

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 28, 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 38
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024**

GET UP! LET'S GO GET THIS OVER!

Dr. Demetrius K. Williams

Matthew 26:46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

The act of betrayal can be quite traumatic for the one who suffers such, especially if the betrayer is a family member or intimate friend. One might exclaim as did the Psalmist, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.... If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were rising against me, I could hide. But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship at the house of God, as we walked about among the worshipers" (Psalm 55:6, 12-14). This psalm might reflect the lament of a king who was betrayed by an intimate friend who was a part of his inner circle. Such betrayals were always a danger to those in power.

Julius Caesar experienced this when on March 15 (the Ides of March), 44 BC, he was attacked by a group of senators that included his friend and protégé, Brutus, causing him to exclaim (according to Shakespeare at least [Julius Caesar, Act 2, scene 1]), "Et tu Brute?" ("You too, Brutus?"). While Caesar initially resisted his attackers, when he saw that Brutus, his intimate friend had conspired with his enemies to betray him, he was so distraught he ceased struggling and succumbed to their attack. Betrayal can be

extremely traumatic; unless one knows who one's betrayer is long before the betrayer knows it him/herself.

Jesus declared in John 6:70-71, after feeding a multitude: "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Unlike you or I might do, Jesus chose to include Judas in His inner circle. He knew Judas would betray Him even before Judas realized it himself – for at the Last Supper, when Jesus announced that He would be betrayed, Judas said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?" (Matt 26:25).

Yes, it would be him. Yet Jesus included Judas in all that He did and taught to the other disciples. Judas was there when Jesus preached, performed miracles, and raised the dead. He was in the room when Jesus washed the disciples' feet as an example of love and servanthood. He was not denied Jesus' love, attention, or compassion. Judas was absent, however, in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus prayed that night before being handed over to the Jewish authorities. When Jesus saw him coming, He exclaimed to the disciples: "Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!" And a kiss shared between friends was a sign of Judas's betrayal. Jesus knew that His journey toward the cross had begun.

Unlike Jesus, we do not usually know who our betrayer is until the act is completed. Our task in following Jesus's example is to move from trauma to trusting God to give us the strength to love and forgive when betrayed by family or intimate friends. We must remember that all things are a part of God's ultimate plan for us—just as it was for Jesus—even hurtful acts of betrayal. We too can get up! and get over it!

Prayer:

Dear Lord, during this time of Lent, may we be inspired and strengthened by your example. In Jesus' Name. Amen.