



How Would Jesus Respond to Abortion?

February 5, 2023 Message Notes

TEXT: GENESIS 1:27, 2:18; PSALM 139:13-14; MATTHEW 19:14

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NOTES

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It is so much more than political controversy. It literally is a matter of life and death.

Pew Research reports that from 1973-2022, from the time the U.S. Supreme Court established and then overturned *Roe vs. Wade*, a total of 63 million abortions happened in the United States.

This is a critical issue of our times. How are we to respond? How would Jesus respond?

How can we know that when there is no place in the Gospels where Jesus directly models how to do it?

Abortion as we know it wasn't practiced in Bible times. The Bible never specifically mentions abortion by name. That doesn't mean we don't see in the life and the mind of Jesus principles and practices to help us.

Life is God's gift to us.

It's meant to be respected and cherished.

We have the special distinction of being image-bearers of God.

"...in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Genesis 1:27

Marriage is God's design to bring more image-bearers to life.

Human life is connectional, not radically individual.

The radical individualism so popular in culture is not God's design for life, for man or woman.

"... It is not good for man to be alone..."

Genesis 2:18

We live our best lives in community. Radical individualism hurts us. Staying connected helps us.

We're in it together. Life is God's creation. Humans partner with God in connecting.

"...Woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman."



1 Corinthians 11:11

The Bible Jesus read claimed human connections in the womb are profound - connections with God who gives life inside the womb and with others outside the womb who affirm life. God is at work in the womb.

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made....”

Psalm 139:13-14

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart....”

Jeremiah 1:

“...From my mother’s womb you have been my God.”

Psalm 22:10

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb...”

Luke 1:41

God wants humans to guard life with justice.

When it comes to justice God’s Word speaks to the value of the powerless.

During the exile, Pharaoh wanted all Hebrew baby boys killed, but the midwives obeyed God instead.

“...Those Hebrew women aren’t like Egyptian women. They are vigorous and give birth before we arrive.”

Exodus 1:19

“Let the children come to me, don’t prohibit them. The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Matthew 19:14

“See that you don’t despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 18:10

When it comes to power, God’s Word speaks to the duty of those with power to use it for the benefit of others.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute, speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”



Proverbs 31:8-9

Women's rights matter. Image-bearer's rights matter – in connection as humans.

“...The Lord hates...hands that shed innocent blood...”

Proverbs 6:16-17

Human beings are created for eternal life - a quality of life fulfillment that never ends but becomes more wonderfully complete in God's presence, now and forever more.

The attainment of that life doesn't come through self-indulgence or self-centered self-determination but true love that lives through sacrifice.

Choose love and life over convenience and self.

John 1 gives us the answer that invites our greatest reflection, with Jesus showing us “...the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

How would Jesus respond to abortion?

He probably wouldn't say, “let's vote on it and go with the majority.”

He probably wouldn't use blame and shame. That wasn't his way with women, children or men.

Jesus would respond with grace and truth.

He'd challenged men to step up into responsibility and to stop using women for sex and excusing themselves from fatherhood. To instead use their power to honor women, tame their desire and respect life by being responsible sexually.

Jesus would say to women, “neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more,” John 8:11. There's a way to leave your past and live a new future. There is a love that won't leave you but will commit to you.

Forgiveness is the way forward. Jesus is way better at saving than we are at sinning.

Jesus' response to abortion and other hurts would be to meet us at our wounds.

Jesus met the woman at the well's past and hurt with a quality of love that led her to a new way of facing them. Not dodging, running, hiding or living in guilt and shame – but finding freedom.

Thomas, the disciple, had a deeply wounded faith. Jesus covered his broken heart and faith with His broken body – his scarred hands and side. He met him with healing and love.



He can do this for you, today – even with an issue as tough and tender as this.

Would you ask Jesus to meet you at your wound?

To show you where fear and anger are making decisions, not grace and truth?

Would you present your perspective to Jesus today, whatever it is, and ask him to guide your understanding? Have you been walking alone with your past? Would you bring it to Jesus today?

Jesus loves you. He's here for you and cares for you. He's bigger than this and his wounds can help you find freedom.

He's not trying to limit your life. He's trying to help you get free.

How would Jesus respond to abortion?

Why not ask Him and see where He takes you?

“The one who comes to me I will not turn away.”

John 6:37

