

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew** 87- Hungering for God through Fasting- Part 8 Reasons to Fast in the New Covenant- Part 3

Church February 18, 2024

Matthew 9:14-17

14 Then the disciples of John came to Him, asking, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?"

15 And Jesus said to them, "The attendants of the bridegroom cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

16 But no one puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and a worse tear results.

17 Nor do people put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

We are now in the middle of trying to determine if Fasting is the “**unshrunk cloth**” and the “**old wineskins**” of verses 16&17- as some teach. In other words, are the people who say that Fasting was an “Old Testament Truth” that has been made *obsolete* by the entrance of the New Covenant, teaching the Truth? Is it true that Fasting has gone the Way of Sabbath observance; going to the Temple in Jerusalem once a year; the Levitical Priesthood; Tithing; the Sanhedrin Court; animal Sacrifices; and the dietary and ceremonial Aspects of the Old Covenant?

And one of the main Reasons to *reject* such thinking is what Jesus Himself said at the end of verse 15:

... the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

... but then last week- we also began to look at five *more* Reasons that

the New Covenant teaches us that Fasting is still a viable “Means of Grace”:

1. New Testament Believers Should Fast for “*God to raise up Ministries that will Change the World*”
2. New Testament Believers Should Fast for “*Waters that do not Fail*”
3. New Testament Believers Should Fast for the “*Safety of the Little Ones*”
4. New Testament Believers Should Fast for the “*Father’s Reward*”
5. New Testament Believers Should Fast for the “*Return of Jesus*”

... and last week we looked at #2- so, let’s look at #3 together:

3. New Testament Believers Should Fast for the “*Safety of the Little Ones*”

Ezra 8:21-23

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God to seek from Him a safe journey for us, our little ones, and all our possessions.

22 For I was ashamed to request from the king troops and horsemen to protect us from the enemy on the way, because we had said to the king, “The hand of our God is favorably disposed to all those who seek Him, but His power and His anger are against all those who forsake Him.”

23 So we fasted and sought our God concerning this matter, and He listened to our entreaty.

Now it is hard to read the Old Testament with any degree of Honesty and NOT see that, over and over and over- the Lord commanded the Fathers of the Old Covenant to *love* their Children; and *provide* for their Children and to *protect* their Children; and to *teach* their Children. Fathers were to raise up strong, godly, and loving sons- who would *inherit* the Father’s Business; *farm* the Fields; *harvest* the Crops; *raise* the animals; and *guide, protect, and provide* for their Mothers; and their Sisters; and their Daughters; and their Wives.

But beside learning Husbandry; and farming Skills; and beside acquiring the Skill and Knowledge to carry on the Father’s Business- Children were taught the Word of God. And so, they were systematically *catechized* in the Ways and the Truth of God- so that the next Generation of people would know and understand and love and enjoy their Maker. And all of that is carried over into the New Testament. And so, today, as Bond-slaves of the Lord Christ- we are to *love* our Children; and *provide* for our Children and to *protect* our Children; and to *teach* our Children- NOT merely Economics and Reading and Science and Art- but we

are told, over and over in the infinitely superior New Covenant to teach our Children the Ways and the Truth of God.

But one thing that was common with the ancient Jew that MUST be common among us today- that they did all of this NOT through Fear; and NOT through a sense of impending Doom; and NOT by rationalizing all of the Reasons why they *shouldn't* or *couldn't* do what God had commanded. No, the ancient Jew as well as the modern-day Christian MUST do all of this- with Delight; with Joy; and with a sense that the Owner and Creator of the Universe will defeat any Foe; overcome any Challenge; and will bring Success to the Believer and their Children.

450 years BEFORE Jesus was born- God moved on Ezra to write in verse 21:

Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God to seek from Him a safe journey for us, our little ones, and all our possessions.

So, I say to all of us this morning- that we too, should fast for the same four Reasons that Ezra fasted:

1. That we might humble ourselves before our God
2. That God would grant us a safe Journey through this Life
3. That God would cause our “little ones” to be safe
4. That God would keep our Possessions

... and so, this morning, I want to talk about fasting for the Safety of the “little ones” because, by anybody’s Estimation- our Children are being targeted by satan and by those who are in Alignment with him.

