



KEY SCRIPTURE

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." - Luke 19:5

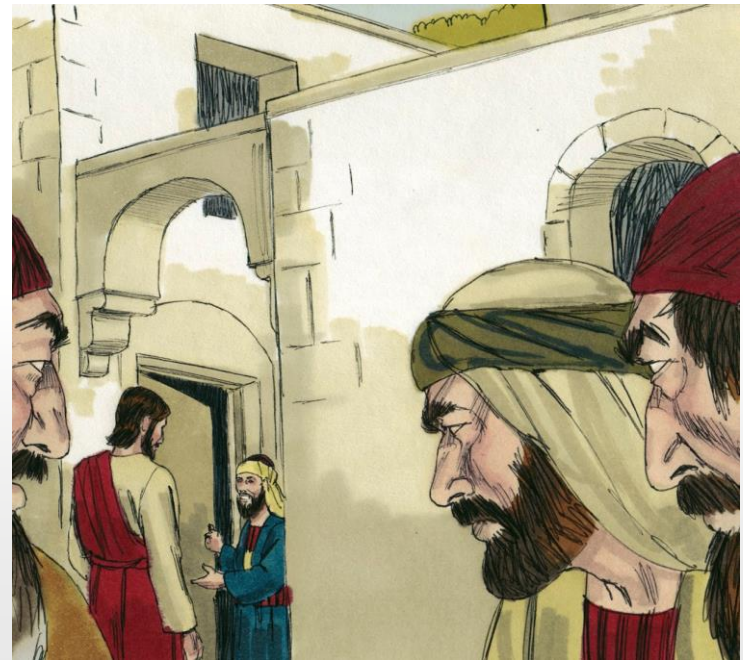
3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER
SERMON

THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF EVERY PERSON



INTRODUCTION

- Zacchaeus, a tax collector, was despised and rejected by society.
- "But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, 'He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.'" (Luke 19:7)



SOCIETY'S CONDEMNATION

- The Jews considered sinners and Gentiles worthy of condemnation, spite, and rejection.
- What is the most extreme or harsh response someone can give when they despise or reject someone?

CRIMES AND DEVALUATION

- At the heart of many crimes against one another lies the devaluation of the intrinsic worth of every person.
- If I saw every person as precious, it would be difficult to harm them.
- “A righteous man regards the life of his animal,
But the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.”
(Prov. 12:10)

OUTLINE

Today:

- Every person has intrinsic value
- A brief background of the Abortion movement
- The Biblical Perspective

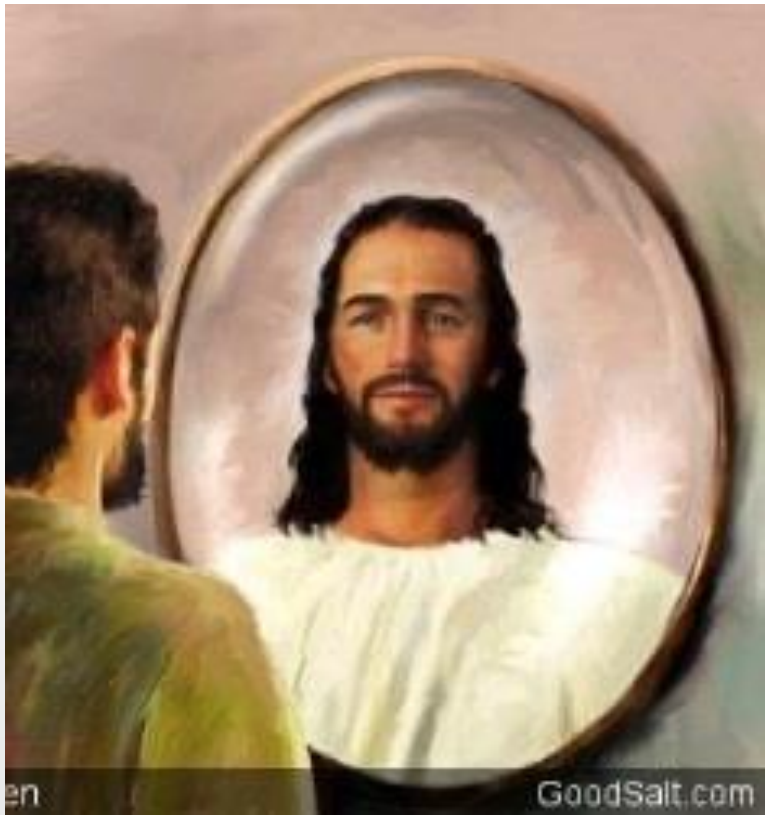
Next week:

