

Late Night television host and comedian Johnny Carson often would tell jokes in order to complain about the weather.

He would start out by saying: "It's soooo cold today ..." and the studio audience would respond: "How cold is it ..." and then Johnny would come back with the punch line.

And always on cue, his co-host Ed McMahon would inevitably laugh ... perhaps just a little bit more than was appropriate for so corny a joke.

Well today is one of those days. And as a small tribute to Johnny Carson, yet perhaps with none of his comedic talent: It's so cold this morning, that politicians have their hands in their own pockets.

Jokes notwithstanding, in today's reading we hear yet another part of the story of David and Saul. King Saul is soooo jealous of David, that he has assembled an army to hunt him down.

Yet in the story, we hear how David has King Saul in a position where he is indisposed, and completely vulnerable. So, David cuts off a piece of Saul's clothing - and later shows it to Saul - indicating that had he wanted to kill Saul, he could have; but instead - David shows mercy to Saul, and leaves the whole thing up to God's justice.

In our own dealings with others, we often go back-and-forth ... sometimes getting ... and sometimes giving. There's that old adage that "payback is ... heck."

Yet in a world filled with grudges ... and payback; a person is left constantly looking over their shoulder ... worried what might be coming next.

We know that we are created in the image and likeness of God ... and as Christians, we are called to image His mercy in how we live our lives.

Let us pray that we might be doers of God's mercy - so that we in turn may receive His mercy in our own lives. And with God's grace, we can be seen to be soooo merciful - that people will see ... not us ... but Christ ... in our acts and works of mercy.