

How to Respond to Hate Luke 6:27-36

ETS: Jesus explained how His disciples are to respond to hate

ESS: We need to respond correctly to those who oppose us

OSS: I want people to respond to the haters in the correct way

PQ: How do you respond to the haters

UW: Haters

ME

We woke up to the news on Monday that a Supreme Court draft ruling that would in effect overturn Roe v. Wade was leaked.

- This is the first time the ***full text*** of a draft opinion has been leaked.
 - There have been a few times when a decision was leaked a few hours before the announcement, but not a **full draft opinion** which has yet to be finalized.
- The leak has mobilized activists on both sides of the issue and politician were quick to rush to the

microphones to explain their displeasure or pleasure over this draft.

If the ruling is according to the draft, **Roe v Wade** would be overturned in our country as a NATIONWIDE LAW

Remember: a draft is **not** a ruling

- The ruling **may not be** the same as the draft
- Clearly, the leak was on purpose hoping is that pressure will be put on the judges to NOT rule the way the draft

I seek to preach through the Bible and apply it to our daily lives

I was going to depart from Luke for this Mother's Day sermon, but two things happened: 1) I could not find the article that I had seen that I wanted to use as a research reference for **Mother's Day**, 2) the Roe v Wade leak, and 3) the passage in Luke seems to be what we need right now.

Questions for Me:

- Where do I stand on this issue and WHY?
- What does that have to do with our passage in Luke?

Questions for YOU:

- Where do YOU stand on this issue and WHY?
- How are you going to apply Jesus' teaching in Luke to this issue and others?

Historical Background:

On January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court ruled that a woman had a constitutional right to abort her baby. (Norma McCorvey; Henry Wade, the district attorney was a woman ...Dallas County, Texas)

It did, however, leave room for states to enforce their own laws concerning the second and third trimesters.

In the last few years, several states have enacted laws restricting abortion

States have been enacting their own laws RESTRICTING second and third trimester abortion practices

- On May 17, 2019, **Missouri** passed a law that made abortions illegal after eight weeks of pregnancy, with no exceptions for cases of rape or incest.
- On May 7, 2019, **Georgia** signed a "fetal heartbeat" law, which bans abortions after six weeks of pregnancy—there are few exceptions

In the last few years, several states have enacted laws or have expanded abortion beyond the first trimester

- **New York** abortion law states that abortions are legal within the first 24 weeks of pregnancy and **anytime** after when necessary to protect a woman's life or health.
- **Washington D.C.'s** Abortions are legal in the District of Columbia and do not need to be performed by a licensed physician. There is no ban on late-term abortions.
- **New Hampshire** abortion law states that abortions are legal at **any point** in the pregnancy.
- **New Jersey** abortion laws state that abortions are legal. There is no required waiting period, parental consent, or ultrasound.
- **California** Abortion in California is legal
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The number of **legal abortions** since Roe vs. Wade was passed may now be as high as **62 million** since 1973.

IF Roe v. Wade is STRUCK DOWN what does that mean?

- Abortion practices will be determined by each state
 - Each state will be free to allow or disallow abortion in the 1st trimester

What does the Bible say about abortion?

- The *Bible doesn't specifically address abortion*, just like it doesn't *specifically address rape, pedophilia, or the transgender issue*.

When the Bible does not directly address something does that **automatically** mean it is okay? NO!

- **Rape is NOT Okay**
- **Pedophilia is NOT okay**

While the Bible does **not specifically address** every issue, the Bible gives us **principles** that **apply** to the issues.

Principle #1: Humans are made in the Image of God

Ge 1:27 “So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.” (HCSB)

- **No animal or plant** in all of creation is created in “the image of God”
 - Humans are created with the capacity to **reason**, with a **will** and a **conscious**.
 - Humans are capable of **communion** with **God**.

Humans are **distinct** from **plants** and **animals** even while unborn!

At the moment of conception, there is a new life, possessing 46 chromosomes.

- Chromosomes are the packaging for our genetic material or DNA
 - These **46 chromosomes** have all instructions needed for a human
 - *This is not a plant, a dog, or a cat, this is a potential human being.*

Prior to conception, there was no life in a woman's egg

- The egg had only 23 chromosomes
 - The egg was *a part of the woman's body* and is expelled when it cannot be fertilized.

