

At the end of today's gospel, Jesus wonders whether the Son of Man will find faith at the end of time? To put it in other words: Will people remain faithful to the spirit of God – the spirit of Jesus? Will human beings allow themselves to be transformed by the radical vision of Jesus? Will peace and justice prevail? Will our society care for those in need, like the widow?

Jesus proclaimed a radical message about God's love for all of us. Jesus offered a radical invitation to love one another without condition – to love those who are different than ourselves, to love even our enemies. In a world with many examples of hatred, violence, war, and unnecessary death, Jesus appears with the radical call for us to love our enemies, to turn the other cheek, to trust in the way of peace, and to be especially concerned for those most in need. Can the followers of Jesus today be faithful to this call, or will the vision of active loving nonviolence get lost?

In the first reading, the response to Amalek's attack on Israel was to wage war trusting in the power of God to bring victory. Do we have the same trust in the power of God to bring us victory through the active nonviolent love that Jesus proposes? Can we "keep our arms outstretched" and believe in the victory of Jesus or will we lose faith and instead trust in our weapons or in military and economic power?

In the second reading we are told to "remain faithful to what we have learned and believed." We are to "be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching." Is this possible with God's grace?

As we work for justice, do we have the persistence and vision of the widow in the gospel story?

... this is the very time for opening oneself with trust to the Providence of God, who never abandons his People and who, with the power of the Holy Spirit, guides them toward the fulfillment of his eternal design of salvation.

Today is World Mission Sunday. Today we pray for and we financially support those men and women who are called to bring Christ's message of peace and justice to God's people throughout the world. We, too, are reminded to bring that same message to those around us.

May we hear God's Word today, take the Word to heart, and put the Word into action in our daily lives.