

Our Roles Second Week of Lent Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:15 AM Is
1:10, 16-20; **Mt 23:1-12** (They are only forms of service. They are not forms of identity.

“Do not be called ‘Master’; you have but one master, the Christ.”

There is a translation that says, “Do not be called “Mister,” same word really. If you notice in the newspapers, important men are called “Mr. So and So,” whereas some bum is just called “So and So.” That title, Mr., means something; Jesus says, well don’t use it or father or rabbi or anything. This is about roles. **Roles are important, but they are only forms of service. They are not forms of identity.** In my being I am not the priest or the pastor. Those are roles of service that I fulfill in God’s name, for God’s benefit. It’s not who I am. Titles, roles, honorifics, they are all right; they are not evil. But they are not one’s identity.

The problem is we can identify with our roles. We can think that is who I am: I am mother; I am father; I am teacher; I am nurse; I am doctor; I am priest. That is actually cheating ourselves. And the reason we identify with those roles is that **we are actually insecure, because in a deep place in us we don’t know who we are, yet.** There are many intimations, many revelations, many graces trying to lead onward, but we still don’t know. We taste the love of God. We experience wonder. **We can find intimations of the meaning of life here and there, but it’s not real clear, and it’s not supposed to be.**

We are supposed to be walking, as it were, hand-in-hand with God through life, letting God be our guide and our teacher and our master and everything else we need, working for God insofar as we can, and letting things just be. But something in people wants something ultimate; they want it now. There are even spiritual writers that talk about how the now is always present. Well that may be true, but it’s rather irrelevant. What matters is that we follow God’s lead. **And Jesus is the model that God has sent to us, and in him we can know for sure how we should live,** because he is the way, he is the life. That’s all we need to know. Meanwhile, we have to be very careful that we don’t allow our roles in the world to become blind alleys where we get lost.