

**For God so loved the world,**

**He gave Green Bay Aaron...**

**He gave the Badgers a # 1 seed**

**He gave the Milwaukee Brewers...**

**No, no ,no**

**For God so loved the world, he gave His only Son**

**For you**

**For me**

**For each of His children for all time**

**This doesn't mean he loves some more than others**

**It means we need to learn how to read his love**

**It is easy to see his love in victories**

**It is easy to see his love in material blessings**

**In health and wealth**

**But we need to learn to see His love in all things**

**We see His love in creation**

**We see His love in nature**

**In trees**

**Even in a tree that would become the cross His Son would die upon**

**Do we see His love in hardship?**

**Do we see His love when our health or marriages are threatened?**

**Do we see His love when we struggle financially?**

**God's love abounds**

**It always has and always will**

**Because he doesn't just love**

**HE IS LOVE**

**We see this in our first reading**

**When the princes, the priests and all the people of Israel**

**Added infidelity upon infidelity**

**Practicing abominations, polluting the Lord's Temple**

**How does God respond?**

**Early and often He sent messengers to them**

**He had compassion on them**

**But they mocked his prophets**

**Despised His warnings**

**And His anger was so inflamed there was no remedy**

**He allows them to be taken into captivity**

**The Temple destroyed by the pagan Babylonians**

**But all is not lost**

**God's punishment has a purpose**

**The exile eventually ends**

**God uses another pagan king and the Persian people to restore Israel**

**God's punishments and His blessings come from the same font**

**They come from His love**

**They call us to trust in Him**

**And not in ourselves**

**In our Gospel Jesus recalls the Exodus from Egypt**

**He tells Nicodemus**

**Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert**

**So must the Son of Man be lifted up**

**When the people turned against God in the desert**

**He sent the fiery serpents among them**

**If they were bitten, they died**

**When they cried out in repentance**

**God told Moses to make a bronze serpent**

**Mount it on a pole**

**When someone has been bitten**

**They were to look upon the bronze serpent**

**And they would be healed**

**God did not remove the serpents from his people**

**He did not protect them from being bitten again**

**The serpents remained as a reminder of their rebellion**

**But in His mercy**

**God sent a remedy**

**It is the same for our sin, for our rebellion**

**He doesn't remove it from our lives**

**He gave us free will so we could choose to love Him that is love**

**And when we fail**

**He sent a remedy**

***For God so loved the world***

***He sent His only Son***

**And when we are bitten, not by a snake but by Satan**

**When we sin and turn our backs to God**

**We look upon the remedy**

**We look upon Jesus Christ**

**The innocent Son of God, hanging on a cross**

**And in the words of Blessed Fulton Sheen**

**If this is the remedy**

**How deadly is the sickness?**

**And when we fall**

**He comes down to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves**

**As St Paul tells us**

**When we are dead in our sin, we are helpless**

**When the Israelites were dead in the wilderness**

**Being bitten by poisonous snakes**

**They were helpless**

**When the Jews were dead in exile**

**God restored them**

**We see this played out again and again in salvation history**

**We cannot understand this mystery fully**

**But we cannot deny it at the same time**

**Our restoration is a gift**

**Nothing we do earns it**

**But we can accept it**

**Jesus took our humanity upon his divinity**

**To lavish his grace upon our lives**

**This gift of faith allow us to do the good works God has prepared**

**That we should live in them**

***For God so loved the world***

***He sent His only Son***

**He wants to give us so much**

**More than we could ever imagine**

**But so often we fail to see**

**We shut ourselves off from His grace**

**We fall into the trap that we will get what we deserve**

**But there is a remedy**

**In faith, we look upon the Son**

**Raised up on the cross**

**And in humility**

**We ask for what He deserves**

**Then our good works are not something we do to earn a reward**

**The choices we make**

**The words we use**

**These are done in thanksgiving for what we have received**

**Living in his grace**

**We see everything as a reflection of his love**

**The good and the not so good**

**What he directly wills for us**

**What he allows for us**

**Then we see the cross isn't just a piece of jewelry**

**It isn't meant to be just a shrine in our home or in our church**

**It is a way of life**

**God brought redemption and salvation through Jesus' cross**

**When we embrace our cross**

**When it is our life**

**Our lives are joined to His**

**We get a little glimpse of the mystery**

**A little better understanding**

***For God so loved the world***

***He sent his only son***

***So that the world might be saved through him***