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

**BOOK TWO:** THE INTERIOR LIFE

**Chapter 1 - Part 2:** Meditation

**Concept:**

Prepare our hearts for God

**Quote:**

"Therefore, faithful soul, prepare your heart for this Bridegroom that He may come and dwell within you; He Himself says: "If any one love Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and will make Our abode with him."

**Scriptures:**

**John 14:22-23:** Judas (not Iscariot) said, “Master, why is it that you are about to make yourself plain to us but not to the world?” “Because a loveless world,” said Jesus, “is a sightless world. If anyone loves me, he will carefully keep my word and my Father will love him—we’ll move right into the neighborhood! Not loving me means not keeping my words. The message you are hearing isn’t mine. It’s the message of the Father who sent me.

**Discussion:**

What is a loveless world?

Why/how is a loveless world sightless?

How does keeping God’s word give us sight?

How does loving/seeing God allow us to invite him into our hearts?

**Concept:**

Boundaries

**Quote:**

Give place, then, to Christ, but deny entrance to all others, for when you have Christ you are rich and He is sufficient for you. He will provide for you. He will supply your every want, so that you need not trust in frail, changeable men. Christ remains forever, standing firmly with us to the end."

**Scriptures:**

**Proverbs 25:17 (MSG):** And when you find a friend, don’t outwear your welcome; show up at all hours and he’ll soon get fed up.

**Ephesians 6:4 (NLT):** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.  
  
**Colossians 4:6, (ESV):** Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

**Discussion:**

How does Satan tempt us to value other people’s opinion of us more than God’s plan for our lives?

What burdens do we have in life that only God can fulfill?

**Concept:**

Trust in God above all else

**Quote:**

"Do not place much confidence in weak and mortal man, helpful and friendly though he be; and do not grieve too much if he sometimes opposes and contradicts you. Those who are with us today may be against us tomorrow, and vice versa, for men change with the wind. Place all your trust in God; let Him be your fear and your love. He will answer for you; He will do what is best for you"

**Scriptures:**

**Proverbs 3:5:** - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.  
  
**Psalm 118:8:** - It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans.

**Discussion:**

What is the difference between developing a system (machine) and developing a person (spirit)?

Is trust based on emotions or actions?