**The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A. Kempis**

**BOOK TWO:** THE INTERIOR LIFE

**Chapter 2 Part 3:** Humility

**Quote:**

"It is the humble man whom God protects and liberates; it is the humble whom He loves and consoles. To the humble He turns and upon them bestows great grace, that after their humiliation He may raise them up to glory. He reveals His secrets to the humble, and with kind invitation bids them come to Him. Thus, the humble man enjoys peace in the midst of many vexations, because his trust is in God, not in the world. Hence, you must not think that you have made any progress until you look upon yourself as inferior to all others."

**Concept and Scriptures:**

God protects, liberates, loves and consoles the humble

Isaiah 55: 8-9

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (ESV).

Deuteronomy 31:8

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

Psalm 23:3

“He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his names’ sake.”

**Discussion:**

From what does God protect and liberate people from?

How does God love and console the humble?

**Concept and Scripture:**

The world rejects the humble; whereas, God bestows great grace upon the humble as a result of their humility.

 James 4:1-6 (MSG)

Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don’t have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn’t yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it. You wouldn’t think of just asking God for it, would you? And why not? Because you know you’d be asking for what you have no right to. You’re spoiled children, each wanting your own way. You’re cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way. And do you suppose God doesn’t care? The proverb has it that “he’s a fiercely jealous lover.” And what he gives in love is far better than anything else you’ll find. It’s common knowledge that “God goes against the willful proud; God gives grace to the willing humble.”

**Discussion:**

Why is God’s love greater than selfish gain?

What does it mean to be willingly humble?

**Concept and Scripture:**

God reveals His secrets to the humble, and with kind invitation bids them come to Him

Psalm 25:14 (MSG)

God-friendship is for God-worshipers; They are the ones he confides in.

**Discussion:**

How does reverence for God bring about intimacy with God?

How does respect for a person bring about intimacy with that person?

**Concept and Scripture:**

The humble trust in God not in the world; therefore, they must see themselves as inferior to others in order to find peace in the midst of the annoyances of this world

John 15:18,20-21,26 (MSG)

“If you find the godless world is hating you, remember it got its start hating me. If you lived on the world’s terms, the world would love you as one of its own. But since I picked you to live on God’s terms and no longer on the world’s terms, the world is going to hate you. “When that happens, remember this: Servants don’t get better treatment than their masters. If they beat on me, they will certainly beat on you. If they did what I told them, they will do what you tell them. “They are going to do all these things to you because of the way they treated me, because they don’t know the One who sent me. If I hadn’t come and told them all this in plain language, it wouldn’t be so bad. As it is, they have no excuse. Hate me, hate my Father—it’s all the same. If I hadn’t done what I have done among them, works no one has ever done, they wouldn’t be to blame. But they saw the God-signs and hated anyway, both me and my Father. Interesting—they have verified the truth of their own Scriptures where it is written, ‘They hated me for no good reason.’ “When the Friend I plan to send you from the Father comes—the Spirit of Truth issuing from the Father—he will confirm everything about me. You, too, from your side must give your confirming evidence, since you are in this with me from the start.”

**Discussion:**

Where does the worldly invest their time?

How do the humble invest their time?