

Our scriptures today all speak of God's **Mercy**.

In the first reading we just heard from the second Book of Chronicles, it relates the plight of the Hebrew people six hundred years before Christ. They were in captivity in a foreign land. Their temple had been destroyed. Morally they had turned their backs on God, totally ignoring His Commandments, and adopted pagan lifestyles, practicing the abominations of the nations. After all of their extreme infidelities, God has mercy on them and receives them back into a loving relationship.

It is likewise God's mercy that inflames the heart of St. Paul.

In today's second reading he cannot contain his joy in talking about the depth and richness of that mercy. A mercy that flows from God's unconditional love for us.

If that is not enough to convince us, pretend it is the first time you have ever heard John's statement, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who **believes in Him** might not perish but might have **eternal life.**" That should blow our minds! Shouldn't we stand in awe and wonder when we reflect on the fact that God allows Jesus to give His life on the cross as a sign of His incredible love? As the prophet expresses it in God's words, "What more could I have done for you that I have not done?"

The question we should each contemplate in our hearts is do we **really believe it?**

The response to the almost incredible mercy and love of God should be twofold:

First -to **rejoice** and give **thanks to God**.

Second - having received the gift of God's **mercy**, we are to go out and be instruments of that mercy and love to everyone without exception.