

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 14, 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 26 THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

EMBRACING THE RULE OF THE KINGDOM

Rev. Dr. Derick Brennan

Matthew 6:10 ...your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Rules, rules, and more rules. Humans are inundated with rules that are supposed to guide, govern, and guard us as individuals, groups, and society at large.

Matthew introduces us to a different rule, the Rule of the Kingdom. In an excerpt from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is teaching His current and future disciples “how to pray.” Prayer, talking to God, and listening to God, has many objectives and one that Jesus highlights is God’s Kingdom. The Kingdom is a spiritual state where Jesus reigns, His followers worship Him through obedience to His directives, and the world is transformed.

When believers embrace God’s Kingdom rule, the personal and communal signs may include both physical and spiritual healing, cleansing, resurrection, and liberation (Matthew 10:7-8.) These signs seed a desire for more of God, leading us to pray “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” During our earthly sojourn, Christians discern God’s will through scripture, the leading of the Holy Spirit, consulting with other

believers, and the wisdom of evaluated experience. However, there will always be an ongoing tension between our will and God's will.

Jesus is our exemplar of submitting to the will of the Father. In this passage, Jesus teaches "the model prayer," and specifically God's will. Even so, in Matthew 26:39 Jesus models "the model prayer" when he utters, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." To fully embrace the Rule of the Kingdom, all who are born again must have a "Yet not as I will" mindset. When we submit to His revealed will, while trusting in His concealed will, Kingdom edicts are easier to abide by. The Rule of the Kingdom will become the gauge by which all other rules are vetted. Personal, family, and societal rules that are just and equitable to all, especially the most vulnerable, would be embraced and enforced. Conversely, rules that are unfair would be challenged, amended, or abolished.

Prayer:

Father God, thank you for the privilege of prayer. Please crown me with a "Yet not as I will" attitude so that I may live out the Rule of the Kingdom. In Jesus' Name. Amen.