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The Sanctity of Human Life II (The Golem)

Genesis 2:7

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July 8, 2007

[\[Movie Clip from *Fantasia*\]](#)

That was the Sorcerer's Apprentice in the movie *Fantasia*. Mickey Mouse animates a broom and commands it to fetch water from the well, and it does, but then he can't get it to stop. His creature understands the letter of the law but not the spirit.

That story is based on the medieval, Jewish legend of the "golem," a clay figure animated by the rabbi using the unspeakable name of God. In one legend, Rabbi Leib tells the golem to fetch water from the well. The golem does until the whole house is flooded. The golem knows the letter of the law but not the spirit.

"Gollum," hiding in caves in *The Lord of the Rings*, gets his name from the Hebrew *golem*.¹ The ancient commentary of the rabbis—the Talmud—says, "A vessel that is not complete is called a golem." The Talmud also describes Adam as initially a golem, a shapeless hunk of dust or clay before he receives breath, or very much breath, from God.

You'll remember Adam and Eve's sin was to crave fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. I think we call that the law. They were legalists.

According to the legend of the golem, the breath of God changes a person from a legalist into a lover in the image of God.

Well, that's just old legends, so it's important not to make too much of them. However, I find it interesting in light of what we've been studying. This is the second part of a two-part sermon we began last week, "The Sanctity of Human Life."

[Prayer:] Father, we need your help. *I* need your help, Father. We need to talk about abortion. That is such a painful and difficult subject for us.

Father, there are some here for whom the subject is incredibly personal and emotional. There are others for whom the subject is theoretical and distant. So by the power of your Spirit, would you meet us in each of these places and reveal your heart for us and for people?

Lord, I pray that no one would leave this message halfway through, or leave this service halfway through, but that you'd see us through Good Friday and on into Easter.

Lord, I pray that no one would leave here feeling condemned. Lord, if any of us

feel convicted, I pray that we would also know that we are forgiven.

So, Lord, may we receive, conceive, and give birth to your mercy. In Jesus' name, amen.

Genesis 2:7:

Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

An alarm sounded in the neonatal intensive care unit. "We need a neonatal nurse STAT!" Sharon Dunsmore ran to the delivery room. Someone said, "It's an oops abortion." That was their term for the occasional baby that survived an abortion procedure.

Sharon and a pediatrician ran with the fetus (now called a baby) to the resuscitation room. The pediatrician tried to intubate. "The whole thing gets messed up when the fetus has the audacity to survive," he fumed. "Then everybody takes it seriously, and they call the pediatrician, who's supposed to fix it or get rid of it. A failed homicide—and *oops!* Then all of a sudden everybody cares, and it's turned from a 'right' into a liability."

Finally, the pediatrician gave up, leaving Sharon alone with the baby. She writes:

He was gasping for air. "Lord, help!" I prayed. Almost instinctively, I took the baby's vitals. His temperature was dangerously low.

I settled down a bit and began to focus on this tiny little person. He had no name, so I gave him one. Suddenly, I found myself speaking to the baby. "Tiny Tim, who are you? I am so sorry you weren't wanted. It's not your fault."

I placed my little finger in his hand and he *grasped* it. I touched his toes and discovered he was ticklish!

Emotions swept over me as I thought of my friends who had been waiting and praying for years for a baby to adopt. He wet.

I took his temperature again. It was dropping. He was gasping for air and

continued to fight for life. I stroked him gently and began to sing:

*Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

A nurse walked in.

"How's the mother?" I asked.

"Oh, she's fine. She's back in her room resting. The family said

they don't want to see or hear about anything. They said, 'Just take care of it.'"

Then Tiny Tim moved and caught hold of my little finger. I let him hang on. I didn't want him to die without being touched and cared for. As I saw him struggle to breathe, I said, "It's okay, Tim. You can let go. You can go back to God."

"Goodbye, Tiny Tim," I whispered. "You *did* matter to someone."

Did Tim matter to someone? Was that a medical procedure . . . or was that murder? What makes us human? Is it being born? Is it passing the cervix? Was anyone here born by C-section? I guess you're not human. Can we kill you?

