

LORD, COME TO MY AID!

This Sunday's Gospel is particularly difficult to understand; it is not so simple to discover the message behind it.

Did Jesus come to bring peace or division?

On another occasion, Jesus had told his disciples, "My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you." And in another passage of Scripture, we also find that Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

However, today we hear Jesus tell us that he has not come to bring peace, but war. How can we understand this?

The first thing we must say is that the peace the world offers is not the peace Jesus speaks of.

The peace of the world is the fruit of ease, of comfort, and it is believed that the absence of problems will bring this peace. Therefore, the peace the world offers is momentary and fleeting.

The peace that Jesus offers, on the other hand, is the fruit of a spiritual battle, fought with the weapons of God. Knowing that we are moving against the current, we have the certainty of having God in our hearts. Therefore, the peace that Jesus offers is profound, permanent, and lasting.

True peace is achieved as a fruit of a commitment to our faith; it is the constant and ongoing struggle against sin, dying to old habits with the desire to surrender our whole heart to Christ.

When it comes to living the values of the gospel or the proposal desired by God, we will face opposition, displeasure, rejection, and from this comes division.

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah was condemned to death for speaking the truth; however, he trusted completely in the Lord.

Therefore, the author of the Letter to the Hebrews, which was the second reading, invites us to remember all those brothers and sisters who in the past gave proof of their faith, not fainting, but on the contrary, trusting completely in the Lord.

These brothers and sisters, ours who have been part of our Church, are true witnesses of that fire of which Christ speaks, countless martyrs throughout the Catholic Church, countless saints, who, from the silence and renunciation of the world, radically lived the Gospel.

Today as Catholics, we have a great challenge: to make the fire of the Holy Spirit present throughout the world, fighting for the defense of life, speaking out for those without a voice, defending those who, due to their immigration status or limited resources, face injustice, poverty, and loneliness.

Evidently, our faith must lead us to a commitment, but this commitment will cause opposition and contradiction. But let us not be afraid. The second reading also reminds us that we have not yet reached the end of our journey; it is best to continue fighting for the cause of Christ and the Gospel.

We pray to the Virgin Mary, a woman of courage, a woman of faith, that she may guide us on our journey as witnesses of Christ, the fire of the Holy Spirit, to all corners of the earth. AMEN.