

Golf's Sacred Journey
by
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A 12 Week MGF Discussion Series
by
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Golf's Sacred Journey

Chapter 1: A Fork in the Road

“Unbeknownst to me, I had just engaged the meltdown sequence”

1. How did the golfer “engage the met-down sequence?” Where and how did it start ?
2. What pressures did the golfer face ? How do they compare to the pressures you face ?
3. When do you feel the most pressure to perform at a certain level ? What happens inside you when your level of performance fails to meet someone else’s expectations ? Your own ?
4. Why do people lose control ? What do you think is really happening when people go through a meltdown ?
5. If you fail to deliver the performance people are expecting, what does that say about you ?
6. Think about the last time you had a very bad day. What words would you have used, in the heat of the moment, to describe yourself on that occasion ?

“On the 10th I pulled my shot slightly into the trees left. I pulled it because I feared the water hazard to the right”

1. Is it difficult to talk about our fears ? If so, why ?
2. Has fear worn a disguise in your life ? If so, describe it ?
3. What kind of message does fear deliver about our identity ? How are those messages harmful ?
4. What do you try or do to overcome fear ?

“I jumped in my car and left the scene of the accident”

1. How do we hide ? How do we try to escape ?
2. What keeps you from confronting your biggest fears ?

“Up ahead was a fork in the road. I had to make a choice”

1. Have you had a fork in the road experience ? What choice did you make ? What was the outcome ?
2. What choice can you make right now that will direct you on a journey to greater significance ?

“I didn’t realize it then, but I had traded unconditional love from my dog to a life of conditional acceptance based on my golf score.”

1. What common lies do people pick up in our culture ? How do they acquire them and what impact do they have on their lives ?
2. Can you think of a time in your past when you agreed with a lie that continues to have an impact on you today ?

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Chapter 2: The Links of Utopia

“While I wanted to laugh out loud, something seemed right about this place”

1. Something about Johnny's set-up made the pro feel comfortable. Places that “seem right” can be that way. Don't discount the validity of these places in your heart. They can become meeting places where God does a transforming work in your life. Are there any places you go to over and over again because of the way they make you feel when you are there ?
2. Did you stumble upon any of these places by accident ? If so, how ?
3. Are there significant people or experiences attached to this place ? If so, why are they so significant ?

“As we sipped water out of paper cups in the shade of the cemetery oaks, the late afternoon sun began to retreat over the hills that encircled this place called Utopia. Ever so often in life an extraordinary relationship unfolds in a most unexpected place. I was in the midst of such a time. I can't explain the immediate connection I felt with this man. Maybe it was because the day had left me so in need of approval that I was desperate to connect with someone and Johnny seemed safe. Maybe it was his kindness. Maybe it was his lack of urgency to finish some task and run off to the next project that so entangles those from the city. Maybe it was the setting. Whatever the reason, time was suspended and our conversation was rich.”

1. Can you think of a person who has influenced your life in a significant way ? How did your relationship with that person start ? Were you unsure of him or her at the beginning ?
2. How do you decide who to trust ? Is there someone in your life right now who, if you let them, would help you grow as an individual ?

“One day he (Johnny) called a family meeting with his wife and two daughters. He said he needed a change, needed to move on, and wanted to know if they would support him.....The family unanimously agreed to the adventure, and the search was on.....They eventually worked their way to the same fork in the road that I had seen earlier in the day. Once they turn toward Utopia, they never turned back.”

1. Is there a step of risk that you are being challenged to take right now ?

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Chapter 3: Conviction

1. Why was Johnny hard on the pro in response to his question about his grip ?
2. What part(s) of your golf game do you have the most conviction about and, therefore, count on most and calibrate with in order to keep you in control and get you out of trouble/back in the game ?
3. When was the last time you drew on this/these aspect(s) of your game ? Why are they reliable ? Why do they work ?
4. What areas in your personal life to you have comparable convictions about ? Tried and true practices which keep you focused and effective for predictably positive outcomes ?
5. Are you aware when you are straying from your convictions ? Can your describe specific times when you did, and what occurred as a result ?
6. How does Jesus' advise on this topic (below) apply to you ? What kind of house have you built ? How's it standing ? Would you like to do any re-modeling ? What ?

