



The Ark Community
111: **IMITATION OF CHRIST**
by Adele **Cerino** (ITA)

Dear Friends & Companions, for this Food for Thought I would like to share with you a passage taken from the book, "***Imitation of Christ***". I just give you the words of the book, which, I think, offer a very deep subject to meditate on.

"The kingdom of God is within you," says the Lord. Turn, then, to God with all your heart. Forsake this wretched world and your soul shall find rest. Learn to despise external things, to devote yourself to those that are within, and you will see the kingdom of God come unto you, that kingdom which is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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."* 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.

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.

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.

You have here no lasting home. You are a stranger and a pilgrim wherever you may be, and you shall have no rest until you are wholly united with Christ.

Why do you look about here when this is not the place of your repose? Dwell rather upon heaven. Fix your mind on the Most High, and pray unceasingly to Christ.

When a man reaches a point where he seeks no solace from any creature, then he begins to relish God perfectly. Then also he will be content no matter what may happen to him. He will neither rejoice over great things nor grieve over small ones, but will place himself entirely and confidently in the hands of God, Who for him is all in all, to Whom nothing ever perishes or dies, for Whom all things live, and Whom they serve as He desires.

Biblical Ref: Luke 17:21; Rom 14:17; Heb 13:14; 2Cor 5:2; Col 3:11