- Is it taking a breath that makes you human? If it is, folks on respirators are inhuman.
- Is it quality of life? If it is, most of the world is inhuman.
- Is it rational thought? If so, drunks and stupid people are fair game.
- Is it independence? If so, only hermits and lumber-jacks have the right to life. We're *all* dependent.
- Is it consciousness? If so, it's legal to kill people while they're sleeping.

If you were an impartial observer from another planet visiting our country, I think you would conclude that the thing that makes you human is whether or not someone with power wants you.

My firstborn son Jonathan was born over five weeks early. I wanted him desperately, so doctors fought to save him. When he was born, he knew my voice. He'd stop crying at my voice.

It was absolutely horrifying to me to think that in the same city, perhaps even in the same hospital, babies older than my son were being exterminated in the womb, and doctors were making hundreds of thousands of dollars a year doing so.

- Well, what if someone with power wanted each of *those* babies?
- What if God the Father wants *every* baby?
- What if He gives each the capacity to know His voice?
- What if the thing that makes us human is not something a doctor can detect with a sonogram or amniocentesis?
- What if the thing that makes us human is that at some point God breathed His Spirit into us and made us capable of receiving love and giving love in His image?

Genesis 2:7:

Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Well, when does that happen to a fetus in the womb? In Ecclesiastes 11:5, Solomon writes:

As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.

We don't know exactly how it happens . . . but it does happen.

In the gospel of Luke, the unborn John the Baptist leaps in Elizabeth's womb at the presence of the unborn Jesus in the womb of Mary.

The Bible refers to unborn babies as people.

And if you say, "Well then, they are certainly the last and least of people," it would be good to remember what Jesus says from the throne: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." *To me*, He says. How could that be?

Well, Jesus is the Word of God, the Word that rides on Spirit that is breath. He is somehow *in* the last and least, and the Father does want Him.

So no matter what, an unborn child is at least a mystery—a sacred mystery not for you or anyone to do with as you please.

Genesis 9:6 forbids murder, for "God made man in his own image." We've been preaching about that image for several weeks now. It's hard to isolate the image as just one quality, but it appears to be at least the presence of this breath—the breath of God, the "I," the Spirit in us that enables us to love and be loved.

A person in the image is a person in love, and the image is a community of loving persons.

Remember this picture?

God is like a drama or dance of love: three persons and one substance that is love. We are being made in that image. We are given spirit or breath that we might enter that dance and image—that drama. Now watch what happens when one person (one spirit) is cut out of that dance.

You see, it doesn't simply harm *that* person; it stops the dance. It destroys the image, not just for one but for all.

And get this: It's not just that someone dies. (People die all the time, and you still love them.) It's not simply that a child dies; the problem is *wanting* a child to die. For wanting a child to die is wanting the dance to stop . . .

which is wanting love to stop . . .

which is wanting life to stop . . .

which is wanting God to stop . . .
which in the end is wanting *yourself* to stop.

So abort your child and you abort your heart.

You see, if the infant is spirit, your spirit communes with that spirit long before you ever lay eyes on the flesh it resides in. So reject that spirit and you reject your own spirit.

I'm no expert in these things, but I've read that suicide is 400-900% more prevalent among post-abortive women.

You may say, "Well, that's because of post-abortive preachers!" Well, sometimes maybe so . . . and maybe not.

I know of one very sweet and wonderful woman forced to have a saline abortion when she was fifteen. She wasn't supposed to, but she caught a glimpse of her baby burned to death. She had felt the baby struggle in her womb. She told my wife, "I've committed a sin that God cannot forgive." Well, it wasn't a preacher of the Gospel who told her that.

I have another friend who has had demons attached to each one of her abortions, and they all told her that. "You can't be forgiven." You realize that for thousands of years demons that go by names like Molech, Baal, and Shiva have enticed men and women to sacrifice their infants.

Rejecting life in the image of God is inviting death in the image of evil: nightmares, depression, the pit in the depths of the earth where demons lie to you saying, "You cannot be forgiven," and "We have your baby forever."

