

We're on the 16th message in our Marriage & Family Series, and the title of this morning's sermon is, "*Be Fruitful and Multiply – Part III.*"

In my mind if you're going to talk about everything we've talked about in Parts I and II...

- If you're going to talk about children being a gift, reward and blessing...
- If you're going to talk about barrenness being a curse...
- If I'm going to tell you children are never an accident and there are no circumstances under which a child should ever be prevented from coming into the world...

You're going to have to talk about abortion, so that's what we're doing to be doing.

Before we do this though, I want to be very clear about why I AM NOT discussing this and why I AM discussing this...

I'm not discussing this to make anyone who has had an abortion feel condemned or beat up. Instead, there are three reasons I am discussing this...

1. First, if you haven't already, many of you will find yourselves in positions to counsel people considering an abortion, and it's important for you to know what to say to them. My hope is this sermon might equip you.
2. Second - and we'll talk about this in more detail later - there are women experiencing terrible regret and shame as a result of their decision to have an abortion, and my desire is to hopefully prevent other women from feeling the same way.
3. Third – and most importantly - I'm discussing this to potentially save the lives of any unborn children. If even one child ended up not being aborted as a result of this sermon, and that's all the sermon accomplished, I would consider it a tremendous success.

I'd also like to let you know ahead of time I would be doing all of you a huge disservice if I sugarcoated any of this. I have no intention of being graphic regarding what's physically involved in abortion, but I am going to be graphic about what's involved mentally, emotionally and most importantly spiritually, as a result of abortion.

Some of you might be listening to this sermon and...

- You'll wonder if there are people in here who have had abortions...
- You'll wonder what these people are thinking...
- You'll wonder if I'm upsetting them...

But here's the truth, and you really need to know this: I am saying what they want me to say and what they want you to hear.

If you talk to Christians who have had abortions – and I have and part of my sermon draws from those conversations – here's what those people would say:

- *I don't want anyone else to do what I did.*
- *I don't want anyone else to feel this way.*
- *Please tell people what happens to women who have had abortions.*
- *Please don't hold anything back.*

- *I wish someone would've told me, b/c then maybe I wouldn't have made a decision that haunts me for the rest of my life.*

Let me share a testimony w/ you from a woman in our congregation who had an abortion, shared her testimony w/ Katie, and then gave me permission to share her testimony in the sermon...

“When I moved to Woodland I started attending church regularly for the first time since my childhood. I had been a pro-choice Christian for about 10 years. As I made Christian friends I realized it wasn't common to be both Christian and 'prochoice.' I didn't really care and just thought they were backwards. When I'd hear a pro-life comment it would irritate me. I'd complain to my husband about how close-minded and judgmental they were. Occasionally the pastor would make a comment from the pulpit and that REALLY got under my skin. I felt strongly that it was not a topic for him to voice his opinion on. I started going to Bible studies and digging into the Word. I never thought I was wrong in my views about abortion; however, I did notice the people in my life that I respected most were all passionately anti-abortion. In spite of our different views I felt no conviction about my pro-choice stance.

*Even though it was 5 years ago, I remember like it was yesterday when I went to God about this discrepancy in my life. I got on my knees and was very sincere in my prayer request. I asked God to reveal to me whether or not abortion is sinful. I truly wanted to know from Him. I flipped open the Bible right to Psalm 139:13-14 [As a note, these are the verses I mentioned last week: **“You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”**] I had never read those verses before and it was truly like the scales fell from my eyes. God was very real to me in that moment. He answered me loud and clear. I could not deny that abortion is murder. I had to acknowledge that I had committed murder [when I had an abortion]. I humbly asked God to forgive me and thankfully He's in the business of forgiving sin! I'd like to add that this is why it is important to not remain silent about [abortion]. Had my Christian friends or pastor never voiced the irritating and unpopular truth I would never have asked God to reveal the truth to me.”*

I don't often ask people twice if I have their permission to share something in a sermon, but this time I did, and I also want to share the response I received...

“Yes, you most definitely can. It will be a wonderful and healing moment for me to hear you say this. There will be something very freeing for me to get it out there that someone who now hates abortion used to be very pro-choice. I didn't just ignore the topic of abortion and bury my head in the sand, I was passionately pro-choice. It's truly by the loving grace of God that He not only softened my heart, but gave me a heart transplant. If the scales can fall from my eyes, they can surely fall from anyone's.”

