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

**BOOK ONE:** THOUGHTS HELPFUL IN THE LIFE OF THE SOUL

**Chapter 20: The Love of Solitude and Silence**

**Definition and Scriptures:**

**Obscure:** Not much known or observed; retired; remote from observation; as an obscure retreat. (KJV Dictionary)

**Matthew 6:25-34:** Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

**Psalm 27:12:** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**Philippians 4:6-7:** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**1 Peter 5:7:** Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

**Quote:**

“It is better for a man to be obscure and to attend to his salvation than to neglect it and work miracles. It is praiseworthy for a religious seldom to go abroad, to flee the sight of men and have no wish to see them.”

**Discussion:**

There is greater security in life when we retreat from the world and meditate on God’s word than there is in pursuing the notoriety and praises of others. Why do people fear being rejected by others more than being separated from God?

Thomas Kempis says, “It is praiseworthy for a religious seldom to go abroad, to flee the sight of men and have no wish to see them.” Why is it better to work on one’s salvation in seclusion than with a group of people?