

## Lenten Reflection for the week of February 28, 2016

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### SCRIPTURE:

Exodus 3:1-8A, 13-15

Psalm: 103: -2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11

1 Corinthians 10:1-6. 10-12

### REFLECT ON THE READINGS:

God tells Moses he has seen the affliction of the Israelites and in his mercy, he is freeing them from slavery thru Moses. In the Psalm the psalmist speaks of God's Kindness and Mercy. Paul is reiterating to the Corinthians that God had mercy and freed the Israelites from slavery, but in their hardness of heart some rejected that Mercy.

### GOSPEL LK 13:1-9

The Gospel readings today are all about Mercy. Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree. It bore no fruit for 3 years, the land owner wanted to cut it down, but the gardener pleaded for the life of the tree and asked for another year of nurturing to see if it would bear fruit and then if it does not, then he would cut it down. During this time of Lent, we are to work and nurture our own Spirituality. Our faith is like that fig tree, change does not happen overnight. It takes time. Are we growing spiritually? Am I different from what I was 3 years ago, or am I the same, or worse? If we have not grown, maybe we need to change our habits, our lifestyles or our friends. Lent is a good time to do that inventory. Try a new approach, Reconciliation, forgive that person who has a hold on you, try going to daily Mass, get a Spiritual Director. There is still time.

Pope Francis has been preaching Mercy since he became Pope. In his *Easter Urbi et Orbi message on March 31, 2013, he said:*

"God's mercy can make even the driest land become a garden, can restore life to dry bones (cf. Ez 37:1-14). ... Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish."

### PRAYER:

Lord, give me the grace to forgive, to forgive myself, to forgive those I need to forgive. To be merciful to those in need, just as we ask our Heavenly Father to forgive us and have Mercy on us, may we do the same. Give us the strength and wisdom to prune and nurture our Faith so that we may bear much fruit that we may do God's will. Help us to make our garden one of good and fertile soil, rid of rocks and brambles. Lord, as a Lady of Charity, give me the grace to see your son in the homeless and those less fortunate, help me to show them mercy and let them know that they are loved.

### TRY THIS TODAY:

Make it a point to call someone that has grieved you. Someone you cannot forgive. If that person is deceased, write them a letter forgiving them. Be Merciful. Show your love.