

# Thursday of the Twenty-first Week in Ordinary Time

**Gospel text (Mt 24,42-51):** Jesus said to his disciples, «Stay awake, then, for you do not know on what day your Lord will come (...).

**Imagine a capable servant whom his master has put in charge of his household to give them food at the proper time. Fortunate indeed is that servant whom his master will find at work when he comes.**

**Truly, I say to you, his lord will entrust that one with everything he has. Not so with the bad servant who thinks: ‘My master is delayed’. And he begins ill-treating his fellow servants while eating and drinking with drunkards. But his master will come (...) he will dismiss that servant and deal with him as with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth».**

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## *Man: what is he good for?*

EDITORIAL TEAM [evangelii.net](http://evangelii.net) (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

*(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)*

Today, begins the Jesus Christ's "Eschatological Discourse" which proposes the "to be or not to be" of our lives: man should not only question himself what he wants, but rather what is he good for and what can he contribute to. Then he would understand that realization does not reside in comfort, in loitering, but in accepting challenges. Ignoring this reality leads to "the weeping and gnashing of teeth". Hence the warning: Watch out!

We cannot become men without controlling the self, without abnegation, without the effort to patiently suffer the tension of what we should be. Precisely, "the weeping and gnashing of teeth" represents the risk of failure of the human being. In a world far away from God and, therefore, from love, we feel awfully cold, to the point of producing the gnashing of teeth.

—O Lord, your ways —of love— are not comfortable. But I have not been created

**for comfort, but for big and good things, for others, for You.**