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

**BOOK TWO:** THE INTERIOR LIFE

**Chapter 11 Part 2:** Few Love the Cross of Jesus

**Quote:**

"Do not those who always seek consolation deserve to be called mercenaries? Do not those who always think of their own profit and gain prove that they love themselves rather than Christ? Where can a man be found who desires to serve God for nothing? Rarely indeed is a man so spiritual as to strip himself of all things. And who shall find a man so truly poor in spirit as to be free from every creature? His value is like that of things brought from the most distant lands."

**Definition:**

Mercenary: A private individual who joins a military conflict for personal profit, is otherwise an outsider to the conflict, and is not a member of any other official military.

**Scripture:**

Jeremiah 46:20-21

Egypt is a beautiful heifer,  
    but a gadfly is coming  
    against her from the north.

The mercenaries in her ranks  
    are like fattened calves.  
They too will turn and flee together,  
    they will not stand their ground,  
for the day of disaster is coming upon them,  
    the time for them to be punished.

2 Kings 11:19-21

Then the commanders, the Carite mercenaries, the palace guards, and all the people of the land escorted the king from the Temple of the Lord. They went through the gate of the guards and into the palace, and the king took his seat on the royal throne. So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was peaceful because Athaliah had been killed at the king’s palace.

Joash was seven years old when he became king.

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

**Concept:**

Money cannot by your loyalty or love.

**Discussion:**

What is the difference in liking someone verses loving someone?

How is trust developed?

What is the difference between emotional connection and a monetary transaction?