

The Cry of the 60,000,000+ Matthew 2:13-18

I. Like Pharaoh in the Old Testament, King Herod is a type for Satan.

- A. His evil character is expressed in a disregard for life.
 - 1. In hateful anger, he strikes out at the babies of Bethlehem.
 - (a) He doesn't care how many die (just "collateral" damage).
 - (b) He just cares about his own interests.
 - (c) The violence he orders is dark evil.
- B. All of these events are parallel to spiritual reality.
 - 1. Satan is behind this attempt to assassinate the Messiah.
 - 2. Satan is "the father of lies" and a murderer.
 - (a) To him, there is nothing sacred about life.
 - 3. All he cares about is protecting his own interests and power.
 - (a) He knows that the Messiah is a threat to his power.
 - 4. Satan is using Herod for his own purposes.
 - (a) It's not hard to do. Herod is just like his father, Satan.
 - 5. When the Messiah eludes him, Satan is outraged.
 - (a) By the time the babies are killed, Satan probably knows Jesus is gone.
 - (b) But in a display of how evil he is, he has the babies slaughtered anyways.

II. Not all sins are alike in the eyes of God.

- A. A common misinterpretation (James 2:10).
 - 1. If one sin means we've broken all the law, God must see all sin as equal.
 - 2. What James 2:10 means:
 - (a) The problem behind our sin is a fallen nature.
 - (b) Sin, of any degree, is evidence of that fallen nature.
 - (c) Therefore, a relatively minor infraction demonstrates that we are sinners, and in need of grace.
 - (d) James is not saying that all sins are the same in God eyes
 - 3. Evidence that God differentiates between sins.
 - (a) The Law is a reflection of God's holiness and justice.
 - (b) The Law said that some sins were capital offenses that were punishable by death. Others were not.
- B. One of the most heinous sins in God's eyes: shedding of innocent blood (Proverbs 6: 16-19).
 - 1. Life is sacred, particularly human life (Genesis 9:3-6).
 - (a) Human life is sacred because God made us in his image.
 - (b) God says, "from each man I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man."
 - (c) There is an accountability before God.
 - (d) Verse 6 is covenantal curse (Genesis 9:6).
 - 2. What did God say when Cain killed Abel? (Gen.4:10-12).
 - (a) What does Abel's blood cry out? "Justice!"
 - (b) It cries out "from the ground."
 - (c) God said, "now you are cursed."

- (d) A curse is the opposite of blessing.
 - (e) It is a judgment that can only be removed by repentance
3. Sentinel Group study on revivals around the world.
 - (a) Atrocities: stains upon the land that impact the land.
 - (b) They must be repented of to prepare a place for revival.
 - (c) When revival comes the land is restored (2 Chron. 7:14).

III. Abortion is a form of shedding innocent blood.

- A. Life begins with conception.
 - 1. All the DNA is there.
 - (a) That living organism is very dependent, but still a human life.
 - (b) When Mary and Elizabeth meet, it is John who stirs.
 - (c) John is already being filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:15).
 - 2. To God, abortion is the taking of human life.
 - (a) If we are believing Scripture, we should define it that way.
- B. Some people rationalize abortion because they see other injustices.
 - 1. The injustice of systems that cause and prolong poverty.
 - 2. The injustice of racism that has caused minorities to be more likely to experience poverty.
 - 3. Women often experience greater personal cost of bringing a baby to term.
 - 4. These are legitimate issues.
 - (a) We are called to love. We need to care about injustice.
 - (b) Historically, God has used the Church to bring change (slavery, labor conditions, etc.).
 - (c) So, there are social issues we need to care about.
 - 5. There will always be injustice and poverty in a fallen world.
 - (a) We need to be part of the solution to injustice.
 - (b) But that should never cause us to rationalize or justify the shedding of innocent blood. There is a hierarchy of sin.
- C. Abortion is an atrocity in the eyes of God.
 - 1. God said he would hold people accountable.
 - (a) He also holds nations accountable.
 - (b) Our forefathers asked God to bless America as we followed him. He did. So, we are more accountable.
 - (c) John Winthrop; "A city on a hill" or "a byword".
 - 2. We are becoming a "byword."
 - (a) The blood of over 60 million souls cries out to God from our land.
- D. Do we care?
 - 1. We grieve 6,000,000 Jews, and we should. But do we grieve the 60,000,000+?
 - 2. Social and political problems follow spiritual problems.
 - (a) That's why abortion is such a high priority.
 - (b) It is evil in the sight of God. It is a stain upon our land.
 - 3. Pray for our nation, for repentance and healing for our land.