

"Blood that Cries Out"
 by Bishop Jeffrey Miskus
 Text: Proverbs 31:8-9

IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR CRUCIFIED, RISEN AND ASCENDED LORD, WHO IS NOT DEAD BUT ALIVE, WHO IS NOT IN THE TOMB, BUT IS WITH US HERE, NOW WITH HIS LOVE AND HIS POWER AS HE LIVES AND REIGNS AT THE GLORIOUS RIGHT HAND OF GOD OUR HEAVENLY FATHER. DEARLY BELOVED CHILDREN OF GOD...

- I. All human life is sacred.
 - A. Sacred means that it has been set apart by God for God's purposes.
 1. The Bible says, "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)
 2. Psalm 22:10 reads, "From birth I was cast upon you; from my **mother's womb** you have been my God."
 - B. From conception on, we are persons in the eyes of God.
 - C. Science has revealed to us that following conception it is only weeks before our hearts begin to beat.
 1. By week 7 our skeleton is fully formed...
 2. By week 11 fingers and toes are no longer webbed.
 3. By week 13 babies are sucking their thumbs...
 4. By 16 weeks we are almost fully formed in our mother's wombs.
 - D. All human life, young – old, healthy or sick, physically or mentally challenged – all human life is sacred and precious in the sight of God.
- II. And God graciously guards and protects our lives with his Word commanding us ...
 - A. "You shall not murder." (Ex. 20:13 and Duet. 5:17)

1. As individuals we are not permitted to take the life of another human being.
 2. In Genesis 9:5-6 God says, "And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the **image of God** has God made man."
- B. Perhaps His strongest condemnation comes in Proverbs 6:16-17, "There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed **innocent blood...**"
1. God hates the shedding of innocent blood.
 2. In fact we are told that when innocent blood is shed, it cries out to God for vengeance.
- C. Listen to Genesis 4:8-10, "Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground."
1. One wonders if God was speaking figuratively...
 2. Does God actually hear the innocent blood crying out?
- III. If he does actually hear the innocent blood, then there is a horrible scream coming from the earth.
- A. For unborn children have lost their basic right to life.
 - B. In our country it is legal to kill children that are still inside their mother's wombs.
 - C. This practice is called 'Abortion'.
1. God calls it murder. Abortion is murder.
 2. Our country calls the victims of abortion "a fetus".
 3. God calls them his precious babies – human beings – with lives that are sacred in his sight.

D. Many countries provide no human rights protection whatsoever for children before the moment of complete birth.

1. Millions of abortions occur every year at any stage of pregnancy.
2. Are we really a civilized society when we kill helpless unborn children and take away their basic right to life?

IV. What does God expect us to do about this?

A. I have prayed about this and meditated about this and spoken to other Christians about this question.

B. This is what I believe God calls us to do...

1. Proverbs 31:8-9 reads, "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."
2. Psalm 82:3-4 reads, "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

C. Clearly, we are called to defend the helpless and the oppressed of this world by speaking up for them.

1. God does not want us to be quiet and patient while innocent lives are being taken.
2. God does not want us to remain silent while others are slaughtered.

D. When it comes to giving up our own rights we can certainly turn the other cheek.

E. But when it comes to defending the rights of the oppressed – God does not call us to be cowards and look the other way.

1. God calls us to be courageous – to speak up and speak out.
2. God calls each of us to have a voice in defending the needy and rescuing them from those who oppress them.

F. Yet we make excuses...

1. "Oh that's too explosive of an issue – I'm not going to talk about that..."
2. "Well, I certainly wouldn't have an abortion but if someone else wants to do that just let them – it's not my business."
3. "The Church and Christians should stick to spiritual things and not get into political issues."
4. "I'd prefer to talk about God's love for everyone and leave those contentious issues aside."
5. "If we want our congregation to grow we had better support the right of women to choose."

G. Brothers and sisters the basic right to life is not merely a political issue.

1. God creates, sustains, and protects human life – it is by very nature a spiritual issue!
2. It's explosive because it involves the mass murder of innocent babies.
3. It has everything to do with the love of God – God's love for the innocent children killed everyday.
4. And what kind of church would we be if we did not follow God's ways – not a godly one.

V. Listen to how God describes Himself in Holy Scripture.

- A. Psalm 9:9, "The LORD is a refuge for the **oppressed**, a stronghold in times of trouble."
- B. Psalm 10:17-18, "You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the **oppressed**, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more."
- C. We are called by God as a church to be prophetic.

1. By that I mean we are called to speak the truth about God and His ways to our nation.
 2. The world needs the light of God's Word to shine brightly and clearly on this issue.
 3. They need to know that abortion is a grave sin in the eyes of God.
- D. They need to know – we need to know – so that there can be repentance.
1. So that we can join hands as individuals and as congregations and ask God for His forgiveness for the oppression and murder that has freely taken place in our midst.
 2. Our country's leaders need to know so they have opportunity to repent.
 3. We need to repent for the times we have not spoken up and defended the most helpless of our society.
 4. We need to repent of the times we have hated others for that too is murder in the sight of God.
- VI. How very telling that God Himself spent time - 9 months in a mother's womb as a helpless infant.
- A. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit within the womb of the Virgin Mary.
1. How can any one of us believe that a child in the womb of its mother is not a person when God Himself through the person of His Son, grew for 9 months in Mary's womb?
 2. How incredible that God would come to us in this manner.
 3. How ironic that he would come to save us from our sins in this manner.
 4. How ironic that the blood of the aborted cries out to God for vengeance – and yet **the blood of Jesus cries out to God for our forgiveness and pardon.**

- B. Jesus, God's Son offered his very life – willingly – on the cross to pay for our murderous sins.
1. And brothers and sisters – Jesus paid for them all.
 2. Your brother's blood cries out to God for your forgiveness.
 3. The sin of every abortion has been paid for by the pleading, crying blood of Jesus shed for you on the cross.
 4. The sin of those who wanted the abortion – paid for on the cross by the blood of Jesus.
 5. The sin of those who performed the abortion – paid for by the blood of Jesus.
 6. The sins of those who don't speak out to defend the helpless and the oppressed – paid for by the blood of Jesus.
- C. But the world needs to repent.
1. That is where the church comes in.
 2. We must call them to repent – to turn away from sins and turn to God for His forgiveness.
 3. If not us – who? We are the salt and light in this world.
 4. We are God's People called to proclaim the truth about God and reveal his wrath against sin and his grace towards sinners.
- D. Brothers and sisters you can resolve to stand up for the helpless and most oppressed group in the world.
1. You can resolve to courageously and faithfully speak up for those God treasures.
 2. You can ask God for his grace to rescue and defend the rights of those who have no rights – the unborn children of this world.
- E. The world will not applaud you in this. The world will not help you in this. But mark this... God in heaven will.