For example, Canada is in the process of passing a Law that would allow the Government to come and take Children away from their Parents- if a 3 year old Child says he or she is a different Gender than God made him or her to be- and the parents attempt to talk him or her out of that Sin and Nonsense.

But here at home- we are faced with enormous Challenges concerning our Children. For example, on June 24, 2022- The United States Supreme Court issued what has come to be called, the “*Dobbs Decision*” concerning a Woman’s Right to have access to an Abortion based on the US Constitution. The Dobbs Ruling *overturned* a January 22, 1973- Ruling by the highest Court (Roe v. Wade) where a single black-robed Judge (Harry Blackmun)- who did NOT have one Day of medical Training- literally *fabricated* a “Right” that was NEVER spelled out in the Constitution.

Many of us were outraged at “Roe v. Wade”- and did everything we could to stop it- including get arrested. That 1973 Decision was “*Bad-Law*” based on a Premise that has been routinely Condemned by people on both sides of this Issue for decades. Yet until the Dobbs Decision of 2022- that *illegal* and *unconstitutional* Ruling was the “Law of the Land” for 49 very dark years where an average of 1.2 million human beings (59 million total)- most of them black; and most of them female- were *systematically; violently; and barbarically* murdered by either hacking them to death with “surgical hoes” (a Technique developed in Nazi Germany); were burned to death with “saline solution” (a Technique developed in Communist China).

This modern-day “*Eugenics Movement*”¹ went on- unabated- for nearly a half Century in a Country that prides itself on our Compassion and technological Advancements. And because of fancy Accounting and Bookkeeping practices- the tax-dollars of born-again Believers were absolutely used- to *fund* those Abortions in the “*Death Mills*” of “*Planned Parenthood*”- an Organization that was begun by the avowed Racist and Eugenics proponent, Margaret Sanger- who famously said,

"We should hire three or four colored ministers, preferably with social-service backgrounds, and with engaging personalities. The most successful educational approach to the Negro is through a religious appeal. We don't want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population. and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members."²

.. and of whom Presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton bragged was her “Role Model”.

But please hear me when I tell you that the “*Dobbs Decision*” did NOT end Abortion in this Country. All that “Dobbs” did- was to return the Issue of Abortion to the Legislatures of the 50 States. And as of this morning- 21 State Legislatures have voted to allow Abortion in one form or another; while only 15 States ban Abortion after Conception. But the Legislatures of Alaska, Colorado, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, as well as Washington DC moved quickly after the “*Dobbs Decision*” to make sure everybody knew that Abortion is allowed in their States, “FOR ANY REASON AT ALL- WITH NO LIMIT!”³

My Point is that our Efforts against the determined WAR against Children is far from over. Because in 2024, in the United States of America- if by some

¹ “*Eugenics*” was a supposedly “Science-based” Movement based in England and the United States in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries where Government (based on the “science of Eugenics”) would decide which groups of people should be “allowed” to have Children; and which groups should be *forcefully* sterilized.

² December 19, 1939 letter to Dr. Clarence Gamble

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/.../state-abortion-laws-us>

Miracle- the Children survive the abortionists Knife; they are at risk to be *kidnapped* by gangs- who sell them into sex-Slavery around the world.⁴ And those who manage to not be kidnapped are at risk of being *molested* by a literal “Sea” of perverted men- who are now going to demand their “Rights” by adding the letters, “M” or “MB”; or “MC” (*Man-boy/Man-child*) to the alphabet of LGBTQ+ so, they can gain federal Approval to *impose* their Evil Acts on little Children.

But the Children who manage to escape being *molested* are then at risk of being *indoctrinated* to hate God; to view the Bible as nonsense; and *encouraged* to inject hormones and have surgeries performed on them by evil people- *posing as Doctors*- because they are confused about how God created them to be. Beloved, we should fast for the Safety of our little ones.

