

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 16, 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 28
SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024**

LIVING WITH DAILY BREAD

Dr. Alvin Bernstine

Matthew 6:11 Give us today our daily bread.

Basic necessities drive and shape human behavior. From the nomadic roaming of our primitive ancestors to the hectic movement of our congested metropolitans, necessities dictate our days. Whether we admit it, or not, what is needed to survive transcends religious preferences. In fact, basic necessities exist without any religious allegiance or spiritual preference. Why then does “daily bread” feature so prominently in the Lord’s Prayer?

Jesus includes “daily bread” as an essential component of healthy prayer for at least three reasons: faith legacy, human anxiety, and healthy materiality. Consider faith legacy. A central component of Jesus’s faith tradition was a testimony of God’s faithfulness to Israel as they journeyed from Egypt to the Promised Land. God’s provision of basic necessities, the daily allotment of divinely delivered food, shaped the testimony of once enslaved people as they journeyed to the Promised Land (Exodus 16). Jesus drew from the legacy of His people’s faith to call attention to God’s continued concern for people whose existence was challenged by the need for daily bread.

Secondly, Jesus considers daily bread as an essential component of healthy prayer because of the continuing anxiety around basic necessities. As I write these lines, an unprecedented number of people live without access to basic human needs. Homelessness, food deprivation, inadequate healthcare, toxic water supplies, and other dehumanizing deprivations have become normalized. Many of the people who should connect with our churches live with perpetual anxiety over basic necessities.

Thirdly, Jesus saw, as should we, that a privileged elite class greedily satiates itself with unchecked materiality. A small percentage of people hoard and handle the primary mechanisms of the world's wealth. A prayer for daily bread checks unhealthy materiality where we are tempted to spend more money than we have to buy things we don't need to impress people we don't like (G. K. Chesterton). The Lenten season calls us to consider the power of our faith legacy, the level of our anxiety, and a check-up on healthy materiality.

Prayer:

O God, grant us the spiritual sense and sensitivity to order our lives around daily bread. May our faith legacy continue to shape us as it negates unhealthy anxiety and materiality. We ask in the name of the Bread of Life. Amen.