

“DID GOD SAY ... ? SATAN’S ATTACK ON BABIES”

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First Christian Reformed Church

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Scripture Texts: Mark 10:13-16

Prayer: Holy Father guide us in our study of your Holy Word, that we may learn the truth and grow in our knowledge of you and of your purposes for us.

Introduction.

Today is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, the Sunday closest to the day the US Supreme Court issued its worst ruling in the history of the court, when it legalized child sacrifice, we call abortion.

Before I begin, I want to give a very clear word of life and hope to anyone who has had an abortion or has been involved with someone getting one. Our God is gracious and merciful, He who delights to forgive us all our sins, including the sin of abortion. Jesus did not come to earth for the righteous, but for the unrighteous, for sinners like you and me. The blood of Jesus is more than sufficient to cover and cleanse all unrighteousness.

As the pastor here I want to declare our love and support for anyone who needs it.

As I speak this morning if you are feeling covered up with shame, know that just means you are not yet free, and Satan still has his hooks in you. Shame is God’s grace to move us toward His forgiveness and freedom in Christ. Confess and repent and He will set you free, His perfect love casts out all fear and sin. And when Satan reminds you of what you have done, remind Him of what Jesus has done for you.

Let me show you an honest, healthy, hope filled way of dealing with sin.

Micah 7:8–9 Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. I will bear the indignation of the Lord because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall look upon his vindication.

Glory to God, that is exactly what He most delights to do and wants to do for you. I hold out the love of God and the love of this church to you. There is no condemnation here, only grace for those willing to humble themselves and receive it. Take refuge in the cross of Jesus. Take refuge in the gospel of Jesus.

Did God Say ... ? Satan’s Attack on Babies.

This morning I am beginning a series of sermons under the theme or heading of Did God Say ...? That is a reference to Satan's words to Eve in the garden when he said:

Genesis 3:1 "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

Satan twisted God's words and sowed the seeds of doubt and disbelief. And he has been doing that every day ever since. We need help to be able to be wise to his ways and resist him that he might flee (James 4:7).

Satan is our enemy. Satan hates us.

You have heard that God loves you and has a plan for your life. Satan is the anti-god. Satan hates you and he has a plan for your life, to ruin your life.

His plan is to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

And near the top of the list of things Satan hates and is out to destroy are babies.

Satan hates babies.

You know the song, Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Satan hates the little children, all the children of the world. And he always has.

Remember Pharaoh trying to kill the male babies of the Israelites. For over 400 years the pagan nations of Canaan offered up their children as sacrifices to appease their gods. All through history women and children and infants and babies in the womb were caught in the crossfire of invading armies. Satan attacked Job by killing his ten children.

In the NT Satan carried out his wicked schemes through politicians like Herod killing the babies in Bethlehem.

To this day Satan has not stopped. Deranged citizens carry guns into elementary schools, abortion clinics welcome terrified teenagers with open arms, Boko Haram pillages Nigerian villages kidnapping girls, a young couple decides Down syndrome will disrupt their life plans, young girls are sex trafficked, companies market drugs and vaping to children.

Satan has been waging war on babies and children for thousands of years, and abortion is his greatest tool and greatest victory ever.

"If only one man dies of hunger, that is a tragedy. If millions die, that's only statistics" (Joseph Stalin).

It's true, the number of deaths by abortion is so huge, it's a statistic we have become numb to. When you hear statistics about the leading causes of death in our nation or our world, always remember they are wrong. There is a leading cause of death that is ignored and never reported.

Abortion has killed over one and a half billion babies in the past 40 years, over 50 million every year. That is more than have been killed in all the wars in human history. Abortion is the cause of half of the world's deaths, way more than heart disease, cancer, strokes and accidents.

In the US since 1973, over 61 million babies have died. PP has killed almost 9 million.

Satan hates babies and he is waging a global war. Abortion is not just political issue or a political hot button. Abortion is not just a women's issue or a women's rights issue. Abortion is a great evil perpetrated by the evil one. Abortion is part of Satan's great plan to steal, kill and destroy.

Why does Satan hate babies?

Why does he hate babies so much? Where should we start? What did God say?

Genesis 1:27 God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him.

Babies are image bearers of God, everyone is a reflection, a reminder to Satan of God.

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.

God is a fruitful God, a generous God. Where God is there is fruit and life. God made everything in His creation to bear fruit. Satan hates fruitfulness and life, he loves death and destruction. "Did God really say be fruitful? Aren't there too many people already?"

Psalms 127:3-5 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Psalms 139. "Does God really see in the womb? Isn't it just a blob of tissue?"

Malachi 2:15 Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So, guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.

God desires God-glorifying children.

Revelation 5:10 "... you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

That's what scared Herod, a baby who was a future king. We are a threat to Satan, as one day we will replace him in ruling over the earth.

I love God's greatest assault on Satan's agenda, the great reversal, the great irony. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. How did He do it? By coming to earth and being born as a baby, by entering a woman's womb. How in your face can that be? The very thing Satan hates, Jesus becomes. And the power of Satan is exposed when he is unable to prevail against a baby.

Having babies is a subversive act, it's a challenge to the gates of hell. Having babies is spiritual warfare. It is denying Satan's lies and believing what God says.