What a beautiful testimony, amen? And what a testimony we should desire take place in others' hearts. And this brings us to Lesson 1...

ABORTION IS: LESSON 1: MURDER.

Despite what the world says, despite how the world tries to justify abortion, we need to understand God views it as murder...

Exo 21:12-27 is a portion of God's Law that discusses violence and those actions that are punishable by death. For example, the passage begins by saying if you put someone else to death, you must be put to death as well. In verses 22-25 the Law discusses what happens if a pregnant woman is injured and miscarries as a result. It says: **22 If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely...23 if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life.**

So whoever causes a woman to miscarry must give his life, b/c God views the unborn child as a life. He views the life of an unborn child exactly like He views the life of an individual who has been born.

- If you ever meet people who try to tell you an unborn child is not a human being, be sure to show them what God thinks, b/c that's the only opinion that matters.
- It doesn't matter how much of the world, or how many states, or how many politicians or how many governments or how many laws...or sadly even how many people who call themselves Christians view abortion – it only matters what God thinks and He says abortion is murder.

Now I'd like to ask a question and the answer to it is so obvious it almost sounds like a silly question for me to ask, but I need to ask it so you can understand the responsibility you have in telling people the truth...

Do you think when women go in to abortion clinics they're going to be told how God views abortion? Are they going to be told it's murder? Of course not. Instead they're told lies:

- They're told how the baby is not a baby.
- They're told how this is the right decision.
- They're told how they won't regret this.
- They're even told how this is what's best for the baby.

Planned Parenthood released their [Annual Report for 2013](#) and please listen to these statistics...

- In 2012 they murdered 327,166 babies.
- In 2013 they murdered 327,653 babies.

Here are two ways to understand these numbers:

1. This is an average of 37 abortions per hour or 1 abortion every 90 seconds.
2. Woodland has approximately 5,500 people. You'd had to murder the people in 60 cities of this size to reach that number. Could you imagine the devastation if even one city of that size was destroyed? It would be on every news channel across the world.

The point is women are not going to be told the truth when they go in abortion clinics. They have to hear that truth from you.

And this brings us to Lesson 2...

ABORTION IS: LESSON 2: SATANIC.

Let's think about something...

- If God's Word says children are a gift, reward and blessing like we've been talking about the past two weeks....
- If Jesus says, "Let the little children come to Me."
- If God says children are precious to Him...
- Maybe most significantly: if Satan hates God and children are made in God's image...

What should we expect? We should expect Satan to hate children and want to see them murdered.

Please understand there's nothing more satanic than abortion: **John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.**

- When women have abortions...
- When people support abortions...

They're serving and supporting Satan.

2 Cor 4:4 says Satan is the **god** (lowercase 'g') **of this age**, so what should we also expect? We should also expect the world to have a view of children that's influenced by Satan...and this is the case...

- Governments make it illegal to have more children.
- Governments provide the money for people to murder their babies.
- Health insurances – which by definition are supposed to defend and protect life – fund and receive funding to see babies murdered.

I mentioned the number of babies Planned Parenthood murdered, and here's the question: where did they get all the money to engage in that much business? Even though Planned Parenthood is a "nonprofit":

- In 2013 they brought in \$304 million
- In 2014 they brought in \$305 million

On top of all of this money, listen to how much they also received in taxpayer money, which is to say listen to how much they received from the government:

- They received \$540 million in 2012
- They received \$528 million in 2013

Murdering babies is one of the largest and most successful businesses in this country.

Let me remind you of two situations that took place in Scripture:

- **Exo 1:15 [The king of Egypt] spoke to the Hebrew midwives...¹⁶ "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see *them* [giving birth], if it *is* a son, then you shall kill him.**
- **Matt 1:16 Herod...was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under.**

We read these verses w/o often giving them much thought, but just consider for a moment how truly wicked both of these events really were.

But here's the thing: if governments are paying for babies to be murdered, is it really that much different today? Solomon was right when he said **Ecc 1:9 That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun.**

The number of babies murdered, the amount of money given TO murder babies, helps us see how the world views children, and this is why if you speak on behalf of unborn babies YOU will actually be considered evil. People will be upset that you're not more concerned with women's rights: **Isa 5:20 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!** There might be no better picture of this verse in the entire world than abortion!

Here is the sad and essentially insane truth about our world...