Matthew 7:24 - 27

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

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Chapter 4: Shadow-Casting

1. What did the pro mean by his reflection (about his golf game) that he had “played the role of the fish so often, though a much better role was available” ?
2. How has “Rhythm, Balance and Patience” (or lack thereof) effected your game of golf ? Your game of life ?
3. Can you give past or recent examples (golf or life) of surprise giving way to emotion (subsequently causing you to “let the round get away from you” and to “take a bath” ?)
4. What did Jesus mean, in addressing his disciples (just prior to his arrest, persecution and crucifixion) by the following instruction:
John 1:27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”
5. How does this apply to Rhythm, Balance & Patience and to the Surprise & Emotion concepts/issues discussed above ?

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Chapter 5: Signing A Masterpiece

“To be a great player, you must be a great shot maker. To be a great shot-maker, you must become an artist. All shots start with a blank canvas...We must paint the shot with our eyes first, before our body can produce it accurately. In essence, the quality of our shot mimics the quality of our painting. Here’s another way to look at it...Your muscles will hit the shot, but like a pilot in the fog, they can only respond to the information you send them. The most powerful information is an image, a picture. A good picture produces feel and feel produces trust. Do you see the progression ? First, you must **SEE**; second, you **FEEL**; third, you **TRUST**...Trust is the epitome of golf. It is the freedom to swing and let go...Trust is earned. It is earned by feel, and feel is earned by seeing. Therefore, art is the catalyst to a great shot.”

1. Do you visualize (paint a mental picture) of every golf shot (including puts) before you hit ? Do you ever do it ? Do you have enough experience with this technique to call yourself an “accomplished artist” ? Can you relate to the artist analogy ?
2. Can you think of examples in our life when you have deliberately or inadvertently applied the “See, Feel, Trust” method to a business or personal situation or enterprise, and seen great results ? Please share.

“By the way, this great tree is not your enemy. Bunkers are not your enemy, nor are white stakes, red stakes or yellow stakes. Water is not your enemy, nor is any object on the course. Players often look upon these inanimate objects with fear or disdain. They allow these objects to steal energy and focus. Your painting will reveal that they are just part of the story, part of the perspective. Enjoy painting them. They will be guides to your target.”

1. Do you think of hazards on the course as “enemies” or as “just a part of the story...that help guide you to your target ?” If as enemies, would you prefer they not exist on the course ? Why or why not ? Can you see how thinking of them dispassionately, and even positively, might change your perspective on navigating the course, and even the outcome of your game ? How ?
2. How have “hazards” and “obstacles” in your life, while difficult to contend with at the time, ended up serving to your ultimate advantage and positive outcome. Can you think of examples ? Please share.

John 1:1-3;14 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that light was the light of men...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the father, full of grace and truth”.

1. What was the “Shot” that God, the ultimate “Artist” and “Great Shot-Maker”, saw, felt, trusted and signed into human existence ? Why did he do it ? What was the result ? What has that got to do with you this morning ? What part of God’s game are you...The Club ? The ball ? The fairway ? A hazard or obstacle ? The fairway ? The flagstick ? His caddie ? All of these ? None of these ?
2. How would you change the game if you had a huge Mulligan and could go all the way back to the first shot on the first tee with God ?

Read Psalm 139:13-14 “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well”.

Closing Prayer: “God, you understand me better than I do. You were the one who visualized my life, put me together in my mother’s womb and launched me into existence. I am your work of art, signed and shot by you to hit your intended target. Now I invite you into the process of seeing that shot fulfilled. I don’t know exactly how things should or will unfold from here, and I know I’ve been far less than cooperative in my part of your game for my life up to this point. I have ideas, but I don’t have the wisdom you have. Could you please show me how to listen to you and hear your voice ? Could you show me when and how to move forward, and when to wait for you ? Show me my role and I’ll do it. Amen.”

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Chapter 6: Tradition Versus Truth

“All good putters have great distance control. There are two variables in outing: distance and direction. Most people over-focus on direction and under-feel distance while putting. In washers, distance is paramount. You don't have to read the break, and most people can pitch fairly straight, so the game becomes one of distance and control. That is why it's a great game for putting improvement....If a person had never seen anyone putt, and you taught them to putt this way (like face-on, like pitching washers), do you think it would work?...In each generation there are innovators who rise up and challenge tradition...You are about to witness the future of putting. I call it face-on putting.”

1. Can you describe a situation (in your golf game or in your life) when you had to challenge tradition in order to achieve success ?
2. Can you think of ways in which your traditions might currently be holding you back from a potentially important area of personal growth ?

Philippians 3:4-9 “If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

1. What were the traditions that Paul was required to challenge in his life in order to take hold of Christ ?
2. How did this impact his ministry and the direction of the early church ?