So if you're thinking about getting an abortion, please don't.

If you've been party to an abortion and now you feel like hell, listen closely: I'm convinced that demons *do not* have your baby. Surrender your baby to Jesus. I'm convinced He has your baby. He purchased your baby with His own blood. Jesus and your baby are waiting for you in a new world. They're not angry; they're not sad. Jesus says, "Behold, I make all things new," and I think He meant it.

So I'm not concerned for your baby so much as I'm concerned for you. I'm concerned you don't believe that you are forgiven. And if you don't believe you're forgiven, you're dead—dust and ashes—a pile of clay.

You see, Satan doesn't only aim to abort babies; Satan aims to abort you and your heart. He aims to abort entire societies, making them incapable of love.

You realize that Israel was destroyed because she worshipped and served other gods—other gods that made Israel sacrifice her own children in the fire.

Whether our gods are Molech, Baal, sexual freedom, standard of living, or convenience, the sacrifice is the same and the result is the same: *death*.

In the United States of America, ever since 1973, somewhere between 40 and 50 million babies have been aborted. This schematic shows the number of citizens that have died in war:

This is the number aborted since 1973 due to abortion:

If only a fraction of those little men were actually human, it would still be an unspeakable tragedy producing an entire society of stone-cold hearts.

Abortion destroys babies,
it destroys hearts,
and it destroys societies.

Like all sin, it turns hearts to stone, dust, and ashes . . . and without a Savior, that's where our hearts will stay: in dust and ashes, the pit, the depths of the earth, Sheol: that is, hell.

Through abortion we make our bed in hell.

And so what are we to do about abortion? Get mad, go to war, and fight for legislation? Will that heal a heart of stone?

Listen closely to King David in Psalm 139. It's a psalm we love to quote around the topic of abortion.

Psalm 139:7-18:

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

You'll remember that David spent a lot of his days in the pit in the earth in caves, chased by Saul, running from his son Absalom. He spent times in physical caves and spiritual caves.

David committed incredibly violent sins. He murdered Uriah so that he could have sex with Uriah's wife, and in the process he sacrificed his unborn child, who turns out to be a picture of Christ.

If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. 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.

He writes that God knew him in the womb.

My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Commentators often take that as a reference to the womb, yet whenever this phrase is used anywhere else in the Old Testament, it's always used in reference to the pit (Sheol: that is, hell).

I've heard that people say I don't believe there's a hell. That is definitely untrue and shows that they don't understand what I've said. Hell begins in this life and extends beyond the grave.

In the Psalms, David talks about being "entangled in the cords of hell." In this Psalm, he talks about "making his bed in hell." If you've ever felt like your soul was in hell, shackled by guilt, dead in your trespasses and sins, this Psalm is for you.

David writes, "Even if I make my bed in hell, you are there" (v. 8).

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.

"Substance being yet unformed" is all one word in Hebrew, and the word is "golem." The only time it appears in all of Scripture is here.

And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

David writes that in the depths of the earth God saw his *golem*.

Commentators often say that *golem* should be translated "embryo," but this *golem* is in the depths of the earth, as if David is referring to himself hiding in caves and racked with guilt and shame over his sins of violence and murder.

Well, whether or not David is implying that he is a golem, as commentators like Spurgeon suggest, Scripture does refer to this world as a womb. And Jesus is very clear that each of us must be born anew. Each of us is an earthen vessel into which God speaks His Word, which is seed, into which God is breathing His Spirit.

We are each being made in the image of God, and none of us is yet perfected in that image.

In the words of the ancient rabbis, we are each "incomplete vessels"; that is, we are each golem . . . like Adam waiting for breath.

- So, you see, unborn babies are far more human than we know.
- And perhaps full-grown men are far *less* human than we know.

In fact, until you've met Jesus—the *Eschatos* Adam—the finished Adam, you've never met a completed human, only a golem. And what is a golem, according to Jewish legend? It's an earthen vessel not yet fully filled with the Spirit of God. A golem is a legalist. It exists by the letter of the law and can't perceive its spirit. And what is the spirit? The Spirit is love, and love is God.

