

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 31, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
RESURRECTION SUNDAY.**

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)**

RESURRECTION SUNDAY SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

SACRED SCARS: THE EVIDENCE OF HOLY VICTORY

Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Weaver

Luke 24:39 Look at my hands and feet... a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have...

People don't like scars. In America, in 2022, over \$11.8 billion dollars was spent on cosmetic surgery. Sometimes individuals who have been in terrible accidents, receive cosmetic surgery to restore what was damaged or destroyed. Also, cosmetic surgeries are done to correct birth defects, like a cleft palate.

Many cosmetic surgeries are elective where patients "elect," or choose to have them, but they are not medically necessary; and also they're undertaken to restore a body that has begun to show signs of age (facelift, eye lift) or has stretched (weight gain, stretch marks, etc.). Most human beings would rather have the face and body of their youth than the aches, spots, scars, and wrinkles that come with age (and accidents). We do not like wrinkles or spots or scars because they remind us of an unpleasant time or a time we cannot recapture or recreate.

However, wrinkles, spots, and scars also remind us that we have survived... and in some

cases thrived... in spite of what we have been through. They are reminders that we have lived through some things... survived some things... overcome some things... gained victories over some things. And, this text is a reminder that scars are the proof that you came through what you didn't even think you would survive.

The disciples' hopes were completely dashed at Calvary. The death of Jesus was the death of all of their hopes. To be fair, no one had ever come back from the dead. However, Jesus told them that He would rise again, but the reality of Calvary was so large that they either couldn't recall or couldn't hold on to what Jesus had said. (A cautionary note: We must never let our problems or our situations loom larger than God's ability to keep His promise.)

Jesus appeared to the rest of the disciples after He appeared to the two disciples on the Emmaus Road. They were initially frightened, thinking they had seen a ghost. That's when Jesus showed them His scars, the evidence of His victory over death, hell, and the grave. Appealing to their senses, the Risen Christ invited them to examine the empirical evidence of His bodily resurrection. "Look... touch..." The Bible reads that in the midst of their joy, the disciples were both disbelieving and wondering. Once Christ had given them empirical evidence of His resurrection, they were filled with joy. But, at the same time, their minds were still stuck, disbelieving and still wondering, so much so that they could not fully enter the joy of Christ's victory.

What scars (visible and invisible) do you have? Examine your body and reflect on your past. How many things have you survived that you didn't think you would have? How many unexpected victories do you have? Your scars are sacred. They are the evidence of God's victory in your life. In them, you bear the testimony of God's work.

Prayer:

Father, help us to honor our scars, allowing them to bring us joy. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



"We have been having that church for over 25 years without a proper building, but finally by God's grace we received a building through So Send I You."

***Rev. Sao, United Missionary Baptist Church-Tsehlanyane, Leribe District
Northern
Lesotho***