Mark 7:5-8 “So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, ‘Why don't your disciples live according to the traditions of the elders instead of eating their food with unclean hands?’ He replied, ‘Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”

1. Jesus was very willing to take on religious traditions. What traditions do you think Jesus would challenge in our day ?
2. Would you be for (follower) or against (Pharisee) Jesus in those challenges ?

1 John 2:15-17 "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eye and boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."

1. Can you think of examples of where “cravings, lust and boasting” have traditionally been considered good things (although obviously not thought of as “cravings, lust and boasting”) but which were in point-of-fact contrary to the “will of God” and counter-productive to a healthy spiritual life ?
2. Are any of these operational in your life today ? Can you share ?

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Chapter 7: Pilot's Checklist

“Confidence is supreme in this game. Confidence comes from being prepared for an emergency....From this day forward you simply cannot afford to hit a shot without a commitment to your pre-shot routine. It will become your security system”

1. For Johnny and the pro, the pre-shot routine became “see, feel, trust” in every and all situations. Assuming you have one, what is your pre-shot routine ? Do you always apply it ? How does it help in regular situations ? In difficult (“emergency”) situations ?
2. In the absence of a pre-shot “checklist”, each shot becomes subject to the elements and circumstances surrounding our situation ...all of which have more power over the outcome than if we are well prepared and consequently manage and impact the outcome. Would you describe yourself as one is generally “controlled by the course” or “in control of the course” ?
3. Think about your life right now. Do you control it, or does it control you ? Has it always been that way with you ? Are you confident in your ability to navigate and manage the “course” of your life ?

Matthew 7:23 – 27 “Then he got into the boat and the disciples followed him. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, ‘Lord, save us ! We’re going to drown !’ He replied, ‘You of little faith, why are you so afraid ?’ Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, ‘What kind of man is this ? Even the winds and the waves obey him !’ ”

1. In this situation, who and what was in control ?
2. When Jesus chastises his disciples for having “little faith” in this situation, just what was he expecting of them ? To calm the storm themselves without bothering to wake him from his much needed sleep ? To not be afraid because they knew he was in the boat with them, and no harm would come to them as long as he was “on board” ? To wake him and be at peace in the knowledge that he’d handle the crisis one way or the other ?
3. As you think about your faith this morning, do you consider yourself the “pilot” or “co-pilot” of your life ?

Romans 8:5 – 17 “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you...Those who are led by the Sprit of God are sons of God...Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

1. What does this passage have to do with the pilot’s checklist and the pre-shot routine ?
2. What is Paul referring to when he says that we need to “share in his sufferings” in order to “share in his glory” ?
3. How do we know if we are controlled by “sinful nature” or by the “Spirit of life and peace” ?
4. When Christ comes to “live in us”....what do we lose ? What do we gain ? Who’s in control ?

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Chapter 8: Hickory Sticks

“You see, I believe greatness is revealed in the unorthodoxy of life. It is in thinking outside of the box labeled ‘comfort zone’ that we discover truth. Our box is nothing but a self-imposed prison, a trap set for unsuspecting souls. My passion in life is to set people free from their boxes.”

1. What was the pro’s “box” before he arrived in Utopia, and how did Johnny set him free from it during his 6 days with him, culminating in the hickory stick and face-on putter round at Links of Utopia ?
2. What boxes confine you or people you know ? What keeps us from being will to be set free ?
3. Are you living out the life someone else planned for you ? Expects of you ? The life you planned for yourself ? The life God planned for you ? If you are not satisfied with your answer, do you believe there’s still time for you to discover God’s plan for the reset of your life and get in alignment with that ?

“Finding the sweet spot is akin to finding religion or the taste of an aged cabernet. I was reminded in that split second of the root attraction of the game. It’s the sweet spot. That’s what keeps us coming back. There is no sensation in life quite like it. The sweet spot is an addictive force.”

1. Have you found your sweet spot , or has life been a quest of responsibility (i.e. the score card) ?
2. How do you know it when you find it ? How do you hold on to it and make it a more regular occurrence ?

Knowledge is defined as a true justified belief or a certain understanding, as opposed to opinion. We all claim to have a certain amount of knowledge. But no one person knows everything. The knowledge that God has about you and His unique design for your life is your sweet spot. However, for you to truly embrace God’s plan for your life, you must know Him. Knowing God begins with seeking to understand whom He is. God has specific attributes to His character. When you understand them, the opportunity to trust Him grows.

Luke 12:6 – 7 “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies ? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

1. What do these versus tell you about God’s character ?
2. How does this aspect of God’s character help you trust His design for you ?

