



15th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ***YEAR B – July 15, 2018***

Last week, the scripture readings reminded us of the role of a prophet in the history of salvation. Someone who speaks on behalf of God to people who need to hear God's message.

This week, in the first reading (Amos 7:12-18), we hear about Amos in the old testament. He was chosen to speak on behalf of God to a people who were also reluctant to hear God's message. He fulfilled his mission because he trusted God and even when he felt abandoned by God and he often did, he believed God was still with him. And his faith in God was rewarded with success.

The second reading (Ephensian 1:3-14) reminds us that all of us are chosen, not only to be a prophet, but to be like Christ himself. We have a role to play in the history of salvation and that role is different for each one of us as St. Paul explains in his letter to the Corinthians.

In the Gospel (Mark 6:7-13), we hear about people who were chosen to give up everything in order to fulfill their role in the history of salvation. They were sent out two by two and the rest of that story is history.

Not all of us are asked to do that, but all of us are asked to be Christ like in the part of the world in which we live. You don't have to be a Francis of Assisi or a Mother Teresa in order to be like Jesus. You can be like Jesus at home, at your place of work, in your community and everywhere you go. You may have to change the way you relate to some people, especially the least of our brothers and sisters.

Mother Teresa chose the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi to be the official prayer of her community. In fact, when she accepted the Nobel Prize in Norway in 1979, she began her acceptance speech by reciting that prayer. As you reflect on how you can be Jesus for others in the part of the world in which you live, listen once again to that prayer ...

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, true faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
and where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console
to be understood as to understand
to be loved as to love
for it is in giving that we receive
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life."

You don't have to be St. Francis or Mother Teresa to fulfill your role in the history of salvation. We have enough dead saints. We need living saints for our own time. For a few moments in silence consider who needs you to be Jesus for them? Reflect on how you will do that today!

