

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The findings show that *Midnight Mass* (2021) depicts religious fundamentalism through four characteristics which are the disciplinarian image of God, the belief that religious texts are completely true and have to be taken literally, the idea that one belief is the only correct one and intolerance toward other religions. It shows how rigid and excessive religious belief can cause harmful actions for individuals and for the community. This can be seen in how some characters use religion to excuse their selfish and violent behavior. At the same time, other characters who put their human values first like empathy and responsibility respond to it differently. This creates a clear difference in how people deal with rigid religious beliefs. The study also suggests that what is shown in the miniseries is not only fictional. It reflects real issues in American society. It shows how strict beliefs can lead to exclusion and conflict while empathy and responsibility can be a right way to respond to them. As a result, the miniseries can be seen not just as entertainment but also as something that reflects real social and ideological problems that exist in American life.

From a theoretical perspective, this study adds to academic discussions about religion in American society by using George Lakoff's Strict Father and Nurturant Parent models as a framework to understand how these issues are shown in popular media. Also, from a practical perspective, the findings gave us insights into the risks of extreme belief and also the importance of holding on to

personal human values. As a result, the study shows that empathy and responsibility can play an important role when facing rigid belief systems.