- Answering the Advocates

**EVERY PERSON HAS
INTRINSIC VALUE**

CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

- "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27)



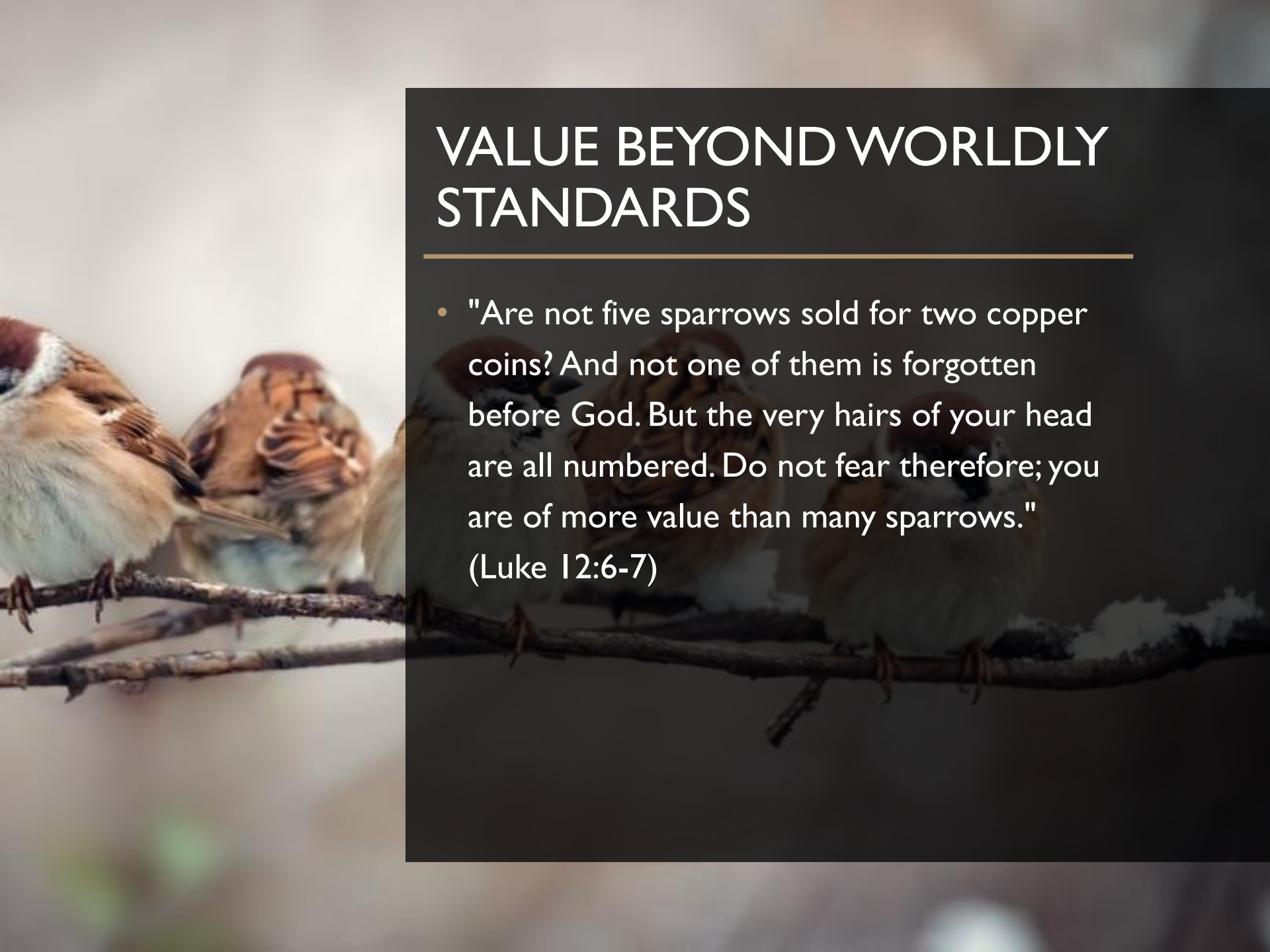


EVERY PERSON IS THE SUBJECT OF GOD'S LOVE

- "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
(John 3:16)

VALUE NOT BASED ON MERIT

- "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)



VALUE BEYOND WORLDLY STANDARDS

- "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."
(Luke 12:6-7)

NO DISTINCTION IN CHRIST

- "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

A BRIEF BACKGROUND

ROE V. WADE

- 1960s-1970s: New morality spread across America.
- Many states had strict laws only allowing abortion to save a woman's life.
- The Roe v. Wade case was a pivotal moment in 1973, legalizing abortion nationwide.

ABORTION MOVEMENT

Since Roe v. Wade, 63 million abortions performed in the US

Key to Success: Diverted the issue from being one of murder to one of choice. Who decides?



BERNARD NATHANSON

- Principal architect of the abortion movement in the US
- Cofounder of NARAL (National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws, and later renamed the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League)

NATHANSON'S STORY

“In 1968 I met Lawrence Lader. Lader had just finished a book called ‘Abortion,’ and in it had made the audacious demand that abortion should be legalized throughout the country. I had just finished a residency in obstetrics and gynecology and was impressed with the number of women who were coming into our clinics, wards and hospitals suffering from illegal, infected, botched abortions.”



NATHANSON'S STORY

- “We sat down and plotted out the organization now known as NARAL. With Betty Friedan, we set up this organization and began working on the strategy.”
