

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: Feb 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 5 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024

WORDS, WORDS, AND MORE WORDS

Dr. Amos Jones, Jr.

Hosea 14:2 Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to him: “Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.”

The book of Hosea describes Israel as a people who defected from God and no longer belonged to Him. God instructs Hosea to marry a harlot, Gomer, who bares for him children who, like Israel, no longer belonged to God.

In the final chapter of Hosea, the Lord has the Seer to appeal to Israel to return to the Lord (Yehovah= YHWH). Their return is not to be facile and ultimately futile; it is to be sincere – laden with words of repentance, viz., words, words, words, and more words.

The sin of Israel is grave. Time and again, in every book of the Old Testament, God reminds Israel that He brought them out of Egypt. This is no small matter with God. For 430 years, the Hebrews were in bondage in the African nation of Egypt. They cried to God. Finally, He heard their cry and delivered them with the understanding that He would be their God and they would be His people. But, soon after their liberation, at the foot of Mt. Sinai, while the Lord was giving Moses the Decalogue, Israel served idol gods at the foot of the mountain. This became their history. Now, they must return with

words of penitence aplenty falling from their lips. Pleadingly, they must beg of the Lord to "Take away all iniquity and receive us graciously."

Today, white America fitfully tries to ignore the egregious sins of their past. They inhumanely treated Africans brought to this country as slaves stripped of their humanity. Jesus says to them today, ". . . except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3). With copious words of sincere sorrow and heart-rending sadness, white America must repent with constructive action – lest they too will perish.

Likewise, the Negro after 250 years of American Slavery and a hundred more of rejection and humiliation, the Lord has delivered. But, like Israel of old, we have absconded from God and turned to idols. With tearful repentance, the Negro must plead to God for forgiveness and return to Him.

Prayer:

Dear Father, have mercy on us and hear our words of repentance. We return to Thee with a sincere heart and a made-up mind to do Thy will. In Jesus' Name. Amen.