Luke 1:39-45: In those days Mary arose & went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, [40] & she entered the house of Zechariah & greeted Elizabeth. [41] & when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. & Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, [42] & she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, & blessed is the fruit of your womb! [43] & why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? [44] For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. [45] & blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Intro: Why was it so important that Jesus be both God & man? What does the fact that Jesus was God & man in the womb of Mary have to do with how we should think about the horror of abortion? We are all sinners. Fearful sinners. Moses, David, & Paul: murders/aided murder: **GOSPEL!**

As an unborn child in the womb, Jesus is LORD – so protect babies in the womb.

1. Elizabeth & Mary Are Pregnant

Luke 1:5-38: In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. & he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, & her name was Elizabeth. [6] & they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments & statutes of the Lord. [7] But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, & both were advanced in years. [8] Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, [9] according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord & burn incense. [10] & the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. [11] & there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. [12] & Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, & fear fell upon him. [13] But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, & your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, & you shall call his name John. [14] & you will have joy & gladness, & many will rejoice at his birth, [15] for he will be great before the Lord. & he must not drink wine or strong drink, & he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. [16] & he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, [17] & he will go before him in the spirit & power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, & the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." [18] & Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, & my wife is advanced in years." [19] & the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, & I was sent to speak to you & to bring you this good news. [20] & behold, you will be silent & unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." [21] & the people were waiting for Zechariah, & they were wondering at his delay in the temple. [22] & when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, & they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. & he kept making signs to them & remained mute. [23] & when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. [24] After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, & for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, [25] "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people." [26] In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, [27] to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. & the virgin's name was Mary. [28] & he came to her & said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" [29] But she was greatly troubled at the saying, & tried to discern what sort of greeting

this might be. [30] & the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. [31] & behold, you will conceive in your womb & bear a son, & you shall call his name Jesus. [32] He will be great & will be called the Son of the Most High. & the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, [33] & he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, & of his kingdom there will be no end." [34] & Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" [35] & the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, & the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy - the Son of God. [36] & behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, & this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. [37] For nothing will be impossible with God." [38] & Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." & the angel departed from her.

2. Truly Human Babies Are In Elizabeth's Womb & Mary's Womb

Luke 1:39-45: In those days Mary arose & went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, [40] & she entered the house of Zechariah & greeted Elizabeth. [41] & when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. & Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, [42] & she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, & blessed is the fruit of your womb! [43] & why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? [44] For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. [45] & blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

a. God calls the fetus a baby: Vs. 41, 44: the **baby** leaped in her womb . . . the **baby** in my womb leaped for joy.
- Luke 2:16: they went with haste & found Mary & Joseph, & the **baby** lying in a manger.

b. The baby leaped: Vs. 41, 44: the baby leaped in her womb . . . the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

c. Mary is a mother: Vs. 43: why is this granted to me that the **mother of my Lord** should come to me? [She's the mother of my Lord! Jesus is God! "Lord" is used 25 times in Lk. 1 & 2 for God]

d. The baby can react with emotion: Vs. 41, 44: when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb . . . [44] For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

e. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit in the womb: Luke 1:15: he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. [Clumps of cells aren't filled with the Spirit!]

- Jer. 1:5: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, & before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.
- Gal. 1:15: But when he who had set me apart before I was born, & who called me by his grace

f. We must have a Biblical view of babies in the womb: Hosea 12:2-3: The LORD has an indictment against Judah & will punish Jacob according to his ways; he will repay him according

to his deeds. **In the womb he took his brother by the heel** . . . .
- Eccl. 11:5: As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.
- Jer. 20:17: because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have been my grave, & her womb forever great.
- Ps. 139:13-16: For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully & wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.

John Piper: Today science has only made that easier to believe, not harder. Ultrasound technology has given a stunning window on the womb that shows the unborn at eight weeks sucking his thumb, recoiling from pricking, responding to sound. All the organs are present, the brain is functioning, the heart is pumping, the liver is making blood cells, the kidneys are cleaning fluids, & there is a fingerprint. Yet virtually all abortions happen later in the pregnancy than this date.

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3. What Should We Do About Abortion?
a. Recognize the problem: 1) Nazis; 2) American Slavery; 3) Jim Crow; 4) Islam; 5) Abortion

Article: Abortion is the greatest social injustice of our time: 1) Abortion kills the most innocent; 2) Abortion kills the most helpless; 3) Abortion is the cruelest; 4) Abortion is the most accepted [It's legal!]; 5) Abortion is the most prevalent (kills the most)

- Almost 65 million babies have been murdered by abortion in the US since 1973; about 1 million per year in the United States
- 40-50 million babies are murdered by abortion every year world wide; About 125,000 murdered every day world wide
- 1.8 billion babies have been murdered by abortion since 1980
- About 75 babies are murdered by abortion every minute WW (3,375 during a 40 min sermon)

b. Do something: 1) Pray: Personal, Prayer Meetings, Publicly here, Publicly at Einstein
2) Preach: I'm going to preach on this; you speak to people; give away literature; use social media
3) Protest: Come on Friday; Write letters; Refuse to vote for pro-choice candidates; Run for office
- Governor Josh Shapiro (OCT 24th): Abortion is health care. & those health care decisions should be made by a woman & her doctor – not by the federal government . . . So long as I'm Governor, abortion will remain safe, legal, & accessible here in Pennsylvania. & I will always protect a woman's fundamental freedom to make her own decisions about her body.
4) Help at AlphaCare; Adopt/Foster Care
5) Love: 1 Cor. 13:3: If I give away all I have, & if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. [Love mother & child! Thank you, ladies, for loving Leigh so well!]