And so what are we to do about abortion? Get mad, go to war, fight for

legislation? Well, I think legislation is really important. Laws are important, but they can't change a single heart.

I think the world sometimes looks at us Christians, and they think we're faking this love thing, because we act like *golem*. We keep screaming about the sanctity of human life and then don't seem to love human life at all.

If you really want to change the world, stop relying on governments, legislation, and human institutions, and start loving your neighbor the way Jesus loves you: unconditionally, sacrificially, passionately to the point of death on a cross.

- Love Democrats the way Jesus loves you.
- Love Republicans the way Jesus loves you.
- Love unwed, pregnant mothers and their babies the way Jesus loves you. (Support them and adopt them, as many of you do.)
- Love abortion doctors and their clients the way Jesus loves you.
- Love Moslem Fundamentalists the way Jesus loves you.
- Love illegal aliens the way Jesus loves you.
- Love poor people the way Jesus loves you.
- Love just a few of the thirteen million AIDS orphans in Africa the way Jesus loves you.

If you do, it will cost you. And if you do, you'll look different. If you do, the gates of hell will not be able to stand against you.

One day in February of 1994, I walked by the TV set and saw the President speaking to a large crowd. He looked rattled and confused, and I wondered what had rattled him so. Later I saw what had rattled him. He had been required to speak immediately after a puny, little, old, Albanian nun named Mother Teresa. And she spoke about Jesus and His love for us and His love for children—unborn children. And she pulled no punches.

Yet she would refuse to argue about legislation. She always wanted to talk about our hearts. So she spoke about the poverty in American hearts. The President shook. Everyone listened. Nobody argued with her; nobody belittled her; they all sat in awe of her. Why? Because she was not *golem*. She was the bleeding body of the living Christ.

Jesus the Christ
Who loves all of us *golem*
And died to give us His breath—
The Spirit of God

He loves abortion doctors, nurses, unborn babies, and the mothers that abort them.

So Sharon Dunsmore sang to Little Tim. As he held her finger she said, "It's okay, Tim, you can go back to God. You did matter to someone."

Years later, Sharon Dunsmore became the manager of a psychiatric care unit. A severely depressed young woman named Kathy came to see Sharon following a suicide attempt. She described an abortion. She told of recurring nightmares. In the dreams, a

baby cried for her,

but she could never find her baby. She longed for her baby. She cried to Sharon, “Did my baby die alone?”

Well, as Kathy spoke and gave details and dates, Sharon realized that Kathy was Little Tim’s mother. Later at a restaurant they met, and Sharon told the story: “Your baby was touched and loved. He was given a name. He didn’t die alone.”

I don’t think any baby dies alone, for Jesus is with “the last and the least.” And no person needs to be alone.

So Sharon told Kathy about Jesus. They wept and hugged, and as each of them surrendered to love, they were no longer *golem*—unformed. They were formed into the image of God and filled with His Spirit.

Do you realize that when you surrender your *golem*, I mean when you surrender your shame, guilt, fear, and deadness, Jesus—who is mercy—is actually born in you?

So if you feel shame over an abortion, surrender that empty place, and it actually becomes a womb in which the Christ child is formed and from which the Christ child is born.

I have a friend who loves children. She’s living her fantasy now, and that’s to love underprivileged orphans. She doesn’t have to; she *yearns* to. It’s the Spirit of Christ in her. She’s also my friend who lost some of her children to abortion.

But she has surrendered the pain, the darkness, the sorrow, and the fear. Jesus has showered her with His mercy and shown her that He has her children. So now she longs to love all children and shower them with the same mercy. And she’s changing the world.

Now, this may be the pinnacle of how we’re fashioned in God’s image. I don’t think angels have this capacity, but you do. You have the capacity to receive,

conceive, and give birth to mercy—the grace of God—the love of God poured out. His name is Jesus.

If you had an abortion and you’ve never confessed it to God, confess it in silence:

I confess I killed my child.
Please take my child.
Thank you for forgiving me.
Be born in me, Lord Jesus.