Now back in 1973- nobody knew what we know today. We *always* knew that, *morally*, Abortion was *unconscionable*. And so, we acted- and *continued* to act for nearly 50 years- based on one thing: “*It is just flat out Wrong to kill the baby!*”

But over the years- *more* and *more* medical; scientific; philosophical; legal; as well as psychological Reasons have risen up to cry out against the *inhuman* and *sinful* Practice of Abortion. For example, we now know- *indisputably*- that at the very Instant when the sperm touches the egg- human Life begins!⁵ And there is literally a “*Spark*”- that is both *measurable* and *observable*- that comes from that Beginning of human Life!⁶

But it is amazing to me that, as every Year goes by, Validation; upon scientific Evidence; upon new Cries to stop this great Evil rise up- *primarily* because of the “*Obviousness*” of the Evil of “Abortion on Demand- for any Reason” even to the Moment just *before* and *after* Birth! And please allow me to give you just one Illustration that is near and dear to my own Heart:

You might be tempted to think that all this was a long time ago and as we have developed into a technologically advanced and civilized Society- we have *outgrown* such barbaric Thinking. After all- that is what Science Fiction was designed to teach us- that all of the Problems associated with the human Race would *eventually* be solved through Science, Medicine, and Technology and Government- through the Advancement of the ever-evolving human Mind.

You may not realize it- but the Evil of “*Eugenics*” that many thought had long ago been cast into the “trash bin of History”- is actually alive and well today- even though it has morphed somewhat over the years. Eugenics is the Belief that rose up in England and the United States in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries that said certain species of Mankind are NOT worthy to procreate. And so,

⁴ 23 Children per day are kidnapped according to safeatlast.co/blog/child-abduction-statistics/

⁵ www.princeton.edu/~prolife/articles/embryoquotes2.html

⁶ Zinc atoms create tiny “sparks” at the Moment of Conception; [www.science alert.com/world-first-images-reveal-sparks-literally-fly-when-an-egg-meets-sperm/](http://www.sciencealert.com/world-first-images-reveal-sparks-literally-fly-when-an-egg-meets-sperm/)

Government- fueled by “pseudo- science” could *legally* and *forcefully* sterilize whole segments of the Population- all in the “name of” eliminating Crime and other social Ills.

The focus today of the systematic Murder of living human Beings is now the Weak; the Deformed; and the mentally Impaired. And so, in *addition* to Race and Poverty- we now have *another* Criteria as to why we continue to slaughter Babies- physical or mental Weakness. And the Argument today- in most all of the major Hospitals in this Country- is not only that it is *reasonable* to kill a *weak* Baby- who will have a very difficult Life- but it is actually *wrong*- even *immoral* to allow that kind of child to live.

For example- the man who was awarded the Noble Peace Prize for literature in 1970- Bertrand Russell- was also an Agnostic- who thought Christianity was little more than Superstition and, despite any positive Effects that it might have, was largely harmful to people. And in 1953, Russell said,

“I do not pretend that birth control is the only way in which population can be kept from increasing... War... has hitherto been disappointing in this respect, but perhaps bacteriological war may prove more effective. If a Black Death could be spread throughout the world once in every generation survivors could procreate freely without making the world too full... The state of affairs might be somewhat unpleasant, but what of that? Really high-minded people are indifferent to happiness, especially other people’s... There are three ways of securing a society that shall be stable as regards population. The first is that of birth control, the second that of infanticide or really destructive wars, and the third that of general misery except for a powerful minority...”⁷

Those of you who grew up watching the National Geographic television Specials during the 1960’s and 70’s are familiar with the famous undersea Explorer- Jacques Cousteau. But you probably don’t know that in 1991, Cousteau spoke to the United Nations and said this,

"In order to stabilize world population, we must eliminate 350,000 people per day. It is a horrible thing to say, but it is just as bad not to say it."⁸

And those of us who use and enjoy a Computer might recognize the name, Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft. And in 2010, Gates said this:

⁷ “The Impact of Science on Society”, 1953

⁸ 1991 UNESCO Courier

“The world today has 6.8 billion people. That's heading up to about nine billion. Now if we do a really great job on new vaccines, health care & reproductive health services, we could LOWER that by perhaps 10 or 15 percent. (680 million- 1 billion people)”⁹

