

The Sunday School Lesson

By John R. Brantley

SALIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Protecting the Helpless

Genesis 1:28, Deut. 18:10, Psalm 135:13-15, Matt. 18:10, 14, 19:14-15

I. God's Command to Reproduce and Man's Attempt to Reverse His Command (Gen. 1:28, Ex. 1:15-22)

II. Preservation of Moses (Ex. 2:1-10)

III. Child Sacrifice Forbidden (Deut. 18:10)

IV. God's Knowledge of the Unborn Child (Ps. 139:13-15)

V. God's Care for Little Ones (Matt. 18:10, 14)

VI. Jesus Receiving Little Ones (Matt. 19:14-15)

I. God's Command to Reproduce and Man's Attempt to Reverse His Command (Gen. 1:28, Ex. 1:15-22)

When God created Adam and Eve in the garden, they were made in His likeness and image. God wanted someone to fellowship with, but in His divine plan He provided for them to replenish the earth. In His divine plan He provided Adam and Eve the ability to bear children. This is a blessing of God because children bring joy to hearts of parents. Today in America there are 1.6 million babies aborted each year. That is not what God intended when He said be fruitful, multiply and replenish the earth. We are a nation that is going contrary to the divine plan of God as far as children are concerned.

From the beginning of time, man in his natural state has rebelled against God in many ways. We find down in Egypt that the Pharaoh tried to kill all the boy babies who were born to the Israelites because he was afraid of the growth of the Israelites. God takes care of and blesses those who will be

obedient to His will. The midwives were blessed by God for not destroying the boy babies that pharaoh had ordered kill. We see that the devil through this depraved act, was trying to prevent the birth of Jesus. Imagine how many preachers, doctors, etc. have been killed in America because of the depravity of people. Suppose the devil had been successful in destroying Moses. Israel would not have had a leader to bring them out of Egypt. America will pay for the millions of babies that have been aborted since Roe vs Wade.

II. Preservation of Moses (Ex. 2:1-10)

The devil wanted to destroy the male babies of the Israelites because he knew that Jesus, the Redeemer, was coming. He did not know when. The Pharaoh saw the population of Israel as a threat, so he sought a way to stop it. The devil uses people in his depraved plan and like Pharaoh they do not know the full scope of what the devil has in mind. The devil's ultimate plan was to prevent the birth of Jesus, and when he failed, then he tried to have all the boy babies two years old and under killed. God always has a divine plan to protect his people and he can use the devil without the devil knowing it. When the Pharaoh ordered the boy babies killed, he did not know that God would take care of Moses who would later lead Israel out of Egypt. In spite of adversity, God honors and takes care of those who faithfully trust Him.

III. Child Sacrifice Forbidden (Deut. 18:10)

God forbade the sacrifice of children to pagan gods. It was a practice of the heath to appease their gods. Today we hear stories of rituals where

aborted babies are sacrificed by devil worshippers, not overseas but in the land of the free, America. The reason for using an aborted fetus is that these devil worshippers cannot be charged with murder. God is against the destruction of children, whether by abortion or sacrifice, because human life is sacred to Him.

IV. God's Knowledge of the Unborn Child (Ps. 139:13-15)

There is an argument to when life begins, at conception or later in the pregnancy. Jeremiah says that when he was conceived in his mother's womb, God knew him. According to the Bible, life begins at conception. David marvelled at the way that God had created him. He realized that from his very conception, God had control of creating him. The development of his body in the womb of his mother was amazing to him, and the way that God protected him although he was hidden from the world, he was not hidden from God. God saw and knew every stage of development of his life, from conception to birth. How marvelous the divine plan of God for the birth of children is. Surely it grieves the heart of God when doctors and mothers abort the life of one of his most precious gifts.

V. God's Care for Little Ones (Matt. 18:10, 14)

Jesus warns us not to mistreat His little ones. This can refer both to children and young Christians in the Lord. Little children and the children of God have guardian angels watching over them. These angels look upon the face of God for their assigned duties of protecting these little ones. Jesus used an illustration of sheep and children being alike. They

are both vulnerable to abuse. One scripture says that it would be better for a millstone to be hung around our neck than abuse one of His little ones. God's will is that none of His little ones perish. So as elder Christians, it is our responsibility to help those who are weak and helpless.

VI. Jesus Receiving Little Children (Matt. 19:14-15)

Jesus was ministering to the people and they were bringing children to Him to be blessed. His disciples rebuked the people because they thought Jesus had more important things to do than take up time with children. We don't ever need to think like that because children are a heritage and they are the leaders of tomorrow. Jesus rebuked His disciples for not wanting the children to come to Him. He knew that their hearts were tender and that they were trusting souls. Everyone who comes to Jesus must have child like faith. We must not ignore children when they want to come and give their hearts to the Lord. Let's be advocates for the preservation of the unborn and children in general. God bless you until next week.

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JANUARY 15 - 20, 1995

SUNDAY NIGHT, 6:00 P.M.
Union Chapel Methodist Church
Special Music - Mt. Airy Mixed Choir
Speaker - Rev. Mike Cummings

MONDAY NIGHT, 7:30 P.M.
New Bethel Methodist Church
Special Music - The Blood Bought Singers
Speaker - Rev. Melvin Bell

TUESDAY NIGHT, 7:30 P.M.
Mt. Olive Holiness Church
Special Music - Prospect Methodist Church
Speaker - Rev. Dufrene Cummings

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, 7:30 P.M.
Sycamore Hill Church
Special Music - The Felix Deal Family
Speaker - Rev. Bill James Locklear

THURSDAY NIGHT, 7:30 P.M.
Prospect United Methodist Church
Special Music - Mr. Charles Bell
Speaker - Rev. J. C. Chavis

FRIDAY NIGHT, 7:30 P.M.
Liberty Holiness Church
Special Music - Sycamore Hill Singers
Speaker - Rev. Tim Creel