

SO SEND I YOU, INC. 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Saint John Baptist Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Time: March 5, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every day, until Mar 31, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82089300351?pwd=qdHdd5LGaTRWPhJCRgOxsK6bL2Fnji.1>

Meeting ID: 820 8930 0351

Passcode: 628471

Dial by your location

- **+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**
- **+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

**DAY 20
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024**

THE DANGER OF SELF-DECEPTION

Rev. Keith Evans

John 1:6-8 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Deception is the primary objective of our adversary. If Satan can defraud us of our God-given identity or distort the image we should have of ourselves, he will then be able to detour us from our proper course of life and derail God's purpose in us. The forerunner of Jesus, John the Baptist, was not to be tricked into believing any lies concerning his identity. He was sure of his selfhood. More so, John the Baptist was confident in the character and personality of Jesus. The certainty of knowing Jesus safeguarded John from becoming delusional due to the intense public response to the prophetic function of his life. The overwhelming number of Judean residents John baptized in the Jordan River was enough to inflate anyone's ego. Yet, there was no fool's paradise with John the Baptist!

During the stages of our lives, God provides us with many gifts, resources, and opportunities to serve Him. At any point, we can become ensnared into believing that we own the gifts and the resources. The Bible instructs us to be faithful to God in all

things. All things include our time, our talents, and our treasure. We are to be faithful to God with our entire selves. To be faithful in this way, we must safeguard against self-deception. John the Baptist is an excellent example to us in this regard. Despite the success of his ministry campaign, the astronomical reach of his teachings, the number of his converts and disciples, and his prosperous genealogical descent, John remained faithful to God's divine purpose. John's faithfulness rested in the fact that he knew Jesus, in character and especially in person.

How we handle ourselves with whatever God empowers us with will always be manifest to those close enough to observe us. "One day, a tourist approached an Amish man and asked him, 'Are you a Christian?' Instead of answering, the Amish man pointed down the road at a house, and he said, 'That is my next-door neighbor. If you want to know if I'm a Christian, you need to ask him.'" Don't fool yourself; the light in you is the light of Jesus. Without Him, we have no light at all.

Prayer:

Dear God, we give thanks for the message of John and the ministry of Jesus. We thank you for the ministry and message entrusted to us. We pray that you keep us faithful to Jesus and mentally, physically, and spiritually healthy to carry out our duty. In Jesus' Name. Amen.