And in 2013, Richard Dawkins- who is the “poster child” for the modern, “activist Atheist” said,

“Discussions regarding Eugenics was inhibited by the shadow of Nazi misuse, to the extent that some scientists would not admit that breeding human for certain abilities is at all possible even though it is not physically different from breeding domestic animals for traits such as speed or herding skills. Enough time has elapsed to at least ask just what the ethical differences are between breeding for ability versus training athletes or forcing children to take music lessons.”¹⁰

So, do these people have a Point? Is it both “Cruel” and “Unreasonable” to bring a child into the world where we know they have physical or mental Impairments? Since we now have the Ability to detect many serious Deficiencies in Children *before* they are born- what are we to think about these so-called, “deficient Babies”? As bond-slaves of the Lord Christ- what are we to think about Babies who are born with mental and physical Problems that make Life very hard for them and their Parents?

The sophisticated World tells us that it is “wrong” for us to “force” Mothers to have Children who we know to have serious Problems and that the only “proper” thing to do is to kill the Child before it is born- so the mother will not be “punished”. So, is that true? Is the Concept of Eugenics- that was condemned in the early 1950’s now correct and even proper in 2024? Are those who teach that the Weak and the Deformed and the mentally Impaired are “better off” Dead than Alive? What does Almighty God say about this? Please look at **Exodus 4:10&11:**

10 Then Moses said to the Lord, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

11 The Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes *him* mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?"

⁹ TED Talk, 2010

¹⁰ From the Afterward, by Richard Dawkins, *The Herald*, (2006).<http://www.heraldsotland.com/from-the-afterword-1.836155> Retrieved on Oct 17, 2013

Now please allow me to set up the Situation we are facing in America today and just how these two verses in **Exodus 4** relate to it. Even after Dobbs- there are still about 3,000 Abortions every single Day in the United States; and about 125,000 a day worldwide! And most of these Babies are murdered between 10 and 14 weeks of Gestation- a Time in which the “Experts” say is “Optimal” for the complete “*Dismemberment and Evacuation*”.

Yet there is no Reason to think that there is any “moral” or “spiritual” Difference between the Baby murdered *in* the Womb and a one-month-old killed *outside* the Womb. All the Differences are *morally* and *spiritually* Negligible. Therefore- if it is Wrong to kill a Newborn- it is *equally* Wrong to kill a Baby in the Womb.

Now the recent gains in prenatal Testing have introduced a Reality that previous Generations never faced. Through the Wonder of “*Common Grace*”- God’s Love to both the Lost and the Saved- Technology now exists that helps make our Lives *infinitely* better than those who came before us. But we must know that Technology- *in and of itself*- is “*Amoral*”- meaning it has neither “Good” nor “Evil” as its *primary* Concern. And that is *why* Technology must ALWAYS be governed by “Absolute Truth” or “Biblical Morality” or it will become Hideous and Evil. And so, Technology should be used “for the Glory of God” like everything else.

But the wonder of Technology is now being used *without* being governed by Biblical Morality. And so, this wondrous Gift from God now allows us to abort Children with Traits many Parents don’t want in their Child. And that means murdering a living human Being based on things like:

1. Poverty
2. Race
3. Disability

... which were the very SAME three Reasons of a Century ago that spawned the “*Eugenics Movement*”.

For example- it is common today in China for the Government to forcefully abort baby Girls- because of the imposed “one-child Law” of the godless Communists. Yet even most “prochoice” people in America think that’s terrible. One newspaper writer said something very telling that takes me where I am going. He said,

“You don’t have to be a feminist to know that being a girl is not a birth defect.”

But I see several tragic Assumptions in that Statement. One of them is that, if there *is* a birth Defect- then Abortion would not only be *advisable*- but it would actually be *reasonable*! And that is where we have come as a Society. We simply want to “clean up” Eugenics in order to make it more palatable to the American people. And so, now instead of just Eugenics- we have “*Eugenics by Abortion*.”