I believe Jesus is saying to you, “Sweetheart, I adore you. I have your baby. I purchased your baby. Would you believe that I purchased you? Would you believe that I have you?”

In the name of Jesus and under the authority of His blood, I declare to you: You are forgiven.

[Prayer:] Now, Holy Spirit, would you come to that place—to that old wound—and bear fruit there and grow there and be formed there?

I have a friend who loves children more than anyone I know. That love is Jesus in her. He has actually been born into the very wounds left from aborting her own children long ago.

So believe His grace, and you're not *golem*. You are the pregnant Bride of Christ, pregnant with His life.

If you're thinking about terminating a pregnancy, say, "Lord Jesus, thank you for the life in me. Help me to love that life the way you love that life. Breathe on me, Lord Jesus, and impregnate me with your love."

Maybe you want to change the world but you've been a legalist or perhaps apathetic. They're actually two sides of the same coin. Confess your dust and ashes; confess your *golem*. Say, "Breathe on me, Lord Jesus. Impregnate me with your love."

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus took bread and broke it saying, "This is my body given to you. Take and eat. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way after supper, He took the cup and said, "This is the covenant in my blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it, all of you, in remembrance of me."

I hope you understand this is the Word of God given to you. Did you know that the Word is also called a seed? And your heart is a womb. Come and believe God's mercy and give birth to mercy.

[Communion]

Paul wrote, "Where sin increased grace abounded all the more." St. Paul also wrote this:

But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." (Galatians 4:26-27)

Do you see what that means? Who is our mother? According to Scripture, it's people like St. Paul, King David, Moses . . . Have you ever thought about who those three guys were? Moses murdered a guy in anger, and out of that God gave birth to a nation.

King David murdered a guy so he could sleep with the guy's wife. She gave birth to one son who died for the sin and another son who lived the blessing. She gave birth to Solomon, the grandfather and the picture of Christ (who died for our sin and rose to be our blessing).

St. Paul drug believers off to prison and death. And Jesus appeared to him on the Damascus road, and into that desolate heart He spoke His Word. Paul wrote the words we read this morning.

What I'm saying is if you're in that desolate place where you've come face to face with your sin and your own brokenness, but you just came up here and took holy

seed [communion], I'm saying you're in a sacred place. God has a call on your life. And when you believe His mercy over you, you give birth to mercy. That's how great our God is!

Don't leave here today with shame. You may leave with sorrow, but know this: Your sorrow will turn into joy. That's how great our God is!

RESOURCE:

Alternatives Pregnancy Center
1440 Blake Street
Denver, CO 80202
303-298-8815
(24-hr.): 303-295-2288
(24-hr.): 1-800-395-4357
www.apcdenver.org

Relevant Texts and Quotations (from bulletin)

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. . . . So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. . . . Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

~ *Genesis 1:26a, 27; 2:7 (RSV)*

As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.

~ *Ecclesiastes 11:5*

Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name.

~ *Isaiah 49:1*

For he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. . . . And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. . . .

~ *Luke 1:15, 41*

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. . . . So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. . . ." But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

~ *Matthew 18:10, 14; 19:14*

And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

~ *Matthew 25:40*

- Do You Know? That abortion is legal in the USA at any time throughout the entire nine months of

pregnancy. . . FOR ANY REASON?

- Do You Know? At 18 days after conception, a baby's heart is already beating?
- Do You Know? At 6 weeks, brain waves can be measured. At 8 weeks, the stomach, liver, and kidneys are functioning and fingerprints have formed. At 9 weeks, the unborn child can feel pain.
- Do You Know? That 700,000 abortions are performed each year in America after 9 weeks of pregnancy.
- Do You Know? The overwhelming majority of all abortions (95%) are done as a means of birth control. Only 1% are performed because of rape or incest; 10% because of fetal abnormalities; 3% due to the mother's health problems.
- Do You Know? For every two babies born another baby dies in an abortion.

That's 1.5 million babies each year; that's 4,000 babies every day; that's 40 million babies since 1973; and that's just here in America.

