

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 21, 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 32 THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

Rev.. Dr. Haywood A. Robinson, III

John 13:34-35 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Every good parent, coach, manager, or leader learns to capitalize on teachable moments. No one mastered this like Jesus. While preparing His disciples for His departure and for His imminent confrontation with the forces of evil, Jesus gives them a critical ministry insight and imperative. His simple, yet salient instruction is, "Love one another, as I have loved you." Allow me to suggest that the weight of this command is found in the phrase "as I have loved you." The future of His church was too important for Christ to allow His disciples to interpret the meaning and measure of love. So, He defines it for them: "as I have loved you." Furthermore, He implies that the most convincing mark of true discipleship to be observed by men is in our loving other believers as Christ loved His own disciples.

When we consider this command in its context, we learn at least three important truths. First, our love is to be intentional. Notice the insight John gives us in the first verse of chapter 13. Although fully aware of the discord caused by James and John's request for

favours, the imminent betrayal of Judas, the denials of Peter, and the defection of the others, “He loved them.” Wow! Dear friend, we, too, must love on purpose, in spite of, and in light of, what we know others might do.

We also learn that our love is to be incessant. This means “without stopping” or “continual.” Don’t miss the three words that follow: “to the end.” Jesus loved through the dissension, the deception, the denial, the drowsiness, and the defection. Our love for each other, likewise, must transcend every offense, every obstacle, and every opposition.

Finally, let’s be mindful that our love is to be instructional. The central phrase under consideration, “as I have loved you,” strongly suggests that loving like Jesus can be both caught and taught. We, therefore, are commanded to love each other in such a way that others can learn to love like Jesus.

During this Lenten journey, may we become more intentional, incessant, and instructional in the way that we express our love for Christ by so loving one another.

Prayer:

Father, cultivate in me a love like Yours and like that of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Teach me how to love intentionally, incessantly, and instructionally, not only that I might bear this signal mark of a true disciple, but that, in so doing, others might be attracted to the prospect and power of becoming loving disciples of Christ as well. In His wonderful name, I ask it. Amen.