So, for example, according to Dr. Brian Skotko, pediatric Geneticist at Children’s Hospital in Boston, in a November 2009 article from ABC News,

“An estimated 92 percent of all women who receive a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome choose to terminate their pregnancies.”¹¹

And this is true, even though, as Gary Bauer points out, there are thousands of “waiting lists of couples ready to adopt children with Down syndrome.”¹² The May 13, 2007 issue of *The New York Times* reported that:

“70 percent of Americans said they believe that women should be able to obtain a legal abortion if there is a strong chance of a serious defect in the baby.”¹³

.. and back in 2008, Wesley Smith wrote in *The Weekly Standard*

“With the development of prenatal genetic diagnosis, the drive toward eugenics has returned with a vengeance. Americans may heartily cheer participants in the Special Olympics, but we abort some 90 percent of all gestating infants diagnosed with genetic disabilities such as Down Syndrome, dwarfism, and spina bifida.”¹⁴

As a Pastor, whose Calling is to shepherd the flock of the Covenant of Peace Church, by proclaiming the Whole Counsel of God in the Scriptures- I do NOT sense a direct Responsibility for what 70% of Americans think about the Worth of Children with Disabilities. But I *do* sense a direct Responsibility for what *you* believe about such Children. And that is why I say- we must fast for the Safety of our little ones.

One estimate is that 70% of the women who get Abortions in America are professing Christians. I know that several in *this* Church have had Abortions. And I don’t want you to feel overwhelmed by this Message because many of you did that before you were saved. And you need to hear me say that the

¹¹ http://abcnews.go.com/Health/w_ParentingResource/down-syndrome-births-drop-us-women-abort/story?id=8960803

¹² http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0709/25044_Page2.html

¹³ <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9E03E4D91531F930A25756C0A9619C8B63>

¹⁴ <http://www.weeklystandard.com/article/16009>

very Core of everything we preach and believe here- is that Jesus Christ came into the world to save Sinners (**1Timothy 1:15**). The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Best News in the world to Women who are tempted to hate themselves for aborting a Child. The Holy Bible says in **2Corinthians 5:21**:

He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The Message I want you to hear is that God knits all the Children together in their mothers' Wombs, and they are ALL- *all of them*- of every Degree of Ability- conceived for the Purpose of displaying the Glory of God!

And with Apologies to the Health, Wealth and Prosperity people- God said back in **Exodus 4** that He made the disabled. And that means they are *not* a Curse. God said in **Exodus 4:11b**:

... Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes *him* mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?

God said these Blind; Deaf; Cripple; and mentally Impaired Babies were formed disabled- on *Purpose*- by an infinitely Good and Merciful and Wise God- Who created them- in their Weaknesses- for the Glory of God! And so, they are to be cherished and loved and raised and taught and disciplined and cared for. But they are NOT to be murdered! **Psalm 139:13-16** says,

13 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.

14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;

16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them.

.. look at what God's infallible Word says in **John 9:1-3**:

1 As He [Jesus] passed by, He saw a man blind from birth.

2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?"

3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Now here, the Disciples assumed a direct Correlation between a specific Sin and the man's Disability. And that Logic was common back in the 1st Century with the Jews. Something "Bad" always meant somebody sinned. And so, the Goal was NOT to help the person who was suffering. No, the Goal was simply to find somebody to blame for the Problem.

But we need to understand that this Logic is prevalent in our Day as well. Human beings look at Sorrow and Tragedy and Suffering almost *universally* as being a *negative* thing. And then they seek to find a Correlation with some sinful Activity that MUST have *caused* the Problem. And I understand lost people thinking like that- but it is much harder to understand God's people thinking the same- since there are literally hundreds of verses and passages and even entire Books of the Bible that are written to teach us the Truth about these things:

God's people ALWAYS suffer for the Glory of God

So, in the ungodly Mind of these Disciples- either this man sinned or his parents sinned. And to show you the Silliness of that Logic- if the man sinned- he would have had to sin in his mother's Womb- *before* he was born- because he was blind from his Birth!

