



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

Devotional for Day 5, Sunday, September 29

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Intention:

May the truth of the final judgment shape our thoughts, priorities, and choices here on earth.

Scripture:

The King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

—*Matthew 25:31-46*

Reflection:

Jesus' picture of the final judgment concludes with this sobering word: the wicked, who failed to care for others in their various needs (the hungry, the thirsty, the aliens, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned) will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous who did seek to meet those needs will end up with him, enjoying eternal life.

We know that this was no mere parable! Jesus has given us fair warning!

Everything in God's Word points to the truth that compassionate concern and practical care for all people, especially for the poor, the destitute, the weak and needy is required of us, if indeed we hope to escape the punishment of the fire of hell.

And who are the poor and needy, if not helpless, unborn babies, as well as the aged and infirm at the other end of life?

Surely the "least of these" embraces not only those at both ends of the continuum of life, but all others in between.

Just how we, as Christ's true followers, respond to his admonition "inasmuch as you did it to the least of these, you did it to me" will determine whether we enjoy eternal bliss in his presence or the bleak and dreadful reality of eternal punishment in hell.

Caring for others is not optional. Nothing in God's Word could be clearer!

Prayer:

Gracious and merciful Father, we gladly embrace your Word, in which you counsel us to care for the least of your children.

We renew our dedication to defending the unborn and all whose right to life is compromised by our godless society's selfish lack of concern.

Free us from our own failures and sins so that we will be truly pro-life in every area of our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.