

**Role of Disciples**      Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time      Tuesday, August 1, 2017  
8:15 AM    Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28;    **Mt 13:36-43**    St. Alphonsus Liguori, bishop and  
Doctor of the Church    (The disciple is supposed to wait on the master, to serve the master in  
whatever way is needed, but not in ways that are not called for.)

**“Whoever has ears ought to hear.”**

Now these words here, this particular section, is addressed only to the disciples. Jesus has dismissed the crowds. And when he speaks **to the crowds he speaks in parables**, which are not very clear; **they require some pondering.**

But here **he speaks more clearly to the disciples** and there are two points: number one, that **there will be an end to evil.** Yes, some people are following evil, the evil one, the devil. It doesn't say how many. It doesn't say this is a large number of people, a majority of people, a small number; it doesn't say. It leaves it open. But the possibility is that **people either can follow the Son of Man, which is another way of talking about himself, or the devil.** So the possibility, the free will of people to follow evil is there. **So the outcome of the world is not all predestined.** Yes, there is a general sort of plan or providence, but people apparently don't have to follow it. That's the first point.

The second point is that **the judgment is executed by the Son of Man's agents**, here called **the “angels,” not—not—by the disciples.** It is not the role of the disciple to judge who is wheat and who is weed. It is not the role of the disciple to gather together the weeds for the burning; that is not their role. It is not the role of the disciple to do the harvesting. And that's the most important point: that the **disciple is supposed to wait on the master, to serve the master in whatever way is needed, but not in ways that are not called for.**

**Now we have to admit that we often are in a place where we want to establish justice.** We want to root out evil. We want to sentence the criminal. We want to get tough on crime. **That is not the role of the disciple.**