks they receive from the wicked, and the care of the Lord that sustains them. We gain much when we come to a psalm like this, both in instruction and encouragement. We gain more when we think back on it again and again.

Our On Location series comes to a close (or at least a pause) today, but let us encourage you to get to a conducive location of your own, a place where you can pause from the hurrying demands of daily life and consider without interruption the way God is faithful to you.

Written by Jeff Hopper ©2019 Links Players International. An accompanying introductory video for this study is available here: <https://youtu.be/UJCpwpALUPL>.

Opening questions Do you ever get a chance to play golf alone? What difference does it make in the way you approach your time on the course?

READING Matthew 14:23; Psalm 63:1-6; Psalm 119:97-104

Alone with God (Matthew 14)

What was Jesus’ purpose in getting time alone with the Father? Does this time of aloneness strike you as intimidating, blissful, helpful, or something else?

Seeking God (Psalm 63)

What aspects of desire and discipline do you see in this psalm? How can you increase your desire for God? How can you improve your discipline in seeking and engaging him?

A living sacrifice (Psalm 119)

What role do God’s words play in our proper reflection on what he has done for us and how we should live? What do you need to do to grasp the Scriptures more completely?
