# Carrying out the Mission of the Church

Our theme last week was “rejection due to lack of faith in God.” Our theme this week is, “rejection comes with carrying out the mission Christ gave to His Church. The mission our Lord gave to His Church is to go into the world proclaiming the Good News of Salvation.

In carrying out this mission, what matters most is that the word of God must be delivered despite opposition from civil authorities or other people opposed to the message.

In our First Reading, we heard from prophet Amos who lived over 700 years before Christ. At that time, because of Solomon’s sin, as God proclaimed, King David’s kingdom was divided into two after the death of Solomon. The North was called Israel while the South where Amos was from, was called Judah.

During prophet Amos’ time, the prevailing culture was that most of the prophets were ‘professionals.’ They did not speak God’s word, rather, they pandered their message to what their clients liked to hear. They were afraid that if they offered any criticism or anything offensive, they might not get paid or might even lose their heads.

When Amos was sent by God to preach in the North, he did not have warm fuzzy things to say about the way God’s people were living their lives. Amaziah the high priest at the time, did not like what Amos was saying. He told Amos to go back home to the South and make his living there.

Amos in reply, told him that he was not a “professional” prophet. That he had a job as a shepherd and sycamore dresser before God called him to be a prophet to His chosen people. In variably letting Amaziah know that if it was about money, he could have gone back to his old profession. So, despite Amaziah’s opposition, Amos was there to accomplish the mission God gave him to do. What Amos was there for was to seek the good of all, he was not there for personal advantage.

In our Gospel, Jesus chose ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Like Amos, the apostles were not “professionals,” who earned their living by prophesying. Like Amos, they were simple men called from their ordinary jobs and sent by God to be servant-leaders of their brothers and sisters.

By sending them out on their own, we can say, Jesus wanted ex-fishermen, ex-tax collector to experience what it feels like to be rejected by the people they would serve. He was preparing them for the day He would return to His Father.

In sending them out on their own, Jesus let them know that it was time to grow up and have a taste of what it would be like if they did not have Him around. He wanted them to know that despite the miracles such as driving out demons and curing the sick that they would perform with His authority and power, they would face opposition and rejection. Jesus wanted them to know that they have to man up in order to accomplish His mission.

In our world today, what was going on during Amos’ time and when Jesus was physically present in this world is still going on. We have some church leaders and pastors telling us it is okay to pander to the secular world and accept things that are not from God. Consequently, some people are led to believe that if it feels good just do it. God does not care about what you do because He is merciful. However, God does not work this way. God wants us to participate in our salvation by obeying His commandments. He wants us to repent before we can receive His mercy.

Isn’t this what happens when prophets rise up, calling people to truth and justice? Many were assassinated and killed during Cristo Rey Wars (1926-1929); a war by the people of Mexico against the atheistic Mexican government. Mahatma Gandhi was killed because he wanted to bring Muslims and Hindus together. Oscar Romero was assassinated in El Salvador because he cried out for justice for the poor and the weak. It has always been like this, throughout history. Dictatorial powers always seek to silence those who speak the truth and call for change.

Jesus said He is the way, the truth, and the life. As we come to the table of the Lord, let us remember His words as we eat His flesh and drink His blood. Surely, through the power of the Holy Ghost, the mission of the Church must continue through us the baptized.