- “We persuaded the media that the cause of permissive abortion was a liberal, enlightened, sophisticated one. Knowing that if a true poll were taken, we would be soundly defeated, we simply fabricated the results of fictional polls. We announced to the media that we had taken polls and that 60 percent of Americans were in favor of permissive abortion.”

NATHANSON'S STORY

- “This is the tactic of the self-fulfilling lie. Few people care to be in the minority. We aroused enough sympathy to sell our program of permissive abortion by fabricating the number of illegal abortions done annually in the U.S. The actual figure was approaching 100,000, but the figure we gave to the media repeatedly was 1,000,000.”

NATHANSON'S STORY

- “Repeating the big lie often enough convinces the public. The number of women dying from illegal abortions was around 200-250 annually. The figure we constantly fed to the media was 10,000. These false figures took root in the consciousness of Americans, convincing many that we needed to crack the abortion law.”

NATHANSON'S STORY

- “Another myth we fed to the public through the media was that legalizing abortion would only mean that the abortions taking place illegally would then be done legally. In fact, of course, abortion is now being used as a primary method of birth control in the U.S. and the annual number of abortions has increased by 1,500% since legalization.”

NATHANSON'S STORY

- New York law outlawing abortion for 140 years.
- “In two years of work, we at NARAL struck that law down. We lobbied the legislature, we captured the media, we spent money on public relations ... Our first year’s budget was \$7,500. Of that, \$5,000 was allotted to a public relations firm to persuade the media of the correctness of our position. That was in 1969.”

NATHANSON'S STORY

- New York immediately became the abortion capital for the eastern half of the US.
- “We were inundated with applicants for abortion. To that end, I set up a clinic, the Center for Reproductive and Sexual Health (C.R.A.S.H.), which operated in the east side of Manhattan. It had 10 operating rooms, 35 doctors, 85 nurses.”

