

## **The Murderers, the Midwives, and Moses**

### I. CONSIDER THE VALUE OF ONE SOUL

Exodus 1:1-6

As we traverse the genealogies in the Scripture we must at least come to this conclusion: God cares and keeps record of every soul, inclusive of their life and birth (Matthew 6:25-34; 10:29-31). If God attends the funeral of every sparrow, we should never underestimate God's value of even one person. "Should I put this speck down? Horton thought with alarm. If I do, these small persons may come to great harm. I can't put it down. And I won't! After all, a person's a person. No matter how small" (Horton Hears a Who).

Just recently our community was stunned at the execution style murder of Bao and Jenny Lam. Their son, Richard said, "Why didn't they (the killers) just take what they wanted; my parents would have given it to them, they (the parents) valued life." And so does God. By the same token, we should be alarmed that on a daily basis, lives are being taken in abortion in the United States, Texas, and our area.

A Portland, Oregon abortionist, Jim Newhall said, "Not everybody is meant to be born. I believe, for a baby, life begins when his mother wants him." Does this statement not chill you to the bone? I agree with what Randy Alcorn said, "Personhood isn't something to be bestowed on human beings by Ivy League professors intent on ridding society of "undesirables."

"...God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34b). Contemplate what Job said in Job 31:13-15: "If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me; What then shall I do when God riseth up? and when he visiteth, what shall I answer him? Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?"

### II. CONSIDER CHILDREN AS A GIFT FROM THE LORD

Exodus 1:7-9

Psalm 127:3: "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." It is important to recognize that God gives life as illustrated in Ruth 4:13, which says, "So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son." Hebrews 7:10 tells us, "For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him." Even before conception, God sees and plans for our lives. It is an understatement, but nonetheless true, to take the life of an unborn is to interrupt God's creative plans. See Psalm 139:13-16.

### III. CONSIDER THE MINDSET OF THOSE WHO COMMIT INFANTICIDE

Exodus 1: 8-16

In order to take the life of a child, they must:

#### A. Rationalize

Adolf Eichmann while on trial for his Nazi war crimes, in his own defense conjectured, "Adolf Hitler may have been wrong all down the line, but one thing is beyond dispute: the man was able to work his way up from lance corporal in the German Army to Führer of a people of almost 80 million...His success alone proved that I should subordinate myself to this man...To sum it all up, I must say that I regret nothing." This is the dangerous result of wicked rationalization.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was personally sentenced to death by Adolf Hitler said, "We must finally stop appealing to theology to justify our reserved silence about what the state is doing — for that is nothing but fear. 'Open your mouth for the one who is voiceless' — for who in the church today still remembers that that is the least of the Bible's demands in times such as these? Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

Sixteen times the Scripture informs us that Pharaoh hardened his heart against God. The Bible addresses the severely hardened mind in I Timothy 4:1, 2: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

#### B. Compartmentalize

Adolf Eichmann, one of the most infamous Nazi leaders probably was responsible directly and indirectly for taking the lives of over 400,000 Jews. Peter Malkin captured Eichmann in Argentina in 1960 while Eichmann was living a secret life and flew him to Israel to stand trial.

As time passed on their long trip back to Jerusalem, the two men began to talk. "I told him, 'you have a beautiful boy - I saw him through the window,'" Mr. Malkin recalled. "'He reminds me of another boy that could be have been his brother. It was my sister's son. The only difference is that this boy is dead.'" At this, Mr. Malkin said, the prisoner clenched his teeth and looked terrified. Eichmann said, 'It's not my fault; he was Jewish!'"

The unrepentant mind will set aside the unpleasant parts of their lives in a compartment they may conveniently declare is not really them, it is someone else or someone else's fault.

#### C. Acclimatize

As my wife and I went through the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam we studied the hardships and finally the demise of this family, and after all these years it

is still hard to believe. Then later in our trip we took the World War II tour of Nuremberg, Germany. We were startled with the fact that an entire nation could have been led to commit genocide in such a cold, calculated manner. I was reading "Anatomy of Malice" (The Enigma of the Nazi War Criminals) by Dr. Joel E. Dimsdale while on our trip and was chilled by these words written by a German policeman who was shooting Jews in October, 1941: "During the first try, my hand trembled a bit as I shot, but one gets used to it. By the tenth try, I aimed calmly and shot surely at the many women, children and infants." I could not help but make a parallel to the situation of the widespread and accepted crime of taking the life of the unborn, even in America, "the land of the free and the home of the brave." Has America gotten used to it? The journey through this era of history has helped me now pray more fervently for our country!

#### IV. CONSIDER THE MERCY OF THE MIDWIVES

Exodus 1:17-22

Prov. 24:10-12: "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?"

Deuteronomy 30:19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

Exodus 1:17a says, "But the midwives feared God..." Psalm 111:10a: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments..." May God help us all to fear God and understand what is right, what is wrong and choose to do right even as Shiphrah (Hebrew: "Beauty") and Puah (Hebrew: "Brilliance"). It is a brilliantly beautiful thing to obey God and protect life. And God blessed these midwives for their obedience.

#### V. CONSIDER THE MANDATE OF PHARAOH

Exodus 1:22

I call to our attention that Jochebed (Moses' mother) allowed the river that Pharaoh meant for death to become the river of life for young Moses (Exodus 1:22-2:10). Moses means "drawn out or rescued." Here is a baby destined to be "drawn unto death" (Proverbs 24:11b), but instead was drawn from the crocodile infested waters of the Nile by Pharaoh's own daughter. Let us pray that one day our nation, and specifically the Supreme Court who made a wicked ruling to draw infants to death, will, like Pharaoh's daughter, become the very conduit of life as Roe versus Wade is abolished.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

