



Chapter 10

Living in the Land of Milk and Honey

Reflections to Journal and Share

- Would you agree that the environmental and economic climate in which we live has significant implications for defining the nature of our spirituality?
- Do the cultural gods that are always prominent in the north surround you – gods of success, materialism, self-absorption, the good life? Might you be at risk of contracting the northern malady of syncretism, taking attributes from our business and social cultures and grafting them into your faith – like performance Christianity? Any other examples come to mind?
- The challenges before most of us are this: How can we continue to live in the economic abundance of the north while maintaining our daily spirituality as if we were living in the scarcity of the south? How can we continue to live in northern environments of (relative) economic extravagance while still living each day fully conscious that we are totally dependent upon the Lord to sustain us as if we were goat shepherds in the south? What is your strategy to live each day in that total dependency posture?
- What does the phrase milk and honey suggest about your life's journey? Have you had both experiences? What did each of them tend to do to your spiritual vitality and life? Where do you find yourself living right now – in the North or the South?
- Have you ever found yourself suddenly jolted from living each day on autopilot in a Northern reality to suddenly seeing things from a Southern perspective because of some sudden major event in your life – unemployment, cancer, divorce? What did that sudden change do to you? What is its continuing legacy today?
- Where are you most challenged in this chapter? What did the Spirit whisper to you or where did the Spirit nudge you as you journeyed through this chapter?

A Point to Ponder

It is part of the reality of our lives that we are travelers (sojourners) who can be jolted from living each day from a northern reality to suddenly seeing it from a southern perspective. When cancer unexpectedly enters our life, or sudden unemployment, or the birth of a specialneeds child, we immediately view the forward landscape of our lives very differently. And as many have surprisingly experienced, we are usually drawn much closer to the Lord when we are in the southern portions of our life's journey than when we are comfortably residing in the north. As many have repeatedly relearned, our life with the Lord always seems to be richer when the south is our portion rather than the north.