Yet here, we see that Jesus categorically *rejects* their Logic. The Savior knows that Suffering and Sickness and Disability and Death exist in the world because this World is "fallen" (**Romans 5:12–14; 8:18–25**). But Jesus categorically *rejected* the Explanation that *specific* Disabilities correspond to *specific* Sins. Now the Chaldeans believed that. And the Philistines believed that. Even the Canaanites and the Babylonians believed that. But from the very Beginning- God told His people through His Word that that Logic was not true. **Exodus 4:11b** says, **... Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes *him* mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?**

And so, Jesus gave another Explanation- a much BETTER Explanation. Notice that the Disciples asked about the *Cause* of the Blindness. And they wanted to know the Cause so they could assign Blame and Condemnation. And so, Jesus answered their Question. But the Answer He gives is *not* about which Sin the Blindness *came from*- but where God is *taking* the one with the Disability. In other words, Jesus said the *Cause* of that Disability was NOT some past Sin- but so that that Man might bring about the Glory for God! Look again at verse 3:

It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

... so, the Cause of that man's Blindness was that God intended to display His Work IN and THROUGH that disabled man!

What Work? Are we to assume that God is a Sadist- Who enjoys watching people struggle with Disabilities? I mean Margaret Sanger and many very famous Hospitals would have helped this man's mother *destroy* him before he was ever born.

Here is one of the clearest Examples of why we need to read and study and understand the Scriptures. The Scriptures gives us Insight into not only *WHY* God does things- but into *WHO* God is! Since God is not a Man- He doesn't think or operate like a Man. And so, in order to comprehend what God is doing- we need to do what the Puritans taught and...

Learn the Logic of Scripture

Scripture allows us to "stand in God' Shoes" so to speak and see Events from God's Perspective. And so, what we learn from the Bible is that God is *constantly* doing 10,000 things- all at once. God is sovereignly Causing and Allowing; and Guiding and Preventing thousands of Thoughts and Actions and Events to come about so that five things will ALWAYS be accomplished:

1. God's Will is carried out
2. God will be Glorified
3. The Fame of God's Name will be spread across the Universe
4. So that we will know that there is none like God in all the earth
5. All of God's elect will be saved and come to delight in God

Because God is Omnipotent and Omniscient- God sees the Past; Present; and Future all at once. And so, in His Power and Wisdom- God is *providentially* carrying out thousands of Details- all at once- to *guarantee* that His Will is carried out in the earth- perfectly. And yet, because of our weak Flesh- we can only see a few of them. And we must trust God for the rest. But look what Jesus said in **John 9:14**:

Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you."

In other words, Jesus is telling this man that Sin is far *worse* than being Blind; or Cripple; or Poor; or mentally or physically Impaired. Going to Hell is *infinitely* worse than having a hard Life. In other words- Jesus was telling this Man that his *biggest* Problem was NOT his physical Disability- but his Sin. And that he needed to repent and be saved. And **John 9:35-38** says:

35 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, "**Do you believe in the Son of Man?**"

36 He answered, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?"

37 Jesus said to him, "**You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.**"

38 And he said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.

This man- being able to see the Glory of Jesus as God; and worshiping Him- was the main Point of everything Jesus said and did while He was here on earth. So, this blind man's greatest Need was NOT to be physically healed- but that he sees the Glory of Jesus and, because he sees- he *loves* what he sees and *worships* Him! And that is what he did! So, when Jesus said in verse 3,

It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

... *this* is the Work of God—that the blind man sees Jesus as God; and worships Him through the Miracle of seeing natural light. So, the man was given *natural* eyes so that he could receive *spiritual* eyes. So, he could see the glory of this world, and the Glory of its Maker, Jesus Christ- and worship Him!

And from this I conclude that in *every* Disability- whether *genetically* from the Womb; or *circumstantially* from an Accident; or *infectiously* from a Disease- God has a good and wise and powerful Design- a Purpose- that will *always* lead to His Own Glory, and for the Good of His people who love Him and are called according to His Purpose (**Romans 8:28**)! And that is why we need to fast for the Safety of the little ones.

Therefore, it is wrong to think that such Children in the womb are unimportant, or without a *unique*, God-given Worth in this world. And it is *wrong* to murder them- in *whatever* Name it is done- for *whatever* Reason.

