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

**BOOK THREE:** INTERNAL CONSOLATION

**Chapter 41:** Contempt for All Earthly Honor

**Quote:**

“The Voice of Christ

MY CHILD, do not take it to heart if you see others honored and advanced, while you yourself are despised and humbled. Lift up your heart to Me in heaven and the contempt of men on earth will not grieve you.   
  
THE DISCIPLE

Lord, we are blinded and quickly misled by vanity. If I examine myself rightly, no injury has ever been done me by any creature; hence I have nothing for which to make just complaint to You. But I have sinned often and gravely against You; therefore is every creature in arms against me. Confusion and contempt should in justice come upon me, but to You due praise, honor, and glory. And unless I prepare myself to be willingly despised and forsaken by every creature, to be considered absolutely nothing, I cannot have interior peace and strength, nor can I be enlightened spiritually or completely united with You.”

**Definition:**

Embracing Humility - Being meek, selfless, grateful, open to learning, and prioritizing serving others above seeking personal recognition or gain

**Scripture:**

**1 John 2:15-17**

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

**1 Peter 5:5-6**

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.' Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

**Matthew 11:29**

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

**Matthew 5:5**

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**Concept:**

Through embracing humility, Christians are called to embrace a posture of servanthood, compassion, and meekness leading them on a profound journey of self-discovery, spiritual growth, and communion with God

**Discussion:**

In what ways do worldly values and desires hinder our spiritual growth and connection with God, as mentioned in 1 John 2:15-17? How can we detach ourselves from these influences and refocus on what is eternal and meaningful in our faith journey?

What are some practical steps we can take to grow in humility and deepen our relationship with God based on the teachings of 1 Peter 5:5-6?