- Our world is very, very concerned about saving certain things...
- Our world is very, very concerned about keeping certain things safe...

But it is not babies: it's trees, fish, birds and animals.

Now let me first say I'm all for being good stewards of creation, but **Rom 1:25** says people **exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the [creation] rather than the Creator.**

Now we're part of creation too, but there are two things about us that make us different than everything else in creation, and it's this:

- We have consciences.
- We bear the **image of God**.
- And we are eternally existing.

But what we have is people who ignore their consciences and in the language of **Rom 1:23** are way more concerned about **birds and four-footed animals and creeping things** than they are w/ babies who bear the image of God.

Consider the insanity of our world when we see people fighting two battles:

- We see people fighting to save the lives of trees, animals, birds and fish.
- We see people fighting to be able to murder babies in the womb.
- When you see the passion and hostility of Pro-Choice people, you see it really is a fight to them! They even call it a fight. They will tell you, "We're FIGHTING for women's rights!" But what they really mean is they're fighting to be able to murder babies.

Our world is so insane and upside down the only way to understand what's happening is to look at it spiritually. The only way you can make sense of people trying to save trees, but murder babies is:

- If you understand there's good and evil...
- If you understand like **2 Cor 4:4** says that Satan has **blinded** people...
- If you understand the language of **2 Tim 2:26** that **[people] have been taken captive by [Satan] to do his will.**

A woman's womb should be the safest and most secure place in the world for a baby, but instead it has become one of the most dangerous. John Piper said, *"The Bible frequently expresses the high priority God puts on the protection and provision and vindication of the weakest and most helpless and most victimized members of the community."* And in my mind you can't get weaker and more helpless than a baby in the womb. But tragically it's babies in the womb that are the most unprotected individuals in our society.

Before we move on from this discussion, let me remind you of one of the most significant facts for us to consider as pro-life Christians...

Have you ever wondered why Jesus came to earth through conception? Why didn't He just show up and announce His presence? Maybe He could've come in His First Coming like He'll return in His Second Coming: visually and bodily descending from heaven.

But instead He chose to go through the normal human birth process, beginning at conception in the mother's womb. In order for Jesus to be fully God and fully man, He had to be completely human and that meant going through the same process as us:

- We were conceived and He was conceived.
- We developed in the womb, and He developed in the womb.
- We were born, and He was born.

We are humans from the moment of conception, just as Christ was a human from the moment of His conception. God clearly demonstrated that life in the womb is priceless, because He Himself came to earth through the womb.

One of the reasons I'm going into all this detail is I want you to see the seriousness and sinfulness of abortion, so it helps us understand WHY the next lesson happens to be the case...

ABORTION IS: LESSON 3: OFTEN A WOMAN'S WORST REGRET BECAUSE... (don't worry about the "because" yet)

The word pastor means shepherd, and I believe part of my responsibility as your pastor is to protect you from making decisions that could possibly leave you w/ terrible regret and shame. And there's almost nothing in this life that leaves women w/ more regret and shame than having an abortion.

I know most of you – if not all of you – would never think of having an abortion, but please make sure you don't pay any less attention during this lesson, b/c like I said earlier I want to equip you to warn and counsel women who are considering an abortion:

- And considering the world we live in that I just discussed, there's a good chance you're going to be in the position to counsel someone regarding an abortion.
- And when you do, you need to tell them the truth of this lesson that having an abortion will probably be the greatest regret of their life.

Our world has a very twisted view of love and what is and isn't loving, and not only is it unloving to let a mother have an abortion b/c it's murder, it's also unloving b/c of what it does to the mother and how it affects her for the rest of her life. The most loving response to someone considering an abortion is telling her how God views her actions as murder, but also how the decision will affect her for the rest of her life.

Here's an observation on my part...

While the church has followed the world in different ways, one of the ways it seems the church is still holding to God's Word is regarding abortion. Perhaps I'm wrong, but I haven't seen or heard of churches tolerating abortion, like some churches tolerate homosexuality, divorce, female pastors, or any number of other liberal and unbiblical teachings.

But w/ that said, while churches are discussing the sinfulness of abortion – and I'm glad for that – I don't often hear of churches discussing the mental, emotional and spiritual consequences of abortion for women who have had them. While it's important to talk about how God views abortion – as murder – it's also important to talk about how women who have had abortions view their abortions – and how it's often a decision that haunts them for the rest of their lives.