At **conception**, however, the fertilized egg has **46 chromosomes**

- This **fertilized** egg takes on a **new identity—a zygote**
 - It is **distinct from both the mother and the father.**
 - **Genetically**, the **baby** is not the mother's body!

The **zygote** is "*...is biologically alive. It fulfills the four criteria needed to establish biological life:*

1. **metabolism,**
2. **growth,**

3. **reaction** to stimuli, and

4. **reproduction**

- Its reproductive ability is only demonstrated in about one in 250 births, when it reproduces itself through twinning.
 - This can happen at any time up to about 14 days after conception.
 - This is how mono-zygotic (identical) twins are caused

By **21** days, the first heartbeats have begun (Which is why many “heartbeat” bills are being enacted)

At **45** days, brain waves can be detected.

By the **ninth** and **tenth weeks**, the **thyroid** and **adrenal** glands are functioning.

By **12** or **13** weeks, the baby has **fangernails**, **sucks** his **thumb**, **recoils** from **pain**, and has his own **unique fingerprints**.

- The only things that developing life needs to become what we are, are **time** and **nurture**.

Principle #2: Unborn Babies are Distinct in the Womb

*The Bible refers to a pregnant woman as “**with child**” because....*

- **Jacob** and **Esau** were **distinct individuals** in the womb (Gen. 25:23; Rom. 9:11-12).
 - When Rebekah was pregnant with **Jacob** and **Esau**, Scriptures says, "**The babies jostled each other within her**" (**Genesis 25:22**).
- **Samson's** mother was not to drink wine, because her son was to be a **Nazirite**, who would abstain from alcohol (Judges 13:3-5).
- **Jeremiah** and **Paul** both acknowledged that God **formed them** in the womb and knew them by name (Jer. 1:5; Gal. 1:15).
 - **Isaiah 49:1, 5** affirms the same thing about Messiah.
- **John the Baptist** recognized Jesus while both were still in the womb (Luke 1:35-36, 39-44)!
 - **Elizabeth** was in her **sixth month** of pregnancy when Mary conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit. Mary went to visit Elizabeth before John was born.
 - Thus **Elizabeth** would have been in her **last trimester**, while Mary was in her **first trimester**. Yet **John recognized Jesus** in those early months of Mary's pregnancy!
 - I think that this is the strongest passage that a baby in the womb in the **first trimester** is a person created in God's image.

- We are not free to take the life of such a child just because it is not convenient to have a baby!
- **Job** graphically described the way God created him before he was born (Job 10:8-12). The person in the womb was not *something* that might become Job, but *someone* who was Job, just a younger version of the same man.
- To **Isaiah**, God says, "This is what the Lord says - he who made you, who formed you in the womb" (Isaiah 44:2).
 - What each person is, not merely what he might become, was present in his mother's womb.

Ps 139:13-16 "For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise You, because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well. My bones were not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in Your book and planned before a single one of them began." (HCSB)

- Each person, has been **personally knitted together** by God in the womb. All the days of his life have been planned out by God before any have come to be (Psalm 139:16). (Alcorn)

Principle #3: Unborn Babies are protected

Ex 21:22-25 “When men get in a fight, and hit a pregnant woman so that her children are **born prematurely**, but there is no injury, the one who hit her must be fined as the woman’s husband demands from him, and he must pay according to judicial assessment. **If** there is an injury, then you must give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, bruise for bruise, wound for wound.” (HCSB)

- If the mother or the unborn child is killed or the child is born prematurely and dies then “you must give life for a life.”

To be fair, **pro-abortion advocates** point to this passage too!

- Unfortunately, some translations translate **Ex 21:22** this way: “When men strive together, and hurt a woman with child, so that there is a **miscarriage**, and yet no harm follows, the one who hurt her shall be fined, according as the woman’s husband shall lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.”

(RSV)

- Pro-abortion advocates that the “**miscarriage**” did not result in the death of the offender; therefore,

an unborn child does not constitute a life worthy of death.

This is an example of a very **unfortunate translation!**

- The Hebrew verb translated “to depart” or “come out” (Exod. 21:22) refers to a **live birth** in **11** separate Old Testament passages.
 - **It never refers to a miscarriage, although in one text (Num. 12:12), it refers to a stillborn.**
 - There is another Hebrew verb that is used for miscarriage.

