



Links Players

A Player's Journey - Pilgrims on the Earth

“These all died in faith... and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” (Hebrews 11:13, KJV)

Today we discuss the idea that God is a Caddie who invites us to **walk with Him on a journey**—to be a pilgrim. Jesus said, “I am the Way”. He says, “Follow Me”, so off we go down a wide fairway with our Caddie.

Oops. Wait a minute. Jesus never said, “I am the Wide Fairway.” In fact, He said the way is narrow. If you walk with him, there will be some rough, some bunkers, and worse. Even a cross.

In fact, troubles on the path and wandering off the path seem to always be part of the story. Dante captures it in The Divine Comedy: “Midway along the journey ... I woke to find myself in a dark wood, for I had wandered off the straight path...”

The Pilgrim's Progress (1678) was written by John Bunyan from a prison cell. You will find a man named Christian on a scary but wonderful walk.

Sue and I are now in Scotland for a few weeks where life and golf are all about walking.

We started with a jetlag walk near the North Sea beach at Brora Golf Club. Later that evening I walked eight holes with six clubs, playing with my two young friends Luke (age 15) and Timmy (age 10). No one kept score. We just walked and talked.

Next morning was a 7:08 a.m. tee time at Royal Dornoch to play with the only opponent I can regularly beat- myself. I was back in the clubhouse at 9:45 after a brisk walk around the links, even hitting two or three balls sometimes.

And then best of all, Sue and I took a late evening walk around Brora, where the late June sun sets at 10:21pm.

We walked the fairways out to the 6th green, turned around and headed back down the 12th fairway for home. As we headed back, a huge rainbow appeared over the ocean. The bottom of the rainbow dipped into the sea, lighting up the Tarbat Ness Lighthouse on the horizon. It was like a Hollywood production of lights and wind and nature and sounds, with seagulls flying and waves crashing. It was God speaking to us as we walked. “Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise.” (Psalms 96:11 NLT).

Even Psalm 23 got involved in this walk. Climbing the uphill 16th hole, four sheep provided an evening silhouette on the steep hill above, with the rainbow and lighthouse in the background.

Sue and I both started spontaneously quoting the 23rd Psalm. “The Lord is my shepherd...”

Indeed, in modern golf language, the Lord is my Caddie, He walks with me.

Prayer: Jesus, teach me how to walk with you!

READING - Genesis 3:8; Genesis 5:22-24; Genesis 6:9; Genesis 17:1

OPENING QUESTIONS: Do you walk or ride while playing golf? Discuss some reasons why walking and using a caddie might be preferable.

1. Pick a Genesis character and describe his Walk with God. What can we learn?

2. Read Luke 24 -- What happened on the Walk to Emmaus? Has Jesus Himself ever showed up for you?

3. Read Romans 13:13 (Walk honestly); Galatians 5:16 Walk in the Spirit); **Ephesians 4:1** (Walk worthy); **5:2** Walk in love). Notice that the King James Version says “Walk” when more modern versions say “Live”. What’s the difference and which way do you like?
