



Weeping in Ramah Matthew 2:13-18

Seven Facts about Abortion in America

- 1.) More than 56 million American babies have been murdered in the United States since Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973.
- 2.) In all its forms, more than a million human beings are killed each year in the United States by abortion.
- 3.) The number of American babies killed by abortion each year is approximately equal to the combined number of U.S. military deaths that have occurred in every war in which this nation has ever fought.
- 4.) Approximately 3,000 Americans lost their lives as a result of the destruction of the World Trade Center towers on 9/11. That many American babies are killed every day by abortion.
- 5.) Nearly one-third of American women will have had an abortion by the age of 45.
- 6.) The average cost of an abortion in the U.S. is just north of \$400. The cost of adoption can easily be north of \$40,000.
- 7.) By a factor of roughly 2:1, abortion is now the leading cause of death in America (heart disease is second at about 600,000/year).

Big Idea: The church must stand up for the sanctity of life.

-- Herod's response to Jesus was self-important MURDER

- When the possibility of the Messiah became the reality of Jesus, Herod's selfish ambition was fully unveiled (v. 16).
- In order to suit his self-interest and maintain his power, Herod ordered the murders of the most helpless citizens of Bethlehem.

-- When human selfishness rejects God's truth, CHILDREN inevitably get caught in the crosshairs.

- When threatened by the increase of the Jews in Egypt, Pharaoh decreed the murder of every newborn Jewish boy (Lev. 18:21, Isa. 57:5).
- Herod ordered the death of every child that might threaten his self-interest (v. 16).
- At least 87% and as many as 99% of abortions are entirely elective.

-- Abortion on demand is an altar of human SELFISHNESS

- 1.) Abortion is an attack against the blessing of life (Psalm 127:3).
- 2.) Abortion is an attack against the virtue of love (1 Cor. 13:6-7).
- 3.) Abortion is an attack against the virtue of faith (Luke 18:16-17).
 - The willful destruction of children in the womb is a treacherous violation of the pure, childlike trust that children innately have in parents.
- 4.) Abortion embraces a **CULTURE** of death (Deut. 30:19-20).
 - We cannot very well claim to cherish the gift of new life in Christ if we do not also cherish new life in the womb.

-- The SACRIFICE of children to human self-interest is reprehensible to God (v. 18).

- Rachel's weeping represents the mourning of all the mothers of Bethlehem whose children were slaughtered by Herod.
- In her tears, we see God's great love and compassion for children.
- Mother Teresa – "It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."

-- We manifest God's love when we stand up for CHILDREN

- We must not be lulled into tacit acceptance of that which is morally abhorrent by political affiliation.
- God's love and compassion for children should be obvious in the life of the **CHURCH**
- Joseph and Mary turned away from selfish ambition and chose to fulfill the duty of parenthood, whatever the cost.

-- The call to CHERISH children belongs to the whole church.

- As a congregation of Jesus Christ, we ought to be characterized by a joyful, vibrant, unashamed culture of life.
- Let us know the divine joy of loving to the utmost every precious child given by God!