So the most likely meaning of **Exodus 21:22-25**, *based upon verb usage*, as well as the Old Testament **high regard** for pre-natal life, is that the baby in the womb has as much value as an already-born person.

There is another principle that ties in with this verse....

Principle #4: The Innocent are protected

Capital punishment was exercised when life was taken in a premeditated way

- **Genesis 9:6** - **Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.**
- **Exodus 20:13** - **You shall not murder.**

- **Deuteronomy 27:25a** - Cursed is he who accepts a bribe to strike down an innocent person.
- **Proverbs 6:16-19** - There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood...”

God is always portrayed as the “**defender**” of the weak and innocent!

- **God always defends the innocent and weak:**
 - **Ex 22:22** “You must not mistreat any widow or fatherless child.” (HCSB)
 - **Dt 24:17** “Do not deny justice to a foreign resident or fatherless child, and do not take a widow’s garment as security.” (HCSB)
 - **Ps 82:3** “Provide justice for the needy and the fatherless; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. ” (HCSB)
 - **Jas 1:27** “Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.” (HCSB)

One cannot deny that an unborn child-*regardless of the circumstances of its conception*-is an **innocent**, and **weak child**.

In light of these principles it is hard to agree with the slogan from the **The Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights**: "Prayerfully Prochoice"!

- How can you be “Prayerfully pro-choice”?
 - They must be praying to a **different God** because the God of the Scripture **1)** defends the weak and innocent, **2)** knows the unborn by name, **3)** creates the unborn in His image, and **4)** calls for the death penalty of those who causes the death of a child

Principle #5: Children are a Blessing, not an Inconvenience

Ps 127:3 “Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord, children, a reward.” (HCSB)

Jesus loved children!

- In **Luke 18:15-17**, people were bringing their babies to Jesus so that He could touch them. The disciples rebuked the parents. Jesus had better things to do than to bless babies! It was a great inconvenience! But Jesus rebuked the disciples and welcomed the children.
 - The **Greek** word for **infant** in **Luke 18:15** is the **same word Luke** uses for the infant in Elizabeth’s womb (1:41, 44).

- God shows His great love for us by calling us **His children** (1 John 3:1).
 - Surely, we should have the same attitude as Jesus towards our children from the time of conception onwards!

According to the Guttmacher Institute:

- Nearly half of pregnancies among American women are unintended, and 4 in 10 of these are **terminated** by **abortion**.
- Each year, about **2%** of women aged 15-44 have an abortion; **47%** of them have had at least one previous abortion.
- Fifty percent of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25: Women aged 20–24 obtain **33%** of all abortions, and teenagers obtain **17%**.
- Forty-three percent of women obtaining abortions identify themselves as **Protestant**, and 27% as **Catholic**.
- The reasons women give for having an abortion underscore their understanding of the responsibilities of parenthood and family life.
 - Concern for or responsibility to other individuals;
 - Cannot afford a child;
 - Baby would interfere with work, school or the ability to care for dependents;

- Do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner

http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html

Religious groups that **allow** for **abortion**, often cite the “**rape, or incest**” as times when abortion should be an option.

- Headline for [USA TODAY](#): “Rape and incest account for *hardly any abortions*. So why are they now a focus?”
 - **Just 1%** of women obtain an **abortion** because they became **pregnant** through **rape**, and **less than 0.5%** do so because of **incest**, according to the Guttmacher Institute.”

Religious groups that **allow** for **abortion**, often cite the “**rape, or incest**” as times when abortion should be an option.

- However, to be **consistent** with the **principles** of **Scripture** none of these issues are justification for abortion!

How does this tie in with our passage in Luke?

There are clearly **two lines** regarding **abortion**

1. Pro-choice
2. Pro-life

How do we respond to those who hold a different view?

GOD

Turn to **Luke 6**

Luke 6:27-28 “But I say to you who listen: **Love** your enemies, **do** what is good to those who hate you, **28 bless** those who curse you, **pray** for those who mistreat you.”

Two Groups:

1. Disciples/Apostles
2. Those **opposed** to the disciples (“**enemies**”)

WHY are they enemies of Jesus’ disciples?

