

## **SO SEND I YOU, INC. 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

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**Saint John Baptist Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

**Time: March 29, 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)

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**DAY 39  
FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024**

### **PILATE'S WIFE HAD A DREAM**

**Dr. Gay L. Byron**

**Matthew 27:19 While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."**

The above passage is focused on the role of Pilate in a Passover custom of releasing a prisoner (Matt 27:11-26). Pilate, serving as the governor of Judea, had previously stated he "found no fault" with Jesus (Luke 23:4, 13-16). According to Matthew, he was now "sitting on the judge's seat" questioning Jesus and pulling in the crowd to give them an opportunity to weigh in on His innocence.

Pilate's wife shows up in this text by sending a message to her husband after she had a dream. What happened in her dream? What did she suffer? How did she know that Jesus was innocent? We have no direct response to her words in this text. Nor do we have any details or clues to help us understand her status or influence. The story continues with the chief priests and the elders who persuaded the crowd to release Barabbas and to have Jesus executed (v. 20).

Although Pilate does not speak on the matter, he does, however, take on the symbolic act of washing his hands and absolving himself of any responsibility (v. 24): “he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood,’” he said. “It is your responsibility!”

How many times have you been in a situation when it was easier to pass the responsibility, rather than stand up to the crowd, quiet the noise, and discern the best way forward? How many times have you ignored a message from God or rejected His vision for your life, your family, or your community? How many times has God tried to tell you something through a dream or through a message from someone close to you?

We know of Solomon’s dream for a discerning heart (1 Kings 3:5-15), Dr. King’s dream for peace and justice, and Harriet Tubman’s dream for freedom. But, this dream here in Matthew 27 of the unnamed first lady of Judea, is buried in the biblical story and overshadowed by the chant of the crowd: “Crucify him, crucify him!” May we remember her dream and her act of faithfulness: “Mercy triumphs over judgment” (James 2:13b).

**Prayer:**

**Eternal, Merciful God, you call me to be a dreamer. Help me to rest deeply in your presence so I may catch hold of your vision for my life. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.**