“In a larger sense, where have the Johnnies gone in our world ? We teach to the test in education. We hire new employees only to throw them to the wolves. We hold organizations sacred and leave it all on the court for these meaningless entities, yet the hearts of men and women remain imprisoned for the lack of wisdom being shared. Where is wisdom these days ? Who is teaching wisdom ? I never had a course in it, but this week my life had been altered because of it.”

Psalms 51:6 “Surely you [God] desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.”

1. What does this verse tell you about God’s desire for you and your wisdom ?
2. How might old age, experience and wisdom align to serve the sweet spot of your life going forward ?

James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

God desires that our sweet spot is rooted in a deeper understanding of who He is, who we are, and the wisdom he provides. You will live in your sweet spot when each of these elements becomes a greater part of your life.

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Chapter 9: Buried Lies

"I believe you used yesterday's fine round to validate yourself as a person...You said that you had never felt so good about yourself as you did when you completed that round. Wasn't it just a week ago that that you were devastated by a golf score?...You are well on your way to living a life controlled by a score...Life in the end will be measured by significance, not a golf score...The book I am holding reveals that we will all stand before our Maker someday and give an account for our life. It goes on to say that all the insignificant wood, hay, and stubble of our lives will be consumed by fire, revealing the significant costly metal and precious stones that remain unscathed by fire. It looks to me like you are well on your way to a bonfire of insignificance."

"The instrument panel of my life was going haywire. What I thought to be true North was about to let me down. I had stayed in Utopia for a week for a checkup, yet I was receiving a heart transplant."

1. What was the nature of the "transplant" the pro was receiving ?
2. What are some of the things you once considered as important in your life which have turned out to be, in retrospect, mere "wood, hay and stubble" ? Name some of those things in your life which you believe will be "unscathed by fire".

Luke 5:1 – 11 " One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets'. When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and fished both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man !'. For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken...Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men.' So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him."

"After a while he (Jesus) concluded his teaching. He now turned his focus to Simon as the conversation became personal between two men. Jesus offered up a direct challenge to Simon. Little did Simon know that this challenge would eventually change his life and alter the course of human history. Johnny stopped to reflect out loud, 'I don't believe that we take into consideration the far-reaching effects that our everyday decisions have on our destiny, the lives of others, or the world as a whole...The decision facing you is basically about who is the captain of your ship'...Johnny had slipped me into the story. Indeed, I was facing the same challenge as Simon."

1. What was Simon's challenge, decision point and the ultimate result of his decision ?
2. How was the pro's challenge similar to Simon's
3. Have you been challenged by Jesus in a similar way to Simon and the pro ? When ? How ? Is that happening in your life now ?
4. What were the pro's "buried lies". Are there lies you need to bury in order to move on as a free man ?
5. Could you relate to the pro in this chapter ? How ?

Golf's Sacred Journey Chapter 10: A New Voice

“There simply is no power in life like having the right competitive perspective coupled with a bullet-proof mental strategy. For the first time in my life, my compass was pointing true north....I wrote a script for the next day’s round...My script described two goals: Keep the game in perspective, and see it, feel it, and trust it on every shot...There’s no question that I was a new person. While every old instinct in my body wanted to fantasize about winning this tournament, the wisdom I learned from Johnny fought back with a vengeance. I was committed to playing with a new purpose, one with eternal significance. I was pushing out into the deep and letting down my nets for a catch, and I knew that I wasn’t doing it alone.”

1. Why was the pro so well prepared for his opening round at the Texas Open ?
2. What did “eternal significance” and “letting down his nets” have to do with the immediate task at hand ?

“I sensed that God had put him (Joe) in my group as a reminder of where I had been headed. This guy was so wrapped up in his score and his failures that he had lost touch with his talent. I experienced something else for the first time. I had compassion for him. I had never had compassion for a competitor before, especially one as explosive as Joe. But something within my spirit saw through his rough exterior. I saw a lost and angry man. While he would never admit it, he desperately needed a friend...He had recently gone through a separation with his wife and two young children. A divorce was staring him in the face. His wife couldn’t tolerate his obsession with the game at the expense of his family. She and the children loved him deeply, but his ever-increasing moodiness caused an emotional roller coaster when he was home...leaving his family estranged from the man they used to know and the man they desperately needed to love again...He needed a coach with wisdom who wasn’t too busy or preoccupied to share. Wasn’t I just asking that question earlier in the week ? Where had all the Johnnies gone ?....Then I asked him the question that Johnny had asked me only a few days earlier: ‘ If you died today, what would your wife and kids write on your tombstone ?’ Without hesitating, he said they would probably leave it blank. ‘I have hurt them so much that they wouldn’t know what to say...My life is empty. That blank space on my tombstone would say it all. Golf just hasn’t delivered.”

