



# Links Players

## On and Off the Course with Larry Mize You Gotta Dig

*It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out. (Proverbs 25:2, ESV)*

By all accounts, the vast majority of golf fans only witness the action that unfolds between Thursdays and Sundays inside the ropes. We primarily observe the “glitz and glamor.” As these players move from green to tee, the crowds reach out, hoping to touch their heroes. In America, we “idolize” these gladiators of golf.

We rarely witness what these players are doing outside the ropes: packing their suitcases, ironing their clothes, holding crying newborns, waiting in airport lines, hopping on shuttle rides, calling for room service, or nursing their wounds after a tough round.

Our tendency is to elevate these players in our minds to a pantheon of golfing gods, revering them as if they could walk on water. We easily forget that outside of their time spent playing, these guys, as my coach used to say, “put their pants on just like us.”

We are all familiar with the saying, “What you see is what you get.” In other words, what we observe in public is also what we find in private. For Larry, faith is not something to flaunt, but it isn’t hidden away in a private corner either. We have often been told that faith is a personal matter, and while it is indeed personal, it is not private.

When we look behind the curtain of a man’s life, we begin to uncover all the complexities—both strengths and weaknesses—of following Christ. As a friend once told me, “I am a study in contradictions.” Anyone who knows, loves, and walks with Jesus understands what my friend meant.

This raises the question: Where did Larry and his fellow Tour players find the strength to cope with missed shots, missed greens, missed cuts, and profound personal and professional disappointments? As Larry recalled, “Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we respond.”

“The Word is easy to understand, but you must dig it out,” Larry said.

As Proverbs states, “It’s the glory of God to conceal a matter; it’s the glory of kings to search it out.” The truths of Scripture are like gold. If you want to find them, you must “dig.”

Jesus says, “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” These words are found in Scripture. If the people of God are to avoid spiritual malnourishment, they must nourish their souls in the Word of God.

For tour players, both past and present, personal Bible study, Scripture memorization, attending chapel (i.e., listening to the preached Word), and mutually encouraging one other with the Word are critically important for strengthening their walk with Christ Jesus!

What is true for them is obviously true for us!

**Prayer: Father! Create in us a new and lasting hunger to meet you in the Scriptures!**

**READING:** Proverbs 25:2; Romans 12:1-2; John 14:25-27

1. Players approach this game in various ways: some take it as it comes, while others create a pre-round game plan. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.

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2. Central to “keeping in step with the Holy Spirit” is knowing his voice. The Spirit could never express anything contrary to the Word. Thus, knowing the Word is essential to follow his lead. Discuss ways that keep you consistently in the word.

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3. Application: If you are having trouble reading and understanding Scripture, ask your Links leader or fellow Links sidekick for help.

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