~ *Central Illinois Right to Life*
(statistics about 10 years old)

It is very painful to accept what is happening in Western countries: a child is destroyed by the fear of having too many children and having to feed it or to educate it.

I think they are the poorest people in the world, who do an act like that.

A child is a gift of God.

I feel that the poorest country is the country that has to kill the unborn child to be able to have extra things and extra pleasures. They are afraid to have to feed one more child!

~ *Mother Teresa, My Life for the Poor*

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. 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 [Heb.: *tachtiy 'erets*]. Your eyes saw my substance [Heb.: *golem*], being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

~ *Psalms 139:7-16, A Psalm of David (NKJV)*

Son of man, wail over the multitude of Egypt, And cast them down to the depths of the earth [Heb.: *tachtiy 'erets*], Her and the daughters of the famous nations, With those who go down to the Pit. . . .

~ *Ezekiel 32:18 (NKJV)*

Verse 15.—“In the lowest parts of the earth.” From this remarkable expression which, in the original, and as elsewhere used, denotes the region of the dead—*Sheol*, or *Hades*—it would appear that it is not only his formation in the womb the Psalmist here contemplates, but also—regarding the region of the dead as the womb of resurrection life—the refashioning of the body hereafter, and its new birth to the life immortal, which will be no less “marvelous” a work, but rather more so, than the first fashioning of man's “substance.”

~ *C. H. Spurgeon, The Treasury of David*

Q: Would you prefer that abortion were illegal?

A: I don't want to talk about what should be legal or illegal. I don't think that any human heart should dare to take life, or any human hand be raised to destroy life. Life is the life of God in us. The life of God is present even in the fetus. We don't have even the slightest right to destroy a life, whether it is that of a child, a man, or a woman. It's all the same.

~ *Mother Teresa, One Heart Full of Love*

On February 3, 1994, Mother Teresa spoke at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., before an audience of 3,000, including President and Mrs. Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore:

Jesus died on the Cross because that is what it took for Him to do good to us—to save us from our

selfishness in sin. He gave up everything to do the Father's will—to show us that we too must be willing to give up everything to do God's will. . . .

But I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself, and if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?

How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always, we must persuade her with love and we remind ourselves that love means to be willing to give until it hurts. Jesus gave even His life to love us. So the mother who is thinking of abortion, should be helped to love, that is, to give until it hurts her plans or her free time, to respect the life of her child. . . .

Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion. . . .

Jesus said, "Anyone who receives a child in my name, receives me." By adopting a child, these couples receive Jesus but by aborting a child, a couple refuses to receive Jesus. . . .

If we remember that God loves us, and that we can love others as He loves us, then America can become a sign of peace for the world. From here, a sign of care for the weakest of the weak—the unborn child—must go out to the world.

~ *Mother Teresa,*
National Prayer Breakfast (1994)

The woman is awfully guilty, who commits the deed; but oh thrice guilty is he who drove her to the desperation which impelled her to the crime.

~ *Susan B. Anthony*

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know. . . ." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live. . . .'" Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.'"

~ *Ezekiel 37:1-3, 9, 11-12*

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know

where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

~ *John 3:5-8*

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

~ *John 20:22*

My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you. Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law. . . ? But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband."

~ *Galatians 4:19-21, 26-27*

If you have been party to an abortion, please understand that Jesus has your baby and He promises to make all things new. Surrender your heart to Him, confess your sin to Him, and He forgives you and makes you new. Indeed what Satan intended for evil, God intends for good, and in the very place you feel horror now, new life is being born: The Life of Christ in You, God's Love in You.

~ *Peter Hiett*

The Sanctity of Human Life II (The Golem)

Genesis 2:7

Pastor Peter Hiett

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¹You'll remember that in the movie, he's bound by an oath to Frodo. He's a legalist, so he obeys Frodo, but his heart is far from him. Maimonides, the 12th century Jewish commentator, says that "golem" refers to a human who has not realized his potential in God's eyes: "a person who has some intellectual and moral virtues. They, however, are not perfected"—an imperfect human.