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

**BOOK TWO:** THE INTERIOR LIFE

**Chapter 4 Review:** Purity of Mind and Unity of Purpose

**Scripture:**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’

His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A14-30&version=ESV#fen-ESV-24026c)] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’

His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’

But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?  Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.

So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**Concept**

The best way to respond to God’s commands is through simplicity and purity of heart, mind, and soul.

**Discussion**

Why would God seek to invest talents in people with a simple mind and pure heart?

Why does God trust simple and moral people rather than the complex and immoral people?

**Concept**

We seek an infinite God for wisdom, clarity and understanding resulting in joy. Those who deny that God exist live a life of impure motives, pride, and self-absorption resulting in anger and affliction.

**Discussion**

How does wisdom, clarity and understanding result in better judgement?

How does pride and self-absorption result in anger and affliction?

**Concept**

Being lazy, selfish and fearful results in procrastination and indecision; whereas, seeking and worshipping God inspires us to be productive and eager to be a part of something greater than ourselves resulting in being an overcomer of anything that holds us back from being in relationship with God and other people.

**Discussion**

How does laziness, selfishness, fearfulness, procrastination, and indecision lead to isolation from God and other people?

How does being in relationship with God inspire us to be a part of something greater than ourselves and use the natural talents that God has given us to honor him and be a blessing to other people as we serve God and other people?