January 22-23, 2022

Discussion Points:

1. A preacher and his wife are very poor. They already have 14 kids. She's pregnant with the 15th. They live in extreme poverty. Considering their situation and the growing world population, wouldn't you understand if they had an abortion?

2. A father is sick with syphilis; the mother has TB. They've had 4 children: 1st - blind, 2nd - died, 3rd - deaf, and the 4th - TB. She is pregnant with the 5th. Wouldn't you understand if she got an abortion?

3. A white man has raped an 18-year old black girl. She's pregnant. You are her parents. Given the pain and racial stigma that will haunt the child, wouldn't you understand if she got an abortion?

4. A teenage girl is pregnant. She's not married, but is engaged. Her fiance is not the father of the baby, and he's furious. The families are in chaos. Wouldn't you understand if she got an abortion?

Genesis 1:26-28 (NIV) – Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground". So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground".

Isaiah 5:20 (NIV) – "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter".

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Isaiah 5:21-23 (NIV) – "Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight. Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drinks, who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent".

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their <u>Creator</u> with certain unalienable rights, that among these are <u>life</u>, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" – **Declaration of Independence**

Psalm 139:13-15 (NKJV) – "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth".

"skillfully wrought" = Hebrew raqam – "to variegate; to embroider"

"Hebrew *embroidered*; exquisitely composed of bones, muscles, sinews, veins, arteries, and other parts, all framed with such wonderful skill, that even heathens, upon the contemplation of all the parts of man's body, and how excellently they were framed, both for beauty and use, have broken forth into pangs of admiration and adoration of the Creator of man" – *Matthew Poole*

"The chance that higher life forms might have emerged in this way is comparable to the chance that a tornado sweeping through a junkyard might assemble a Boeing 747" – *Fred Hoyle*

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Jeremiah 1:4-5 (NIV) – The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations".

Isaiah 1:13-17 (NIV) – "Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations – I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood! Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow".

James 1:27 (NIV) – "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world".

Hebrews 11:23 (NIV) – "By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict".

Exodus 2:2b-3 (NIV) "When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile".

Exodus 2:3a (NKJV) – "But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him".

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Exodus 2:7-9 (NIV) – Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" "Yes, go", she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you". So the woman took the baby and nursed him.

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Child- John Wesley - Great 19th Century evangelist and father of the Methodist Church

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Child - Beethoven - One of the most admired composers in the history of music

3. A white man has raped an 18-year old black girl. She's pregnant. You are her parents. Given the pain and racial stigma that will haunt the child, wouldn't you understand if she got an abortion?

Child -Ethel Waters - A great gospel singer and actress

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4. A teenage girl is pregnant. She's not married, but is engaged. Her fiance is not the father of the baby, and he's furious. The families are in chaos. Wouldn't you understand if she got an abortion?

Child - Jesus, The fiance married the teenage girl, "she gave birth to a son, and they gave him the name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins"