

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 27, 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 37
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024**

BE FOR REAL

Dr. John W. Kinney

Matthew 26:38a My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death...

Paul Lawrence Dunbar penned a poem “We Wear the Mask” suggesting that the marginalized must hide their feelings and fake it to make it. While we recognize the mask demanded by racial reality, we must also recognize that glorified religiosity often coerces us to hide our true feelings under the cover of spirituality. In the Garden of Prayer, Jesus strips the mask away and invites us to “Be for Real.”

The Reality: Having set His face to Calvary and walking the path of fidelity, in His true humanity, Jesus gives full expression to His feelings: ‘sorrow unto death.’ Being in anguish, stress, or sorrow at points in the faith pilgrimage do not reflect diminished faith, but, rather, provides the evidence of authentic presence and participation in a committed life. The absence of “pain” in the journey may suggest that your faith is so meaningless and impotent that no attack comes against you, and /or, that your faith is so immature that you wear the mask of denial. Jesus reminds us that true intimacy with God gives rise to deep feelings and those who are empowered by the Spirit are never without emotions.

The Reach: In His moment of crushing emotions, Jesus reveals that nothing separates us from God and that all can be laid on the altar of prayer. Faith does not deny emotional duress but affirms that the weight of the duress can be cast into the Throne Room of Glory.

The Release: In prayer, Jesus gave His total person, including His emotions, to the will of God. In His surrender to the will of God, Jesus gave ultimate authority to God and not His feelings. When we make an honest release to God we say, "Your will be done." When we give our all to God, we know that whatever we may feel, God will take care of us. What a sweet release!

Prayer:

God grant us honesty in our way, wisdom in our walk, and peace in your will. In Jesus' Name. Amen.