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4. Look To Jesus For The Forgiveness Of Sins, Great Joy, & Blessedness

a. Jesus is both God & man so that you might be forgiven & saved: Westminster Larger Catechism: Q 38: Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be God?
- Answer: It was requisite that the Mediator should be God, that he might sustain & keep the human nature from sinking under the infinite wrath of God, & the power of death; give worth & efficacy to his sufferings, obedience, & intercession; & to satisfy God's justice, procure his favor, purchase a peculiar people, give his Spirit to them, conquer all their enemies, & bring them to everlasting salvation.

Q 39: Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be man?
- Answer: It was requisite that the Mediator should be man, that he might advance our nature, perform obedience to the law, suffer & make intercession for us in our nature, have a fellow feeling of our infirmities; that we might receive the adoption of sons, & have comfort & access with boldness unto the throne of grace.

Rebecca Pippert: (*Hope Has Its Reasons*; The Cross Makes Murders of Us All): Several years ago after I had finished speaking at a conference, a lovely woman came to the platform. She obviously wanted to speak to me and the moment I turned to her, tears welled up in her eyes. We made our way to a room where we could talk privately. It was clear from looking at her that she was sensitive but tortured. She sobbed as she told me the following story. Years before, she and her fiancé (to whom she was now married) had been the youth workers at a large conservative church. They were a well-known couple and had an extraordinary impact on the young people. Everyone looked up to them and admired them tremendously. A few months before they were to be married they began having sexual relations. That left them burdened enough with a sense of guilt and hypocrisy. But then she discovered she was pregnant. "You can't imagine what the implications would have been of admitting this to our church," she said. "To confess that we were preaching one thing and living another would have been intolerable. The congregation was so conservative and had never been touched by any scandal. We felt they wouldn't be able to handle knowing about our situation. Nor could we bear the humiliation.

So we made the most excruciating decision I have ever made. I had an abortion. My wedding day was the worst day of my entire life. Everyone in the church was smiling at me, thinking me a bride beaming in innocence. But do you know what was going through my head as I walked down the aisle? All I could think to myself was You're a murderer. You were so proud that you couldn't bear the shame and humiliation of being exposed for what you are. But I know what you are and so does God. You have murdered an innocent baby." She was sobbing so deeply that she could not speak. As I put my arms around her a thought came to me very strongly. But I was afraid to say it. I knew if it was not from God that it could be very destructive. So I prayed silently for the wisdom to help her.

She continued. "I just can't believe that I could do something so horrible. How could I have murdered an innocent life? How is it possible I could do such a thing? I love my husband, we have

four beautiful children. I know the Bible says that God forgives all of our sins. But I can't forgive myself! I've confessed this sin a thousand times and I still feel such shame and sorrow. The thought that haunts me the most is how could I murder an innocent life?" I took a deep breath and said what I had been thinking. "I don't know why you are so surprised. This isn't the first time your sin has led to death, it's the second." She looked at me in utter amazement. "My dear friend," I continued, "when you look at the Cross, all of us show up as crucifiers. Religious or nonreligious, good or bad, aborters or nonaborters - all of us are responsible for the death of the only innocent who ever lived. Jesus died for all of our sins - past, present, and future. Do you think there are any sins of yours that Jesus didn't have to die for? The very sin of pride that caused you to destroy your child is what killed Christ as well. It does not matter that you weren't there two thousand years ago. We all sent him there. Luther said that we carry his very nails in our pockets. So if you have done it before, then why couldn't you do it again?"

She stopped crying. She looked me straight in the eyes and said, "You're absolutely right. I have done something even worse than killing my baby. My sin is what drove Jesus to the Cross. It doesn't matter that I wasn't there pounding in the nails, I'm still responsible for his death. Do you realize the significance of what you are telling me, Becky? I came to you saying I had done the worst thing imaginable. And you tell me I have done something even worse than that." I grimaced because I knew this was true. (I am not sure that my approach would qualify as one of the great counseling techniques!) Then she said, "But, Becky, if the Cross shows me that I am far worse than I had ever imagined, it also shows me that my evil has been absorbed and forgiven. If the worst thing any human can do is to kill God's Son, and that can be forgiven, then how can anything else - even my abortion - not be forgiven?" I will never forget the look in her eyes as she sat back in awe and quietly said, "Talk about amazing grace." This time she wept not out of sorrow but from relief and gratitude. I saw a woman literally transformed by a proper understanding of the Cross.

b. Jesus brings you great joy & blessedness: Vs. 44-45: For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. [45] & blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.

There's joy because Jesus is the Savior from all sins: **Lk. 2:10-11:** the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

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Jesus Is LORD In Mary's Womb
The Baptist Leaped In The Same Room
With Joy He Knew Christ Is the Groom
Who'd Die To Bear The Sinner's Doom
And Then Be Laid Inside The Tomb
But Then He Rose - Conquered All Gloom
Open Your Heart - Prepare Him Room
For He Is LORD While In The Womb!