

**St. Alphonsus Rodriguez** (1532-1617) was born in Segovia, Spain, the son of a wealthy merchant. While studying with the Jesuits at Alcala, Alphonsus had to return home when his father died. In Segovia he took over the family business, was married. After the death of his wife and children, he joined the Jesuits as a lay brother. Obedience and penance were the hallmarks of his life, as well as his devotion to the Immaculate Conception.



**First Reading:** (Rom 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29)

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? So I ask, have they stumbled so as to fall? By no means! But through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brethren: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles come in, and so all Israel will be saved; as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins." As regards the gospel they are enemies of God, for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved for the

sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.

**Ps 99:12-15, 17-18**

**R./ The Lord will not abandon his people.**

**Gospel:** (Lk 14:1, 7-11) One sabbath when he went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, they were watching him. Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he marked how they chose the places of honour, saying to them, "When you are invited by any one to a marriage feast, do not sit down in a place of honour, lest a more eminent man than you be invited by him; and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher'; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

**REFLECTION**

Jesus teaches the people on humility. At the scene of the banquet Jesus teaches the values of the Kingdom of God. Jesus notices everyone trying to occupy the places of honour. **He makes it known to them that the true honour does not come from one's self seeking choices, but from what is bestowed on by another.** It is the true humility that brings with it true honour. It is in letting oneself be lowered that we are exalted. The challenge before a disciple of Christ is in emptying oneself to allow oneself to be lowered in order to gain honour in the sight of God after the example of Jesus himself who lowered himself to be born among us.