



## Week 8 - November 4th

### The Workers – The Landowner is the Lord

An ancient legend states that a beautiful swan came to rest by the banks of a pond where a crane was wading, seeking snails. After a few moments, the crane looked at the swan and asked, “Where did you come from?” The swan replied, “I come from Heaven!” “Heaven?” asked the crane. “Heaven,” replied the swan. “Haven’t you ever heard of Heaven?” And the swan went on to describe the splendor and the grandeur of the eternal city. She told the crane about the streets of gold and about the gates and walls made of precious stones. She told about the crystal sea and on the banks stood a tree that healed the nations of the world. In great and eloquent language, the swan described the hosts of saints and angels who lived in the world beyond. Somewhat surprisingly, the crane didn’t appear to be the least bit interested in the place the swan described. Eventually the crane asked the swan, “Are there any snails there?” “Snails!” declared the swan, obviously revolted at the thought. “Of course, there are no snails in Heaven.” “Then you can have your Heaven,” said the crane continuing its search along the slimy, muddy banks of the pond. “What I want are snails”

Source: Micca Campbell

While this story is but an old fable, it reveals a profound truth. Often, you and I turn away from God’s best in order to search for snails. The landowner in “The Workers” parable (Matthew 20) wanted to be generous and give his workers his best. God, our landowner, wants to give us His best. And it is far better than what we could dream about.

#### Scripture

Read Isaiah 30:18; Galatians 4:1-7

#### Discovery Questions

1. Dictionary.com defines the verb *to long* as: “To have an earnest, heartfelt desire, especially for something beyond reach.” Roget’s Thesaurus provides synonyms for this same verb including the words: *ache*, *dream of*, *hunger*, *aim*, and *yearn*. With this in mind, re-read Isaiah 30:18. Does this help me to better understand God’s heart toward His children? How has He been gracious, compassionate and just to me?

2. As children of God, we are given privileges and God has already lavished us with many great gifts. Read Galatians 4:4-6. What are some of the gifts God has already graciously given me?
3. Galatians 4:7a states “So you are no longer a slave, but a son...” Freedom is another gift from God. In what ways has God given me freedom in my life?
4. Galatians 4:7b states: “... and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.” What does this verse mean to me? What am I inheriting?

#### Journaling

Which verse spoke most powerfully to me? Why?

**Prayer:** Spend some time in prayer conversing with your God. Use the following ideas as a potential guide to your prayer time.

- Heavenly Father, I know you want to give me your best. Help me to avoid getting too caught up in this earthly life so that I don’t miss your blessings.
- Lord, I know you have my best interest at heart. Help me to trust in you and surrender to your will.
- Dear God, allow me to recognize the blessings and gifts you pour out on me. Create in me a thankful heart that adores you.