1. What qualified the pro, after only one week of experience with Johnny and his newly discovered eternal significance, to intervene in Joe’s life on such an intimate level without even really knowing him ?
2. What did the pro experience “within his spirit” toward Joe ?
3. What was it that enabled the pro to have compassion for Joe, and how did that impact the dinner meeting ?
4. What advice did the pro provide to Joe ? What might the alternatives have been ?
5. Relating to this situation, do you consider yourself in the pro’s shoes, Joe’s shoes, or neither one ?

“I headed to my motel with the precious gift of significance flooding my heart. It was a high like I had never experienced. An eternal blessing that just flowed through my life for the first time. I had indeed become a Johnny. Even more amazing was that I was in the middle of a big tournament. But the tournament seemed distant and unimportant as I contemplated what had just happened.”

1. What had just happened ?
2. What was the specific role the pro had just played in Joe’s life ? What equipped him for that role ?
3. What kind of paradigm shift and equipping would you need to go through to become a “Johnny” ?

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Chapter 11: Destiny Knocks

"I was about to come unglued when I looked up. I caught a glimpse of the sun's rays streaking through the limbs of this majestic oak. Wasn't it just a few days ago that I had sat under a tree similar to this and listened to a man call me to a new perspective ? A calm came over my body. My perspective returned, and I realized I was OK. No matter what happened in this tournament, I was OK."

1. How did the golfer's recent experience in Utopia equip him to handle the 10th hole crisis ?
2. What is the "new perspective" that Dr. Cook is calling us to in this story ?
3. How can we calibrate with that perspective when we are challenged by difficult circumstances ?

"I placed my ball on the green. I knelt behind the ball to get the line. As I looked down the line something caught my eye in the gallery. There, right in my sight line, were Joe and his family. I saw his left arm around his wife, while holding his little girl in his right arm. Their son was standing in front of them, watching intently. Joe's wife was smiling. It all came together in this scene. I had a putt to win a perishable trophy, but I was seeing an imperishable one. My eyes began to water to the point that I had to wipe them with my sleeve. But the tears began to stream down my face. I had been a part of eternity this week, and it had nothing to do with golf. This putt was meaningless to the big picture. I had been blessed by being used. I gave what Johnny gave. I passed love on in a competitive world."

1. How had the golfer been "a part of eternity" ?
2. What impact can you have on eternity ? How ? With whom ?
3. How has your perspective changed as a result of our discussion of Golf's Sacred Journey this season ?
4. How do the following verses apply to your desires, plans and intentions to become a "Johnny" ?

2 Corinthians 10:3 – 5: "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Hebrews 4:14 – 16: "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Golf's Sacred Journey Final Reflections

1. What choice can you make right now that will direct you on a journey to greater significance ?
2. What kind of house have you built ? How's it standing ? Would you like to do any re-modeling ? What ?
3. What was the "Shot" that God, the ultimate "Artist" and "Great Shot-Maker", saw, felt, trusted and signed into human existence ? Why did he do it ? What was the result ? What has that got to do with you this morning ? What part of God's game are you...The Club ? The ball ? The fairway ? A hazard or obstacle ? The fairway ? The flagstick ? His caddie ? All of these ? None of these ?
4. How would you change the game if you had a huge Mulligan and could go all the way back to the first shot on the first tee with God ?
5. How do we know if we are controlled by "sinful nature" or by the "Spirit of life and peace" ?
6. When Christ comes to "live in us"...what do we lose ? What do we gain ? Who's in control ?
7. Have you been challenged by Jesus in a similar way to Simon and the pro ? When ? How ? Is that happening in your life now ?
8. What qualified the pro, after only one week of experience with Johnny and his newly discovered eternal significance, to intervene in Joe's life on such an intimate level without even really knowing him ?
9. What impact can you have on eternity ? How ? With whom ?

Closing Prayer: "God, you understand me better than I do. You were the one who visualized my life, put me together in my mother's womb and launched me into existence. I am your work of art, signed and shot by you to hit your intended target. Now I invite you into the process of seeing that shot fulfilled. I don't know exactly how things should or will unfold from here, and I know I've been far less than cooperative in my part of your game for my life up to this point. I have ideas, but I don't have the wisdom you have. Could you please show me how to listen to you and hear your voice ? Could you show me when and how to move forward, and when to wait for you ? Show me my role and I'll do it. But I don't want to take your role away from you. I don't know exactly how you are going to answer this prayer, but I know that you will. And for that, I thank you. Amen."

