

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 23, 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 34 SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

THE VITAL CONNECTION

Dr. Gregory K. Moss, Sr.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

During His brief three-year ministry on earth, as a master teacher, Jesus displayed a keen understanding of the people. He specialized in meeting people at the juncture of their understanding. Jesus used illustrations and parables to make plain and simple, the messages of life and wisdom in the Word.

Jesus was aware of Israel's agrarian culture, and the abundance of vineyards in the land. Therefore, in this passage, Jesus described the relationship between He and believers, as one of vine and branches. Jesus said, "I am the vine." Vines consist of a trunk, with its roots firmly planted vertically and horizontally in the ground, channeling nutrients up and throughout the plant. "You (believers) are the branches." The branches are to bear fruit. As long as the branches are connected to the vine, they receive the sap which carries water and nutrients essential to the production of fruit.

However, if a branch becomes disconnected, cut off from the vine, it no longer has access to its life-sustaining source, rendering it ineffective, non-producing, and useless.

Disconnected, the branch withers and eventually dies. It must remain connected to a source to receive sustenance.

Having made clear His role as the vine, and the believers as branches, Jesus ensures that the relationship is mutual, "If you remain in me and I in you..." It is not a command, order, or judgment to "remain." It is an invitation, summons, and promise that together, great things will happen; faithfulness will flourish; "much fruit" will be produced. And the best part is, you are not alone in your doing and fulfilling your purpose as a disciple of Christ.

It then is imperative for God's people (branches), to stay connected to the vine, which is Christ Jesus. To be clear, disciples can do activities apart from Jesus. However, it is best to heed the warning of Christ who made it plain, "apart from me you can do nothing." Those activities are just that, activities, with no real, eternal value.

Prayer:

Lord God, please enable us to stay connected and embrace the words of Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." In Jesus' Name. Amen.