

To Speak for Those That Have No Voice

Sanctity of Life Sunday

Luke 4:16-19

January 21, 2018

BIG IDEA

We are agents of gospel reconciliation. We are to work for justice. We are to show the world a glimpse of the coming kingdom of God. We are to speak for the abandoned, the downtrodden, the unborn, the elderly, and the refugee. We are to speak for those that have no voice.

REVIEW

These are some of the main ideas we discussed last week:

- There was a great famine in the land, just as Joseph's dream had predicted.
- After leaving Joseph for dead, the brothers came before him to buy grain.
- Joseph wanted to see his youngest brother, Benjamin, and demanded that he accompany the brothers on their return.
- He placed silver in their bags. They feared he would think it was stolen.
- They were terrified of him.
- Fear crippled the family.
- But finally Jacob released Benjamin to see Joseph. God did a miracle. Reconciliation would happen!

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

Jesus carries out his role as the anointed deliverer of his people and the one that can heal all of the maladies under which mankind suffers. Jesus cares deeply about life and freedom. He cares about the oppressed.

Luke 4:16-19 (ESV)

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah



was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

MAIN IDEAS

- Sanctity of Life Sunday is a time to celebrate life that God has given.
- Every life has value, from beginning to end.
- We can be the voice for those that have no voice.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. We Are Made in God's Image

Genesis 1:26 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Acknowledging the truth of image-bearing helps shape our worldview regarding the sanctity of human life. If we really believe that God specially created human beings in order to represent him to the world, then we must speak for every person in every situation.

- a. What does it mean to be "made in God's image" even though God is perfect and we are not?**

2. We Must Speak for the Unborn

Psalms 139:13-14 - For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Jeremiah 1:5 - Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

The design for an unborn child is ordained by God. We are knitted together by him. What wonderful words: Fearfully and wonderfully made! This is *in the womb*. A child is alive in the womb. Therefore, we have a responsibility to speak for this child.



a. What words or thoughts come to mind when you think about abortion?

b. How do you think God feels about abortion?

3. We Must Speak for the Disabled

Matthew 15:30 - And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them.

We are called to care for those that need our help, including the people whose lives seem unimportant to some and easily discarded by others. Jesus cared for and healed those with disabilities.

a. Why do you think that Jesus cared so much for those with disabilities?

b. Have you considered volunteering at our Snowflake Ball on February 17th?

4. We Must Speak for the Elderly

Job 14:5 - Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass.

Elder abuse and euthanasia are on the rise. Both adversely affect an aging population. We must be the voice that says: Your life matters!



- a. **We are made in God's image. How does that help us gain a biblical worldview around the topic of euthanasia?**

- b. **Suffering is a part of life, even suffering before death. How has God used suffering in your life?**

5. We Must Speak for the Downtrodden

Victims of sex trafficking, the homeless, the addicted, and refugees all need us to stand up for them. Jesus hung out with people from each of these groups. He loved and cared for them. So can we.

- a. **What are some examples in scripture of Jesus loving and caring for people who were treated as outsiders by society?**

- b. **How can you make an effort to include in your life and your social circles those that are excluded?**

6. What Can I Do?

I can develop and teach a biblical worldview, pray for change, love my opponent, avoid judging, and forgive myself if I have transgressed in any of these areas.

- a. **What are some specific ways in which you can stand up for the unborn, the disabled, the elderly, and the downtrodden? Pray that the Lord will give you a heart for these individuals and show you ways to serve and stand up for them.**



PRAY

Dear Lord, I want to have your heart in regards to the weak and the oppressed. Please stop abortion. Protect our babies. Protect the elderly and disabled. Help us to be open to refugees. Help me see the world through your eyes. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- “Southern Baptist Convention Urges Churches to Welcome Refugees,” an article from NPR: <http://n.pr/2CTLR0j>
- “Dayton Orders Task Force to Look Into Elder Abuse after Reports, of Neglect, Assault, Theft,” from the St. Paul Pioneer Press: <http://bit.ly/2E9aVQx>
- “Ten Reasons Why it is Wrong to Take the Life of Unborn Children” from John Piper: <http://bit.ly/2lXpgu>

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Reconciliation between Joseph and his brothers happens through a miracle of God!

