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

**BOOK THREE:** INTERNAL CONSOLATION

### **Chapter 24:** Avoiding Curious Inquiry About the Lives of Others

**Quote:**

"The Voice of Christ

 MY CHILD, do not be curious. Do not trouble yourself with idle cares. What matters this or that to you? Follow Me. What is it to you if a man is such and such, if another does or says this or that? You will not have to answer for others, but you will have to give an account of yourself. Why, then, do you meddle in their affairs?

Behold, I know all men. I see everything that is done under the sun, and I know how matters stand with each--what is in his mind and what in his heart and the end to which his intention is directed. Commit all things to Me, therefore, and keep yourself in good peace. Let him who is disturbed be as restless as he will. Whatever he has said or done will fall upon himself, for he cannot deceive Me.

Do not be anxious for the shadow of a great name, for the close friendship of many, or for the particular affection of men. These things cause distraction and cast great darkness about the heart. I would willingly speak My word and reveal My secrets to you, if you would watch diligently for My coming and open your heart to Me. Be prudent, then. Watch in prayer, and in all things humble yourself."

**Definition:**

Gossip - The sharing of another individual’s personal information, typically without that other person’s presence or knowledge

**Scripture:**

Proverbs 16:28

A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

Proverbs 20:19

A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.

Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Proverbs 11:13

A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

Proverbs 18:8

The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.

**Concept:**

As Believers we are not to be overly curious and getting involved in the affairs of others. We are to focus on our own actions and intentions, while leaving the judgment of others to God.  We are to entrust everything to God for His inner peace and avoid seeking validation from worldly achievements or human relationships. By remaining watchful and open-hearted, we will receive guidance from God by advocating for humility and prayer in all things.

**Discussion:**

Why is it important to focus on one's own actions and intentions rather than getting involved in the affairs of others?

How can one find inner peace by entrusting all things to God?

What are the potential consequences of being overly concerned with worldly achievements and human relationships?