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

**BOOK TWO:** THE INTERIOR LIFE

**Chapter 8 Part 3:** The Intimate Friendship of Jesus

**Quote:**

"You must bring to God a clean and open heart if you wish to attend and see how sweet the Lord is. Truly you will never attain this happiness unless His grace prepares you and draws you on so that you may forsake all things to be united with Him alone. When the grace of God comes to a man he can do all things, but when it leaves him he becomes poor and weak, abandoned, as it were, to affliction. Yet, in this condition he should not become dejected or despair. On the contrary, he should calmly await the will of God and bear whatever befalls him in praise of Jesus Christ, for after winter comes summer, after night, the day, and after the storm, a great calm."

**Definition:**

Pure heart - a heart that desires nothing more than to be with God because that truly is all our life should be about!

**Scriptures:**

Acts 15:9

He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

Psalm: 73:1

Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

Ezekiel: 11:19

And I will give them one heart, and a new sprit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh.

Psalm 24:3-4

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**Concept:**

God develops a pure heart in us when we love and serve God and our neighbor.

**Discussion:**

How does faith in God purify our hearts?

How does having a pure heart foster a desire in others to be in relationship with us?

How does God invite us to be in relationship with him?