

Our first reading is about an OT battle

The Israelite nation in battling the Amalekite people

Moses was the leader of the Israelite nation

Aaron was Moses brother

Standing with him when he confronted the Pharaoh

Joshua was his military leader

Hur was Caleb's son

In this battle the Israelites were out gunned

Out numbered

Out manned

Everything was against them

Except one

God would fight on their side

When Moses held the staff of God high

The same staff that he used to destroy the Pharaoh

The Israelites had the better of the battle

When he grew tired

His arms sinking to his side

The Amalekites would do better

Aaron and Hur come to his aid

They support him

Holding up his arms when he was too tired to go on

And Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people with his sword

St Paul knew Sacred Scripture

And in his letter to Timothy

He encouraged him to remember it as well

Paul is writing this letter from prison

Peter and most of the other apostles are dead or close to it

So Paul is wondering if this new faith will continue

Will belief in Christ continue to new generations?

St Paul knew the value of the OT

Even the difficult, violent teachings

When studied in the light of Christ

They are as valuable as a diamond

Even more so because they point us to eternity

The OT prepares us for and points us to the one who brings salvation

All of it is inspired by God

We need the correct way to interpret it

And that way is Jesus Christ

SS is the story of the history of salvation

How God prepared the world for His Son

How He worked directly and indirectly in their lives

To prepare us, for the moment we encounter Christ

His words to Timothy are his words to the Church

Remain faithful

Proclaim the Word

Be resolute

Correct those in error

Rebuke those that have gone astray

Encourage all

And do not be fainthearted

And in the Gospel we get a lesson how we are to do these things

Through perseverance

Even to the point of annoyance

The widow wants justice

But the judge is no friend

Perhaps he is even a friend of her enemy

So he ignores her request

Again and again

Until he is worn out

And gives her a just decision

Her perseverance wins the day

Perseverance in prayer is a necessary ingredient of prayer

It follows on the heels of the primary ingredient

Pray

Just do it

If we aren't praying, we can't persevere

If we don't give God time

We can't complain that we are not heard

Before we can offer great prayers

We need to pray

So how does this tie into mission Sunday?

We are in a battle

There is a spiritual war going on

We need to know this so we can join the battle

This is a key part of our mission

We are all on a mission

A mission of bringing the Gospel

Bringing the Good News to the world

It is not a Church that has a mission

It is a mission that has a Church

To accomplish this mission, we fight old warriors

The Amalekites were more than a people opposed to God

They represent all things that are opposed to God

They represent the evil that is in the world

That is why God instructed Joshua to mow them down

And why, in the next line of the text

A line we do not read today

It says God will fight the Amalekites from generation to generation

When we fight evil, God does not desire half way efforts

He doesn't want us to eliminate most of the sin in our lives

If a husband told his wife

I love you so much that I only cheat once a year

Is that love?

If you told your boss

I love this job and am so thankful

I only take an extra \$1000 when I really need it

Is that an honest person?

Can we justify even one case of child abuse?

Does that lead us to God?

If we are to be successful in our piece of the mission

So the mission will be a success

We need to strive to eliminate evil from our lives

All of it

To accomplish this mission, we need to pray

This is the primary way we influence our world

And if we get tired like Moses

We rely on the prayer of our brothers and sisters

We rely on the prayer and intercession of the saints in heaven

As Moses relied on Aaron and Hur

If we get stuck

There are things we can do

First, we have to see that we are giving God the best of ourselves

If we wait to pray at the end of the day

When we are tired and annoyed

Is that the best we can give God?

Or can we find a better time?

It has to become a priority

Something we take the time for

If we just wait to fit God in between the really important things

Give him a nod before nodding off ourselves

If this is our prayer

Is it really our first fruits?

Even if we give God prime time

We can find ourselves in a rut

If that is the case

Follow the advice of St Paul

Turn to Sacred Scripture

It will point us to the right path

It will point us to Christ

Lastly, we may think our prayers are not heard

So why bother?

Perseverance is Christ's answer to this

It may be that we will not see the answer we desire

But God does hear and answer

If perseverance can soften a human heart

How much more will it penetrate the Heart of love?