NATHANSON'S STORY

- “At the end of the two years that I was the director, we had done 60,000 abortions. I myself, with my own hands, have done 5,000 abortions. I have supervised another 10,000 that residents have done under my direction. So I have 75,000 abortions in my life.”

NATHANSON'S STORY

- After two years, Nathanson resigned from C.R.A.S.H.
- Became chief of the obstetrical service at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City, a major teaching center for Columbia University Medical School.
- In 1973 new technologies became available, designed to give physicians a “window into the womb.”

NATHANSON'S CONVERSION

- “Anyway, as a result of all of this technology – looking at this baby, examining it, investigating it, watching its metabolic functions, watching it urinate, swallow, move and sleep, watching it dream, which you could see by its rapid eye movements via ultrasound, treating it, operating on it – I finally came to the conviction that this was my patient. This was a person! I was a physician, pledged to save my patients’ lives, not to destroy them. So I changed my mind on the subject of abortion.”

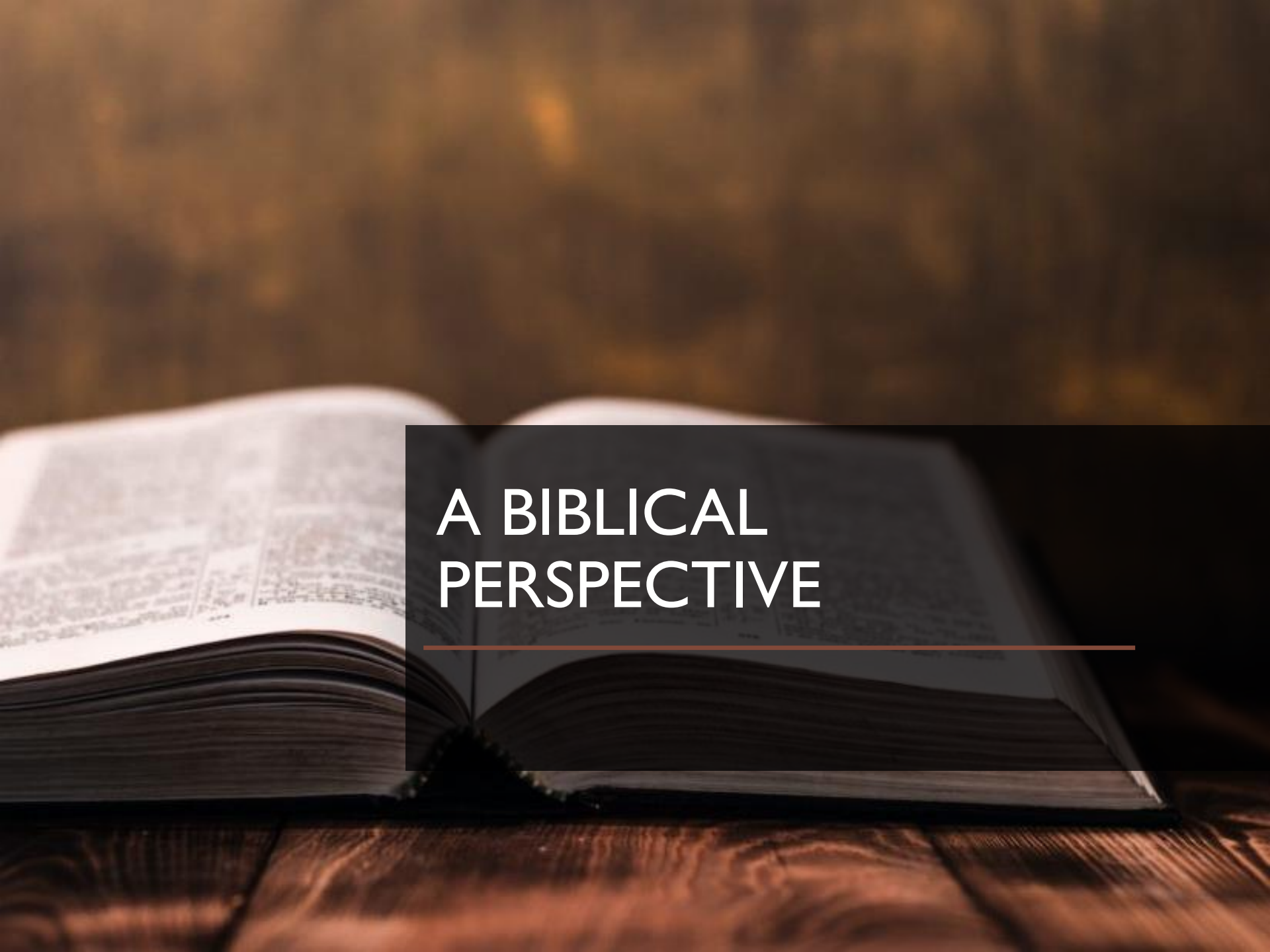
NATHANSON'S CONVERSION

- “I was immediately summoned to a kangaroo court and was discharged from the pro-abortion movement, something I do not lose sleep over.”
- In 1985, Nathanson decided to put an ultrasound machine on the abdomen of a woman undergoing an abortion and videotape what happens.

The background of the slide is a photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C., taken at dusk. The building's iconic dome and neoclassical architecture are visible, with interior lights glowing through the windows. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, serving as a background for the text.

ROE V. WADE OVERTURN

- Overturn in 2022
 - On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in the decision for *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.
- State Power Restored
 - This ruling ended the federal constitutional right to an abortion, returning the power to regulate abortion to individual states.

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat on a dark, textured wooden surface. The pages are slightly aged and show some text, though it is mostly obscured by a large, dark, semi-transparent rectangular overlay in the center. The background is a warm, out-of-focus brown. The text "A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the overlay. A thin, horizontal orange line is positioned just below the text.

