

## **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 25, 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 35  
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024**

### **DOING MINISTRY FROM A STOOPING POSITION**

**Dr. William B. Sutton, III**

**John 13:5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.**

Foot-washing was a common practice in antiquity, especially in the East where sandals were the most common form of footwear. The practice of foot-washing has its origin in the hospitality customs of many ancient cultures. The custom consisted of a host who would provide water for his guests to wash their feet, and one of the host's servants/slaves would wash the feet of the guests. Sometimes the host would serve his guests by personally washing their feet. This act of hospitality was not only humbling, but it was a dirty chore as well.

We need to be reminded that at this point in human history, the main form of transportation was walking. Only the very wealthy could afford camels, horses, and chariots as modes of transportation. Additionally, most of the roads used for pedestrian travel were not paved but were mainly dirt roads. Most of these dirt roads were shared by both humans and animals. Roads were also places where animals and humans would often relieve themselves of their bodily waste and other bodily discharges like spit, vomit, blood, sweat, and mucus.

It is against this backdrop that Jesus uses the Jewish custom of hospitality to teach His disciples that the hallmark for doing ministry, for those who would be disciples of Christ, is one's willingness to stoop down and wash the feet of people who have walked the roads described above. Moreover, since Jesus directs this teaching example to His inner circle of disciples, many of whom eventually become the leaders and the Apostles in the early church, this admonition is especially applicable to those in the Christian Community who desire to serve in leadership. In other words, Christian Ministry is a service for those who do not mind stooping down, and getting dirty so that others can be helped to experience cleansing in their lives.

This same paradigm for doing Christian Ministry is equally applicable for those who desire to serve as leaders in the service of Christ. In other words, leadership in the Christian Community is most fitting for persons who are willing to lead by stooping down in order to serve others! Jesus powerfully uses himself as the example of the leader who was not only committed to serve from a stooped position but who ultimately was willing to lay down His life in service to others who need cleansing from sin.

Jesus himself stooped as far down as any human being could possibly go in order to not only clean the dirt off of others but to actually, in a very "hands-on" way, dry the feet of His disciples with a towel that was apparently being used to cover His own body. What about us? How far down are we willing to stoop in order to serve others?

**Prayer:**

**Lord, during this Season of Lent teach us the power of learning to serve and to do ministry from a stooping position. Moreover, teach us that when we are willing to do ministry from this position, this is the only place where we can reach people like ourselves, who are in need of cleansing. In Jesus' Name. Amen.**