The Bible is full of babies. What other religious book is like this?
Miracle babies, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Samuel, John the Baptist, Jesus.

Our text in Mark 10:13-16 is another reason Satan hates babies.

This is a collision of two worldviews, the world's worldview and the Christian worldview, the same collision in the Garden of Eden, when Satan reared his ugly head with lies and hatred and malice.

One remarkable thing about this story is the ignorance and blindness of the disciples. They think they are representing the mind and heart of Jesus, when they could not be farther from the truth.

So is our nation blind and deceive, they think this evil of abortion is a good thing, a right thing, a necessary thing.

The disciples reflect an attitude that is from Satan, that children are beneath us, not deserving of time and attention. They are a bother, an inconvenience, at best they are to be seen, not heard. God has much bigger and more important things on His mind than kids.

This is no small or frivolous thing Jesus does. He touches them, He blesses them, He prays for them before the Father that they be received by Him as the children of God.

Jesus loves children. He is tender and affectionate with them. And not just from a distance. He is up close and personal with children. Jesus loves children.

The kingdom of God looks very different from the kingdom of Satan. The kingdom of Satan is full of malice, hatred, pride, posturing, pushing others aside. It cares about who is first, who is biggest, who is strongest.

The kingdom of God is the opposite, empty of malice, hatred, pride, thinking too highly of oneself. The kingdom of God puts on the nature of a child.

Satan hates that children are a picture and reflection of all who enter the kingdom of God, that they belong to God and are included in His covenant and kingdom family.

He hates their tender consciences, that they are so easily trained in the things of God, that they embrace Jesus so freely and willingly. He hates their love of life and their joy and pleasure in simple things and beautiful things.

You can know this about your children. God is on your side in your fight against Satan and in your fight to raise them and discipline them in the fear and knowledge of the Lord.

Jesus was indignant and stood up to the disciples, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

God is for the least, the littlest, the youngest, the most frail, the baby in the womb.

Implications and application.

First, we live in a culture that is wearing us down, normalizing sin, normalizing abortion, it is common place, it is acceptable, there is no turning back the clock. It’s just a statistic. Fight against every attitude that is against children.

We must guard our hearts against anything that sets itself up contrary to God’s Word. I preach lest we forget or get numb or don’t care anymore. What does God say?

When we have children, when we care for children, when we take children in, when we adopt or do foster care or babysit or serve in the nursery, we are wrestling with the devil, we are resisting the enemy, we are reversing the curse.

Yes, there is a tremendous sacrifice involved, yes, they are an interruption, yes, they slow us down, yes there are other things we could be doing, but nothing with more valuable or important. Satan’s lie is to be selfish, to not be inconvenienced or bothered, to not sacrifice or suffer.

Babies save us. Babies save us from selfishness. Babies save us from chasing the American Dream/idol. Babies humble us. Babies make our hearts soft, tender, compassionate.

Second, love children. Welcome children. Believe with all your heart that all children are a precious gift from God. Jesus loves the little children and so should we.

When children act like children don’t become impatient. Smile at them running around the fellowship hall, don’t begrudge cleaning up their messes. Help the mother who has her hands full.

Love all God’s children. They are image bearers of the living God. Never criticize anyone who has lots of them. Celebrate births, celebrate large families. They are all blessings from God. May children never feel unwanted. Love and hug and kiss and bless and pray for your children.

The children of this church should have the affectionate interest of every adult in this church. They are the future of this church and this community. It matters what we do for them now.

Thank God for our staff and volunteers who devote so much time and attention to our children and youth. For the youth volunteers, Cal and Laura, Andrew, Jeff and Renee, Patty, for our education ministry team, for those who teach in our Sunday Schools and Children's Church.

Thank those who serve week in and week out in our nurseries. It should be a privilege and a blessing to serve and give in this way. It is a holy work that is pleasing to Jesus. We always need more volunteers and the more volunteers the fewer times each one would be there.

If every abled bodied member here took a turn, you would only be there about once a year. Call the office if you would be willing to love on some children even if it's just once a year. Consider serving the smallest in our community a few times a year.

Third, take a baby bottle home and fill it up. Do this with your kids and talk to them about why you are doing it, how important it is to take whatever small steps we can.

Pregnancy centers face constant attacks from governments and legislators and Planned Parenthood. They do so much on tight budgets.

Fourth, we can use our vote for the sake of the least of these. I cannot in good conscience vote for any candidate in any office who believes it is OK to kill babies in the womb. It ought to be unthinkable. It is immoral and unjust to deprive someone life without due process. It is the shedding of innocent human blood. Anyone who supports it is unfit to serve in leadership.

Finally, pray for unborn babies, pray for young moms who feel trapped in seemingly impossible circumstances, pray for young dads to do what is right and not what is convenient. Pray for the souls of those who do abortions. Pray for an end to the holocaust that is destroying the children of our nation.

Pray for legislation, for Supreme Court rulings that will protect all human life. Pray for someone like Wilberforce in England or President Lincoln in America to be raised up.

Bring children to Jesus in your prayers because no one can reach their hearts the way He can. Even from heaven Jesus can reach them with His touch and blessing. He is the author and finisher of our faith, He is the changer of hearts.

Jesus loves you, Jesus loves your children, Jesus loves babies, they are His answer to Satan's lies.