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

BIBLICAL ARGUMENT

Premise #1: It is wrong to murder a person



Premise #2: The unborn is a person



Conclusion: Therefore, it is wrong to murder the unborn

PREMISE #1: **IT IS WRONG TO MURDER**

- There are few objections to the notion that it is wrong to murder a person.
- Murder is the unlawful taking of someone's life, while killing is the lawful taking of someone's life.
- "You shall not murder." (Matt. 19:18)

PREMISE #2

THE UNBORN IS A PERSON

The unborn are living beings

- “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...” (Ps. 139:13,14)

Possess personal attributes

- “For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.” (Lk. 1:44)

PREMISE #2

THE UNBORN IS A PERSON

The unborn are described by personal pronouns

- But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call **his name John.**" (Lk. 1:13)
- He had a name even before his conception
- "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." (Jer. 1:5)

The Lord is called a Child at the time of conception

- But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for **that which is conceived in her** is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matt. 1:20-21)

PREMISE #2

THE UNBORN IS A PERSON

- Preborn children are protected by the same punishment as for adults
- "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. 23 But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe." (Exo. 21:22-23)
- Mosaic Law viewed the unborn as persons worthy of protection.



BIBLICAL ARGUMENT

Conclusion: It is wrong to murder the unborn

Human life is valuable in the eyes of God

- Created in His image and likeness
- Taking of a human life was punishable by death
- God took the form of a human
- God came and suffered as a human to give us life with Him

EARLY CHURCH FATHERS

- **St. Basil the Great**
 - *“A woman who deliberately destroys a fetus is answerable for murder.”*
- **St. John Chrysostom (c.345-407)**
 - In his homilies against men who secured the abortions of their illegitimate offspring
 - Called their actions *“even worse than murder.”* Of such men who impelled women to have abortions, he said, *“You do not let a prostitute remain a prostitute, but make her a murderer as well.”*