

DEVOTION
Session Three

Scripture: Matthew 25: 35-37, 40

Song: "Freely, Freely" (UMH #389)

Reading: *Privileges*

We shower daily, while others bathe in dirty rivers occasionally.
We eat three meals a day, plus unneeded snacks, while others starve.

We sleep warm and soundly while others can never rest.

We have closets filled with unworn clothing,
while others wear all they have each day.

We have extended families, while others live alone.

We own homes, sometimes more than one, while others are homeless.

We enjoy safety, while others live with death, war, and violence daily.

We work or change jobs, while others beg for minimal survival.

We travel extensively and freely,
while others live their whole lives where they were born.

We attend schools and continuing education, while others suffer illiteracy.

We make and protect retirement plans,
while others die far too early in poverty.

We have extensive medical systems,
while others have no health care and die early.

Unlike millions around the world,
we North Americans are inordinately blessed,
tempted to assume our rights to these gifts, even to fighting for them,

and frequently misusing these privileges which are on loan from God.

(Pete Hammond, *Lessons, Prayers & Scriptures on the Faith Journey* [Intervarsity/USA Marketplace], 109.)

Prayer: Lord, forgive my possessive and selfish nature.

Help my attempts at becoming a good steward of all the opportunities and gifts that you provide.

Help me to remember and reach out to
those without daily bread
or the Good News of salvation!
Please make me generous like you. Amen.

(Adapted from Pete Hammond, *Lessons, Prayers & Scriptures on the Faith Journey* [Intervarsity/USA Marketplace], 109.)

CLOSING PRAYER (May be sung)

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.
Amen.
(UMH #92)