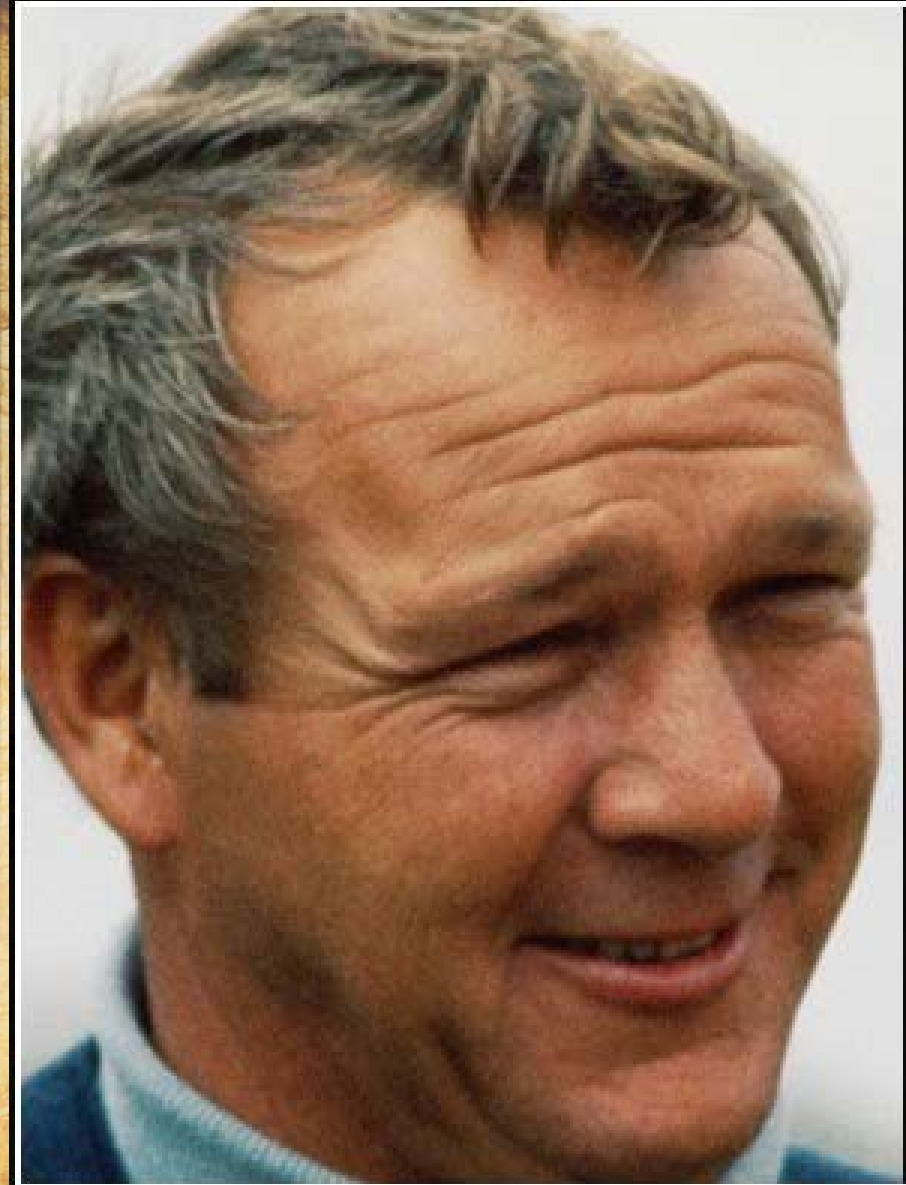




Timing is everything.



Timing is everything in life and in
golf.

— *Arnold Palmer* —

AZ QUOTES



Ask any comedian, tennis player,
chef. Timing is everything.

— *Meg Rosoff* —

AZ QUOTES



Timing is everything. That's a cliché.
Now. If I'd said that a long time ago,
I'd have been original.

— *Demetri Martin* —

AZ QUOTES



M A R K

The Gift of God





*“Timing is
Everything”*

Mark 14:1-42

Mark 14:1-42



1. Fiendish Plot (1-2, 10-11)
2. Fragrant Perfume (3-9)
3. Festal Preparation (12-16)
4. Frightening Prediction (17-21)
5. New Testament (22-26)
6. Futile Pledges (27-31)
7. Filial Prayer (32-42)

Fiendish Plot



- Two days away: Tues afternoon (1)
 - Jesus & disciples go to Mount of Olives
 - Chief priests & scribes plot murder
 - By stealth and not during the festival
 - Riot: ironic (Matt. 27:24)
 - Jesus' plan: on Passover!

