



## **THURSDAY** **8-5-10**

**Read:** Matthew 6:25-34 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+6:25-34](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=matthew+6:25-34))

**Prayer:** “Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering; for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all thy mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion, gentle hands, and kindly words. Make us ourselves to be true friends to animals and to share the blessing of the merciful. Amen” (Prayer by Albert Schweitzer)

**Journal Reflection:** Animals are living beings loved by God. Yes, roosters are loved by God even when they crow at 5 AM. And, God enjoys the camel with its humps and haughty attitude. God joys in the platypus and even the snakes. I cannot understand what creative urge in God brought about fleas and mosquitoes, but God created and loves them too. So, when you eat an animal: when you kill an insect; share with God a prayer of thanksgiving for the life given so that you might live. When you respect life, you respect God. Respect for all living things is one very good reason to pray a prayer of thanksgiving before every meal.

**Resolve:** I will not take for granted any life created by God.

## **FRIDAY** **8-6-10**

**Read:** I Corinthians 4:1-5 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+corinthians+4:1-5](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+corinthians+4:1-5))

**Prayer:** “Lord, we know that you’ll be coming down the line today, so, Lord, help us to treat you well, help us to treat you well. Amen” (Mary Glover, reporting the words of an African-American woman who helped with the weekly food line a mile and a half from the White House)

**Journal Reflection:** Think of yourself as God’s steward today. Your identity is a gift from Christ Jesus. Your job is to care for God’s creation. As God’s steward you own nothing. In point of fact, you will carry nothing of any substance with you when you leave this planet. But, you will carry with you the relationships and the acts of goodness that you grow here on earth. So think of yourself as God’s steward all day today. Let your identity inform the way you think and act all day. Choose to let the Christ who lives within you respond with love to the Christ you meet in the faces of people all day.

**Resolve:** I will be God’s steward of the riches God entrusts to me today.

## **SATURDAY** **8-7-10**

**Read:** I Timothy 6:17-19 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+timothy+6:17-19](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=i+timothy+6:17-19))

**Prayer:** “Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow men throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them, through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen (Prayer by Mother Teresa)

**Journal Reflection:** God’s challenge to us is to do good! We are partners with God in the caring for God’s garden and all that is in God’s garden. After God initially created the world, God said that it was good! Creation reflected the very nature of God. God is good all the time. We, of course are not. Our human forefathers and foremothers chose to bring evil into God’s good garden. Therefore, we have a real choice each day between good and evil. So, today seek to do good. Store up for yourself treasure in heaven. Give God glory through the work that you do to bring peace, joy, mercy, and love to as many people, plants, animals, and other parts of creation as you can. You can be a grower of beauty and giver of love in the name of Christ. Start today!

**Resolve:** I will celebrate all of God’s creation by working with Christ for good today.