

A Meditation on the Scourge of Abortion

We just heard two of the most depressing events in the Scriptures apart from the crucifixion of our Lord. They are very appropriate for our meditation on the scourge of abortion today. In the two readings defenseless babies were killed by sinful men who wanted to retain their power. Today and for over 49 years approximately 62 million defenseless babies have been killed by sinful people for the sake of convenience and promiscuity. 62 million babies! Let that number sink in! May the Lord have mercy on us! From our second reading, we hear:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no
more.” (Matthew 2:18)

Would that weeping and loud lamentation be heard in the United States! And all of us have blood on our hands.

You may have participated directly in abortion. You may have bought into the lie that abortion is a woman's right or no big deal like trimming your fingernails.

Or you may have bought into the lie of feminism that there is no real difference between men and women, and you need abortion to make that a reality. Or you may have been emotionally shipwrecked and not seen any other alternative than abortion. Lord, have mercy!

Even if you didn't participate in abortion personally, you may have lived or promoted a promiscuous lifestyle. God gave us the incredible gift of life when He created Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. God even includes us in the incredible act of creation. God created family as the bedrock within which to create and care for babies. Anything that attacks the family, including sex outside of marriage, by both men and women, creates the conditions that make abortion a reality. Lord, have mercy!

Even if you didn't participate in abortion or participate in promoting sexual sin, you may have remained silent when given the opportunity to speak up for the defenseless in the womb. It's not easy to confront loved ones with something they don't want to hear. It's not easy to continue to defend life in what seems like insurmountable odds at times. Sometimes we take the easy course and remain silent. Lord, have mercy!

We must not participate in any aspect of abortion. And we must not promote promiscuity. And we must not and cannot remain silent!

For our active or passive participation in the plague of abortion, we need forgiveness and that's why Jesus came.

Think about this: when the fullness of time had come and God the Son joined Himself to human flesh, He knew that Herod would kill all those defenseless babies. But still He came. He came because He knew it would be damnation for all of us if He didn't take on human flesh and live and die in our place.

Adam and Eve fell into sin in the garden and doomed all of us to be conceived in and into sin. St. Paul teaches us that "none are righteous" (Rom. 3:10) and that we are "dead in our trespasses and sin." (Eph. 2:1) St. John teaches us that "if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves." (1 Jn. 1:8) It's no surprise that the world is rebellious against God's good order of family and life. It's also not surprising when we succumb to temptation and act rebelliously as well. We have all sinned and fallen short of what we are supposed to be.

The only answer to sin is the proclamation of John the Baptist:

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (Jn. 1:29)

Jesus took all our sin upon Himself and took it to the cross and suffered the full wrath of God the Father against our sin. (Is. 53:10a) He paid for the sin of the world including yours and mine.

Jesus paid for the sin of everyone who’s participated in abortion.

Jesus paid for the sin of everyone who promoted a lifestyle against marriage and family.

Jesus paid for the sin of everyone who turned a blind eye to the evil of abortion.

But when Jesus said on the cross that “It is finished,” (Jn. 19:30) He means that the full payment of sin is paid for. Your sin is covered by His blood, thanks be to God.

St. John teaches you that you cannot be forgiven through being born into the faith or through your good works or through your decision (Jn. 1:13) It is given to you apart from works through faith.

He delivers this amazing gift of grace in Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. These are wonderful, tangible gifts of God that deliver to you the forgiveness of sins and salvation. And they also keep you firm in the faith until you die in Jesus.

St. Paul puts it this way:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”
(Ephesians 2:8-9)

This gift of forgiveness and salvation changes you. It gives you the knowledge of life, and even more, the abundant life found only in Christ. It gives you the courage to boldly confess Christ to your neighbor who needs Jesus as much as you do! It gives you boldness to defend in word and deed those who cannot defend themselves including, and especially, the unborn.

When you live this way, you will be attacked by the world and Satan. The world will mock you and spit upon you and try to silence you. Satan will dredge up your sin again and again to make you feel like the biggest hypocrite in the whole wide world.

That's why we're singing a hymn probably unknown to most of you. Because of this, Pastor Mark Stirdivant will sing the first stanza for us, and we will join him for the following three stanzas. I wanted to give you a weapon when you're being attacked by the world and Satan. The best defense is the Word of God. And the hymn, "O Little Flock, Fear not the Foe" is based entirely on Scripture, like all good hymns are. It is another way to keep God's precious Word on your heart, mind, and lips.

It is good to remember those affected by abortion like we do today.

It is even better to remember the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf for forgiveness of sins and salvation.

So, "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."
(Gal. 6:9)

May our Lord strengthen our faith in Him and strengthen our resolve to defend babies in the womb.

In Jesus' name. Amen.