



# Links Players

## Proverbs - The Rock

*...the rock badgers are a people not mighty, yet they make their homes in the cliffs [rocks].... (Proverbs 30:26, ESV)*

Most of you will recall the famous moment in 1999 at the Phoenix Open when Tiger had the gallery move an enormous boulder between him and the green. Tiger missed the fairway on a par five and his line was obstructed by a large rock. After receiving a favorable ruling that the rock was a “loose impediment,” a dozen or so men, after a few “heave-ho’s,” moved this rock out of his path. Tiger eventually lost to Rocco Mediate.

Nine years later, Tiger would go head-to-head with Rocco in the 2008 US Open at Torrey Pines. We all remember that one!

Hobbled by a fractured leg with little to no cartilage remaining in his knee, Tiger would win what one writer called his “gutsiest performance ever.”

Scripture has more than a few things to say about clefts, and rocks. When Moses asked God that he might see his glory, God’s response was a qualified no. More precisely, God told him, “No one can see my face and live.” The reason, of course, is that God’s holiness is unapproachable apart from a mediator. So, God hid Moses in the cleft of the rock and allowed him to see only his back.

Paul would later tell us in 1 Corinthians 10:4 that “...the Rock was Christ.” Peter, quoting the prophet Isaiah, writes that Jesus is the “... cornerstone chosen and precious and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” Peter continues by telling us, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.”

A dozen-plus men might move an enormous boulder for Tiger to have clear line of sight, but no one will be able to remove the stone that the Father has placed as the foundation stone of his grand building project.

God the Father says of this stone that he is “precious.” This is the Father’s valuation of Jesus. Sadly, he is also, “...the stone the builders

rejected....” The builders are those who have rejected Jesus’ lordship in their lives.

Jesus is, indeed, the “stone of stumbling and the rock of offense.” He is also, “the cornerstone” of God’s eternal building plans. Everyone, then and now, must choose.

There is no tertium quid (i.e., no third way).

Jesus is either the stone over which you stumble, or he is the foundation stone upon which you build your life but choose you must.

**Prayer – Father, may we value Jesus as you do!**

**READING - 1 Peter 2:4-12; Matthew 16:13-23; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-5**

**OPENING QUESTIONS:** What impediments have you encountered in your golfing life? What impediments to following Jesus have you encountered?

1. According to **1 Peter 2: 4-12**, Jesus is the “rock” and/or “stone.” In verse 4, what do we make of Jesus being called a “living stone?” In verse 5, when men and women “come to him,” what, then, begins to happen to them? What is the goal in all this? What are those “spiritual sacrifices?”

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2. According to **Matthew 16:13-23**, Jesus is teaching the disciples about the church. What question(s) does he ask the disciples? What do people say about Jesus? What do Peter and the disciples say about Jesus? By what means do the disciples get the answer right? What has that to do, if anything, with being “built on the rock?” Discuss why Jesus and not anyone else is the “rock.”

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