While I've never met a woman who felt this way, I've heard of women supposedly having abortions and feeling absolutely no regret or guilt whatsoever. Perhaps you've heard the stories or seen the videos of women who walk out of abortion clinics taunting pro-life protestors, telling them they feel absolutely fine about what they did.

When women who have had abortions act like they don't feel bad about what they did, there are really only two possibilities:

1. First, they're lying and trying to convince others - and more than likely trying to convince themselves - that there's nothing wrong w/ what they did.
2. Or second:
 - They're reprobates, which means in the language of **Rom 1:24-32** they're people **God has given over** to engage in this kind of wickedness w/o remorse.
 - In the language of **1 Tim 4:2** they have **seared consciences** w/ no sensitivity to sin.

Because that is the only way a woman can murder a baby inside her womb and be left w/o terrible regret and shame.

Because the reality is this...

If you talk to women who have had abortions...

- It is often the greatest regret of their lives...
- A day doesn't go by where they don't think about what they've done...
- They would give just about anything to undo their sin.

Think about this...

- Every year the day that should be the child's birthday approaches and they're reminded of what they did.
- They spend the rest of their life counting the years saying:
 - *My child would've been 4 this year...5 this year...6 this year...*
 - *This is the year my child would've started this grade.*
 - *This is when my child would've started driving.*
 - *This is when my child would've graduated.*
 - They see other children and say, *"This is what my child would've been doing."*
 - They say, *"This is when my child might have started having children."*

It is a terrible reality, and I don't want any of you to have to experience it, and I want all of you to be able to counsel others from having to experience it. If you counsel people considering abortions:

- Tell them about the seriousness of their sin, that's it's murder.
- But also tell them about the terrible consequences associated w/ their sin. Tell them about the terrible price they're going to be paying for the rest of their lives as a result of their decision.

Now let me explain why abortion has such terrible consequences for individuals who have had them...

ABORTION IS: LESSON 3: OFTEN A WOMAN'S WORST REGRET BECAUSE (PART I) IT'S UNNATURAL...

Some people like to say, "All sins are the same!" I've talked about this before, so I don't want to spend too much time on it, but it's worth mentioning again b/c it relates to the sermon, and b/c it's such a common misconception in the church...

All sins are the same in terms of:

- Being destructive...
- Separating us from God...
- Demanding death as a punishment...
- Needing to be forgiven through Christ...

But there are huge differences regarding:

- The way God views certain sins...
- And the consequences of certain sins.

For example:

- There are some sins called abominations.
- There are some sins God specifically says He hates.
- **1 Cor 6:18** describes sexual sin as a sin against our own bodies.
- **Heb 12:15** says bitterness is a sin that defiles many.

Now listen to what's said of murder...

Murder is described as a sin that pollutes the ground:

- **Num 35:33 You shall not pollute the land where you *are*; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.**
- **Psa 106:38 [They] shed innocent blood,
The blood of their sons and daughters,
Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan;
And the land was polluted with blood.**

This is referring to child sacrifice, a very fitting comparison for this sermon, since it's the OT picture of abortion. People sacrificed their children for selfish reasons, thinking the death of the child would provide them w/ a better future. It's exactly the same w/ abortion.

Murder is also described as a sin that calls out for vengeance – other sins aren't described this way:

- When Cain murdered, Abel, in **Gen 4:10 God told him, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.”**
- In **Rev 6:10** individuals who have been martyred cry out to God for vengeance: **they [said], “How long, O Lord...until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”**
- The blood of murdered people called out for vengeance so strongly, in the Old Testament God actually established an individual to take vengeance on the murderer. This person was called, “The avenger of blood.” You can read about it in Num 35.

Now here's why I'm telling you all this...

- Murder is a very terrible and unique sin in its differences from other sins...
- As a result murder has very terrible and unique consequences...
- And since abortion IS murder...

Abortion is going to have very different, and very serious consequences...and it does.

Mothers murdering their babies while the babies are in the womb is not natural, and there are two ways we know this...

First we know abortion is unnatural – or it is against nature – b/c of how rarely we see it in nature. While I know there are some instances of animals killing their young, it's not the norm. Even though animals don't understand love or relationships like we do, the norm is for animals to protect their young at almost any cost.

But this isn't the main reason we know abortion is unnatural. We know it's unnatural b/c Scripture says so...