Now some might say, "*But just a minute, Brother Blair, you're trying to impose Unfairness on people who don't want a defective child.*" No, my wife and I put our money where our mouth was; and we had a child that was both Weak and Sick. And yes, it was very hard to have her and raise her. But by the Grace of

God- we did. And we rejoice that we loved her; and that we taught her to love Jesus; and to sing Hymns; and to go to Church; and to praise the Lord- *in* her Weakness and *in* her Sickness! And Joy Bradly is now with Jesus forever! So, when I tell you not to kill *your* baby because it is Weak or Sick- I speak- not only from the Authority of the Word of God- but from my own personal Experience.

Others might say, “*But that blind man of John 9 got his eyes and was able to benefit himself from the Work of God. My child stayed blind.*” Or someone might say, “*My child never had the mental Ability to process biblical Truth about Jesus as being the Light of the world or wonder at ‘before Abraham was, I am.’*”

And that’s often true. And so, we must realize that the full Scope of the Work of God in the Lives of the Disabled *always* happens in the Mystery and Sovereignty of God. Because, none of us is *fully* healed in this world. But there will be a Resurrection when Jesus “**will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself**” (Philippians 3:21).

And so, we should not think that the Works of God will only benefit the one who has the Disability. We can’t tell what is going in the Mind and Heart of many of the mentally Disabled. Only God can. But God *can* and God *does*! And so, God is working His Work through those Disabilities into the Lives of others too. And *that* is often the Miracle.

The Works of Faith; and the Labors of Love; and the Steadfastness of Hope are amazing Works of God that put His all-satisfying Glory on display in the Lives of Parents and Brothers and Sisters and Friends and Churches.

Someone else might say, “*But these people all lived. Even Lazarus, though he died, lived again to bring glory to God (John 11:4, 40).* So, what about the Disabled who die? Indeed, what about any of us who die? Is dying the great Triumph of the Enemy? And should we say, “*Here the Glory of God has ended?*” Or should we say, “**O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**” (1Corinthians 15:54–57)?

So, should we look at the Death of the Disabled as being meaningless? Or is this too appointed by God for the Glory of His Name?

The Gospel of John closes in Chapter 21 with Jesus speaking to Simon Peter about this.

John 21:18&19a

18 "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will

stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go."

19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God...

So, God had sovereignly appointed for Peter both a Disability in the End of his Life as well as a Death for the Glory of God. So, I stand by the Conclusion from **John 9**. In every Disability, whether *genetically* from the Womb; or *circumstantially* from an Accident; or *infectiously* from a Disease- God has a Good and Wise and Powerful Design- a Purpose- for His Own Glory and for the Good of His people who love Him and are called according to His Purpose (**Romans 8:28**)! Therefore, it is *wrong* to think that such Children *in* the Womb- or *out* of the Womb, or in their doddering old age- are unimportant, or without a unique, God-given Worth in this world.

And so, I say, "*Eugenics by Abortion*" is an Abomination to God! And in the Name of Jesus Christ- we must renounce it; hate it; reject it; and as His children- we must NEVER engage in it. That is what the Bible teaches. And so, we should fast for the Safety of the little ones.

But that is not *all* the Bible teaches. It *also* teaches that if you *have* engaged in this Sin- there is an Advocate for you- Jesus Christ the Righteous One (**1John 2:1**). And we should shout from the rooftop-

... that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins. (The Acts 10:43b)

I thank God for every Effort by the Local, State, or Federal Government to ban Abortion. But I also know that Education and governmental Action- in and of itself- WILL NOT bring an End to this American Holocaust. God's people MUST fast. And we MUST fast and beg God to keep our Children safe. And we MUST fast and ask God to keep ALL our Children safe- *especially* those who are the prime Targets of the systematic "*Slaughter of the Innocents*."

But we MUST also fast- for God to NOT ONLY change the Minds of the individuals who promote; or excuse; or avail themselves of Abortion. We must also beg God to grip their Hearts. So, that, one day- in EVERY State- Abortion in the United States will NOT merely be "Illegal"- but that it will become *Unthinkable!* Dear God make it so!

Amen. Let's pray

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.