- **Luke 6:22** “Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you, insult you, and slander your name as evil because of the Son of Man.”

Following Jesus will result in people

- hating you,
- excluding you
- insulting you, and
- slandering your name

Luke 6:27-28 Actions of those who are opposed to followers of Jesus:

- “Hate you”
- “Curse you
- “Mistreat you

Luke 6:27-28 Actions of those who **FOLLOW** Jesus

- **Love** your enemies
- **do what is good** to those who hate you
- **28 bless** those who curse you
- **pray** for those who mistreat you

Don't Repay Evil with Evil

We can **STAND AGAINST** an **unconstitutional court ruling** (Abortion is NOT a right in the constitution) and still **pray, bless, love** and “**do what is good**” to those who **support abortion**.

What does that look like?

Luke 6:29-31 If anyone hits you on the cheek, offer the other also. And if anyone takes away your coat, don't hold back your shirt either. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and from someone who takes your things, don't ask

for them back. 31 Just as you *want* others to do for you, do the same for them.”

- HOW is this possible?
 - The FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
 1. Allowing the **Holy Spirit** to live through you.
- HOW is this possible?
 - Remember, our fight is NOT against people but against the “**principalities and power and spiritual wickedness in high places**” that is BEHIND those who promote the killing of the unborn.

Planned Parenthood is the leading abortion provider in the United States

- **Margaret Sanger** became an advocate for birth control and started the Birth Control Federation of America, which became **Planned Parenthood Federation of America** in 1942

I want to read to you from [Planned Parenthood’s own statement on Margaret Sanger](#): “Sanger also believed in eugenics — an inherently racist and ableist ideology that labeled certain people unfit to have children. Eugenics is the theory that society can be improved through planned breeding for “desirable traits” like intelligence and industriousness. Margaret Sanger was so intent on her

mission to advocate for birth control that she chose to align herself with ideologies and organizations that were explicitly ableist and white supremacist. In doing so, she undermined reproductive freedom and caused irreparable damage to the health and lives of generations of Black people, Latino people, Indigenous people, immigrants, people with disabilities, people with low incomes, and many others.”

According to the [Washington Examiner](#): “Abortion in America has contributed to the greatest decline in black population since the first black slaves arrived in the Americas in the 1600s. According to U.S. census data, there were 18,871,831 black American citizens in 1960. Since Roe v. Wade legalized abortion in 1973, abortion has killed an estimated 20 million black babies — more than the entire black population of 1960.”

- [Interesting Link](#)

*There are **spiritual wickedness** at work behind the scenes*

- *Jesus said “**Satan wants to steal, KILL, and destroy**”*

HOW do you respond to a Pro-Abortion advocate?

Don't Repay Evil with Evil

Luke 6:32-34 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do what is good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners to be repaid in full.

- It is EASY to “love those who love you”
- It is EASY to “do what is good to those who are good to you”
- It is EASY to “lend to those from whom you expect to receive”

It is a CHALLENGE to do what Jesus commands when it comes to those in opposition!

Luke 6:35a “But love your enemies, do what is good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.”

WHY should we

- **Love** your enemies
- **do what is good** to those who hate you
- **28 bless** those who curse you
- **pray** for those who mistreat you

Because if we can RESPOND this way to those who OPPOSE us.... **Luke 6:35b-36** “Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High. For he is gracious to the ungrateful and evil. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

- We are imitating our heavenly Father!
 - God mercifully allows the rain to fall on the **just** and **unjust**!
 1. Remember, those who oppose the TRUTH may be secretly watching and searching. They may become followers of Christ by your example. (Show Twitter Pic)
 - Jesus said that God is “gracious to the ungrateful”
 - Jesus said that God is “gracious to the evil [people]”
 - Jesus said that God is “merciful”
 1. We must be merciful too!
- We have a reward waiting on us
- We will have a testimony that we are “children of the Most High”

YOU

Not a typical “**Mother’s Day**” sermon, but having a child is what makes one a mother!

How many women have FORFEITED their motherhood by abortion?

Good News: God can **redeem** a woman who has aborted her child!

- No SIN is UNPARDONABLE outside the sin of REJECTING CHRIST!
 - The sin of abortion is FORGIVABLE by God

Remember, God is “**Merciful**”

- **MERCY:** Not getting what we deserve!