Fiendish Plot



- Judas went to the chief priests (10)
 - Lots of speculation as to *why*
 - Disillusionment; disappointment; *for Jesus' own good*; Satan (Luke 22:3)
 - Opportune time = away from the crowd (Luke 22:6), to avoid a riot

Fragrant Perfume



- While He was in Bethany (3)
 - Large party on Saturday? (John 12:1-8)
 - Nard – perfume oil from spikenard plant
 - *Waste vs good deed* (anointing for burial)
 - *Destruction, perdition* (see John 17:12)
 - Intrinsicly good, *beautiful*

Fragrant Perfume



- An act of worship!
 - Extravagant (costly), not *practical*
 - All the way – nothing held back
 - Motivated by love (cf. 12:28-33)
 - Pleasing to the Lord (9)

Festal Preparation



- Thursday?
- First day of Unleavened Bread (12)
 - No leaven for 7 (or 8) days (Ex. 12:14-20; 13:6-7; Deut. 16:3-4)
 - Clean entire house (*spring cleaning*)
 - Eat *matzo* bread – *without sourness*

Festal Preparation



- When the Passover lamb was being sacrificed (12)
 - Unblemished male a year old (Ex. 12:5)
 - One year: 256,000 lambs (Josephus)
 - Roasted and eaten that night
 - Galileans - Thursday / Judeans - Friday

Festal Preparation



- Two disciples: Peter and John (Luke 22:8)
- A man carrying a pitcher of water was highly unusual (13)
- They found everything just as He had told them (16)



Frightening Prediction

- “One of you will betray me” (18)
 - Like David & Ahithophel (Ps. 41:9)
- “The Son of Man is to go just as it is written of Him” (21)
 - Ps. 22; Isa. 53; the sacrifices; *Passover*
- “But woe...”: sovereignty and free will

New Testament



- “This is My body” (22)
 - They were consuming the paschal lamb
 - Jesus offered the bread as a symbol of His body, as of another Passover Lamb
 - He, too, would be sacrificed to satisfy God’s requirements

New Testament



- “This is My blood of the covenant” (24)
- *Covenant implies mutual relationship or agreement between two parties*
 - E.g. David & Jonathan (1 Sam. 23:15-18)
- But many of God’s promises are one-sided
 - E.g. with Abraham (Genesis 15)

New Testament



- Better: *Testament*: “...a divine order or agreement which is established without any human cooperation and springing from the choice of God Himself whose will and determination account for both its origin and its character.” (Spiros Zodhiates)

New Testament



- Think: *last will and testament* (Heb. 8-10)
 - God *willed* a new way for man to approach God (Jer. 31:31-34)
 - A *will* is only effective when the testator dies (Heb. 9:15-22; see Exodus 24)
 - The Testator had to die (Heb. 9:23-28)

New Testament



- Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice opened a new way (Heb. 10:19-25)
 - We may confidently enter the holy place
 - The temple veil was torn (Mark 15:38)
 - Those who by faith accept His death in their place are fully clean!

New Testament



- Israel was constantly reminded of sin & grace by the continual atoning sacrifices
- As the perfect sacrifice, Jesus *took away* sin
- We partake of the Lord's supper to remind us of our *forgiveness* (cf. Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

Futile Pledges



- “You will all fall away” (27; see Zech. 13:7)
 - *Be scandalized – caught in a trap; i.e. - challenge their faith and loyalty (cf. 4:17)*
- Peter: “Even though all ...yet / will not” (29)
 - Contradicted Jesus again! (cf. 8:32-33)
 - *Kept saying insistently (31)*

Filial Prayer



- “Sit here until I have *prayed*” (32)
 - Peter, James, and John (see 5:37; 9:2)
 - *Very distressed, troubled, deeply grieved to the point of death*
 - Weight of man’s sin and God’s wrath?
 - See Isa. 53:10-11

Filial Prayer



- “Abba! [Father]” (36)
- Jesus’ prayer: truth - request - submission
 - Truth: “All things are possible for You”
 - Request: “remove this cup from Me”
 - Submission: “yet not what I will, but what You will”

Filial Prayer



- “Keep watch” – *alert, awake, aware* (34, 37)
- “*Simon, are you asleep?*” (see 29-31)
 - Temptation: sleep? Fall away? Denial?
 - They needed spiritual strength to face the spiritual challenges ahead



So What?

- God's plan wins over man's plans
- God will accomplish His purposes, with or without us
 - "as it is written...but woe" (21)

So What?



- True worship comes from true love
 - Mary's actions vs disciples' promises
 - Selfless, costly, total, *beautiful*
- True worship requires true submission
 - "not what I will, but what You will"
- Deny/take up cross/follow \Leftrightarrow love