If you remember when we discussed the different Greek words for love, I told you one of the words for love is *storge*. It refers to natural affection, or familial, or family love. It refers to the natural love a parent immediately feels for a child. When you have a child and you look at that child for the first time:

- You have never seen that child before...
- That child has never done anything to warrant your love...

But at that moment you feel a love that's nearly impossible to describe. You realize there's almost nothing you wouldn't do for this child. For the first time in your life, you look at an individual that you love more than you love yourself. That's *storge* love.

The word *storge* isn't used in the New Testament, but the word *astorgos* (pr: ah-store-goss), is used twice. *Astorgos* is *storge* w/ an "a" in front of it, making it the opposite, so it actually means w/o familial love, or w/o the love a parent naturally feels for a child.

Here are the two places it's used in the New Testament...

1. **Rom 1:28** refers to people who **did not like to retain God in their knowledge, therefore God gave them** (this is what I was talking about when I discussed reprobates) **over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with...** then it has a long list of things these people are filled w/ when they're reprobates and verse 31 says **UNLOVING**. That's *astorgos* or lacking familial love. This specifically means lacking the love that should exist between family members.
2. The second place *astorgos* is used is in **1 Tim 3. Verse 1** says **know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be...** then it has this long list of ugly things people will be in the last days and **verse 3** says **UNLOVING** (or *astorgos*). It means in the last days people will lack the natural love they should have for their family members.

And there is no worse picture of *astorgos* than a mother murdering her baby in the womb:

- When people do something that even animals don't do, there is a terrible, lasting price...
- It's something that's very, very difficult to recover from it...
- It's an action that has terrible, lasting consequences.

ABORTION IS: LESSON 3: OFTEN A WOMAN'S WORST REGRET BECAUSE:

- (PART I) IT'S UNNATURAL.
- (PART II) THERE'S NO POTENTIAL FOR RESTITUTION.

Let me make something clear before I go any further...

I've met people who have wondered about making restitution for past sins, but the only thing necessary to receive forgiveness for sin is repentance and faith in Christ.

- If restitution was necessary, salvation couldn't even be said to be by grace through faith.
- Not only is restitution not necessary, for most of our sins it would be an impossibility:
 - Who can remember all the sins they've committed?
 - Who would really be able to go back and "fix" those sins?

The major example of restitution in Scripture occurs w/ Zacchaeus. In **Luke 19:8** he said, "**Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.**"

But here are two important things to notice about Zacchaeus' situation:

1. First, he did this on his own. There's no encouragement from Jesus for him to do this; Zacchaeus didn't do this at Jesus' insistence.

2. Second, there's no instance in any of the Gospels where Jesus did anything other than invite people to follow Him. It was never: *"Follow me after you've fixed all the messes you've made."*
3. Third, there's nothing in the rest of Scripture that gives the impression restitution should accompany conversion.

All that's necessary for salvation is faith in Christ and repentance. And repentance means turning from our sins, but that's still different than going back and "fixing" our sins.

What's important for all of us following conversion is:

- Living for Christ...
- Living new lives empowered by the Holy Spirit...
- Living lives that have taken a different pattern and direction than they did prior to conversion.

When we attended the biblical counseling training, there was one part I was really uncomfortable w/ and I talked to some of the people who were there, and it was this...

One of the main speakers shared a story about a man who seemed to not feel forgiven until he could fix some past mistakes. I was uncomfortable w/ it b/c it sounded similar to the teaching on penance I grew up w/ in the Catholic Church:

- Our confidence regarding our forgiveness and salvation can't be in anything we have done or could do.
- Our confidence has to be in the sacrificial work of Christ.

Now w/ all that said, let me ask you this...

Could the Holy Spirit convict us of a past sin and some form of restitution we should make? Yes! Maybe it would look like:

- Asking for forgiveness from someone we've hurt.
- Repaying someone for something we've stolen.
- Telling someone the truth after telling a lie.
- Trying to repair the reputation of someone we've slandered.

And I would say if the Holy Spirit ever convicts you about some form of restitution, by all means be sensitive to that conviction and make things right. And doing so is really a blessing for us too, b/c then the regret and shame can be replaced w/ peace and rest.

There's a girl I treated terribly soon after college before I became a believer. 2 or 3 yrs ago, which was approximately 10 yrs after I mistreated her, I found her mom on Facebook and asked her to forgive me for the way I treated her daughter. I told her how I had recognized my sinfulness, become a Christian, and just wanted her to know how sorry I was for hurting her daughter as well as her whole family.

