

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 19, 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 30
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024**

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Dr. Lee Zachary Masey

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 6:13 concludes the Lord's Prayer, the most famous prayer in the Bible. This succinct sentence is not a petition for deliverance from persecution (Luke 8:13). It is, however, a petition for rescue from the desire to usurp or steal the glory that belongs to God (Isaiah 42:8), an inclination inspired by the 'evil one' (Matthew 16:13b), the one who tempted our Lord in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11). Usurpers of God's glory include those who boast openly about their charitable gifts (Matthew 23:2), those who pray publicly to impress God and others (Matthew 6:5), and those who openly, selfishly, and embarrassingly express their superiority to others when they pray (Luke 18:9-14).

Believers are not to usurp God's glory! Instead, we are to give God glory with prayerful hearts fine-tuned to the conviction that God's name is holy and that we are honored, humbled, and blessed to be participants in God's kingdom on Earth. We also give God glory by living for God through the teachings of our Savior. Indeed, this is what Jesus means when He tells us to "let our light so shine" (Matt 5:16).

We also openly give glory to God through the worship of praise. Like prayer, praise connects us to Heaven. Praise unleashes the miraculous, the possible, and 'the way out of no way' (Acts 16:25-27). One source for our praise is remembering the grace of God in our lives. The poet of Psalm 63 calls this spiritual discipline, 'meditation' (Psalm 63:6), while Black Christians have called it 'counting your blessings.'

During this Lenten season, let us count our blessings. Whatever they are—food on your table, friends in a time of need, healing from disease, a settled mind in anxious times, unexpected grace in an uncertain world—count your blessings! Peace in your home, peace on your job, count your blessings! Praise the Lord for loving you, for keeping you, and for blessing you to be a blessing to others! Count your blessings!

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you, for all you have done for me, and all you are yet willing to do. In Jesus' Name. Amen.