I decided not to contact the girl herself, b/c I thought hearing from me might bring back painful memories. I'm not sure if I made the right decision or not, but I told the mother if she thought it best she could let her daughter know how sorry I was and that I hoped she could forgive me too.

The reason I mention this is it's an example in my life where I felt convicted about something in my past that I should try to make right. I knew I was already forgiven through Christ, but I still felt convicted about asking the family to forgive me.

Now regarding abortion, one of the other reasons it's so painful is you have women experiencing terrible regret and shame, but there is absolutely no potential for restitution:

- This makes abortion unlike most other sins...
- It lacks the potential to seek forgiveness from the person sinned against...

This is one of the main reasons it's very difficult for a woman who has had abortion to be comforted or alleviated of the regret she's experiencing.

And just to let you know, even if it is worse for women, it's still a terrible situation for men. We know a father who almost 40 yrs ago drove his wife to have an abortion and he still struggles w/ what he did.

Now let me remind you of what I said at the beginning: I don't mention any of this to be mean or make anyone feel worse. I'm discussing all this for two reasons:

1. First, to equip you to counsel women who might be thinking of having abortions.
2. Second, to hopefully prevent anyone from having abortions and experiencing the terrible regret and shame that comes w/ that decision.

Now even though I said there's no potential for restitution w/ abortion, I didn't say there's no potential for forgiveness and this brings us to our last lesson...

ABORTION IS: LESSON 4: FORGIVABLE

While there isn't potential for restitution or making amends w/ the baby following an abortion:

- There's potential for forgiveness from God...
- There's potential for making things right w/ God.

I've said it's not my intent to make anyone who's had an abortion feel worse about what they've done, and I said that's b/c people who have had abortions already feel so condemned. What they often need instead is to be told what they can have through Christ:

- **Rom 8:1** says *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.* When people have had abortions and they're feeling condemned, they need to know that condemnation can be removed through Christ.
- When people have had abortions their consciences might bother them frequently, but **Heb 9:14** says **How much more shall the blood of Christ...cleanse your conscience?** The **blood of Christ** allows people to have clear consciences.

And here are some truths for all of us; these are truths whether you've had an abortion or not...

- We're all sinners and more than likely all of us have some amount of guilt and shame associated w/ things we've done.

- People who have had abortions aren't the only ones who struggle w/ regret or condemnation. The truth is this is a struggle for all of us to some extent.

But wonderfully, regardless of what we've done:

- There's forgiveness through Christ...
- The condemnation can be removed...
- We can have clear consciences.

But it's important to know **Rom 8:1** doesn't say *There is therefore now no condemnation*. It says ***There is therefore now no condemnation TO THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS***. The Bible is clear about the individuals who can experience this freedom, and it's those who are in Christ. For those who aren't in Christ, the verse could read, "**There is therefore now condemnation.**"

Finally, I'd like to close by giving one more encouragement, not just to people who have had abortions, but really to anyone who's lost a child, including those who have experienced miscarriages...

I want me tell you about someone in Scripture who lost a child. This situation is somewhat similar to abortion in that the person lost his child b/c of sin...and that's David. For seven days David fasted and laid on the ground begging God to spare his child. All of his servants were so worried about him, when the child died they were afraid to tell him b/c they thought he would do himself harm. But when the child died, they told David, he picked himself up and recovered so quickly his servants were shocked. They asked him about his behavior:

- He told them what he did to encourage himself.
- He told them the reality – the truth – that he held on to that strengthened him.

I want to tell you what David did to encourage himself; I want to tell you what David said to strengthen himself so it might encourage and strengthen you if you've lost a child, whether it's through abortion or some other circumstance. In **2 Sam 12:23** David said, "**I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.**"

This is the beautiful reality for every believer. There's no potential on this side of heaven to see the children we've lost, but there's the wonderful encouragement for those in Christ that we can look forward to seeing those children again.

LET'S REVIEW THESE LESSONS...

ABORTION IS:

- **LESSON 1: MURDER.**
- **LESSON 2: SATANIC.**
- **LESSON 3: OFTEN A WOMAN'S WORST REGRET BECAUSE:**
 - **(PART I) IT'S UNNATURAL**
 - **(PART II) THERE'S NO POTENTIAL FOR RESTITUTION.**

LESSON 4: FORGIVABLE