

CHAPTER —✦ EIGHT ✦—

At twelve noon on Thursday, the Senate adjourned until 2 p.m. the following Monday. Bob called Maria, “Honey, I expect to be home in plenty of time for supper. See if you can get my parents to eat with us. I think it is time we talked to them.”

That evening Hannah finished her dessert, turned to Bob, and said, “Son, it is obvious you have something on your mind. Are you going to tell us about it?”

Bob laughed. “How do you always read my mind? It reminds me of the time I broke the basement window. The difference is that this time I want to talk to you. Maria and I have some big decisions to make and we want you two to tell us what you think. I’ll put the boys to bed while Maria clears the table, and we will meet you in the living room.”

Matthew helped Bob with the boys while Maria and Hannah cleared the table and loaded the dishwasher. Then in the living room, Bob and Maria recounted their visit with David

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Mullins. "Now we want to consider all sides of this," Bob concluded. "We want your input. What happens to us will affect you. If we become famous, you will become famous too. You might have to change the way you live, but you would be in a position to do a lot of good. So your future is involved in whatever we decide. But mainly, we just want your advice."

Matthew shook his head in astonishment. "Here I am, just an old retired janitor, and some big expert from Washington comes out here talking about my son being president."

Maria patted his arm. "Well I can't think of anyone better qualified to be the father of a president. What surprises me is that anyone in Washington would show that much good sense."

"I certainly agree as to Dad's qualifications," Bob said smiling, "but we need to keep this in perspective. The whole thing about president and vice-president is an extremely long shot. As Catherine pointed out to me, the Democratic National Committee will be grooming a whole stable full of prospective candidates, and I would be only one of many."

"Yes, but you would be the best," Maria insisted.

Bob laughed. "I'm glad I married you. But seriously, the main thing we have to consider is the seat in Congress. Both David and Catherine feel sure that I can be elected to Congress next year, and it would be hard to find two people better qualified to give that opinion. So this is something we can really do, and it is no small thing. Congress would be a big step upward, and would give all of us the potential for doing a lot of good. All I have to do is compromise on one thing — I have to vote against HB 160."

"But once you get to Congress, there is the potential for greater things," Maria maintained. "And I certainly think we should take that potential into account in making our decision."

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"I agree," Bob said, "but remember that potential for higher things would involve more compromises. More litmus test issues will come along. So the big decision now is, which is more important — Congress or HB 160? If we decide that I should go to Congress, then we will have more big decisions to make later."

Hannah said, "Son, if HB 160 becomes the law of this state, do you think it will save the lives of any babies?"

Bob was silent for a moment. "Mom you have a way of going to the heart of things. Yes, I believe it would save some lives. Before a doctor could perform an abortion, he would have to give the woman certain information in writing and explain it to her if necessary. This would include illustrations showing the stages of the baby's development, detailed information as to how the operation is to be performed, and information concerning the help that is available to the woman if she decides to let the baby live, including the alternative of adoption. The woman would have to state in writing that she has received and understands the information, and there would be a 24 hour wait for her to think it over. Yes, I believe some women would change their minds if this were done, and some babies would be saved."

"Then that answers your question doesn't it," Hannah said. "I would like to be the mother of the president of the United States, or the vice-president, or even a congressman. It would open many wonderful doors for us all. I am sure we could do many good things. But I don't want it if it is going to cost the lives of some innocent babies."

Matthew said, "Son, what chance does HB 160 have of passing?"

Bob shook his head. "I don't think anyone really knows. It has already passed the House, and the Governor will sign it. The big test is the Senate. The pro-abortion groups are putting

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on a lot of pressure. Senators who are up for re-election next year are being threatened with well financed opposition if they vote wrong. I understand some of them are wavering, both Democrats and Republicans. The best information that I have is that HB 160 is a couple of votes short right now. Of course, the pro-life people are working too, so the situation can change from day to day.”

“In other words, son, the stand you take will make a difference.”

“Yes, Dad, I suppose that is right.”

Matthew continued. “If the law would save the lives of little babies, then you should support it even if it were doomed to fail. But, the fact that your support of the bill might well be all that is needed for it to pass, certainly brings the whole issue home to us, doesn’t it? It sort of puts all those little lives right here in our hands.”

Hannah shook her head sadly. “I feel terrible about this. I can only imagine how excited you two must be to have a key man from the National Committee come clear out here to offer you a seat in Congress and even hold out the prospect of the most important office on earth. And here we are throwing a wet blanket on the whole plan — and without even being very tactful about it.”

Bob said, “It is alright, Mom. We want you to tell us exactly how you feel.”

“I do want you to know how I feel and why I feel the way I do,” Hannah replied. “I have given a lot of thought, study, and prayer to this whole abortion issue, and I am convinced that the central issue is simply this — what is a human being? The way a person answers that question should determine his or her position on abortion.

“Now as a Christian,” Hannah continued, “I believe that each person is of infinite worth, because each of us is created

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in the image of God. Nothing else could give us such value. I have never understood how unbelievers can ascribe great value to the individual person, when they don't even believe in God. How so many of them can be for abortion but against the death penalty is more than I can comprehend. But I don't want to get off on that. The point is that we are created in the image of God. The book of Genesis tells us that after God created all the other animals, He then did something different — He created another creature in His own image. So human beings are something special, something different from all the other animals. Now what is it that makes us different? What does it mean to be in God's image?"

Hannah picked up a Bible from the coffee table. "Here in John, chapter 4, we find Jesus telling the woman at the well that God is Spirit. Thus if we are in His image, we must be spiritual beings also. And the Bible makes it clear from beginning to end that the real person is the spirit. For example, back in Genesis 49:33, in describing Jacob's death, the Bible says 'he drew up his feet into the bed, and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.' So Jacob's body died, but Jacob went on living and was gathered to his people. Over in I Timothy, chapter 6, in talking about material possessions, the Bible says 'we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.' That certainly makes it clear that we came into this world from some place else, and we are going back there. Jesus really nailed it down in Luke 12:4,5, when He told us not to fear those who can kill the body and then can do no more to us, but to fear Him who, after the body is killed, has power to cast into hell."

She laid the Bible on the table. "All this makes it clear that the real person is not the physical body. The real person is the spirit that dwells in the body. Where does the spirit come from? From God, of course. When does an unborn baby

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become a human being? When God puts the spirit in his or her little body. When does this happen? I do not know; the doctors do not know; even the mother does not know. It could happen anytime from conception to birth. Thus, I cannot condone abortion at any stage of pregnancy.”

Bob interrupted. “Of course, all the abortionist can do is kill the body. He can’t kill the spirit.”

“Very true,” Hannah replied. “I suppose it could be argued that we should do away with the laws against murder, because the physical body is all that is killed anyway. But God puts each human here for a purpose and He forbids murder. He forbids the taking of innocent human life.”

She picked up the Bible again. “Here at Revelation 22:15, almost at the end of the Bible, we are told that murderers are among those who will be excluded from heaven. And I think that Genesis 9:6 is a very significant verse. Let me read it. ‘Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for God made man in his own image.’ Note here that human life is so important that God commands us to impose the death penalty for murder, and the reason human life is that important is that we are made in the image of God. Now the Law of Moses allowed the death penalty for other crimes. But that was only for the Israelites. But Genesis 9:6 goes back long before the Law of Moses. This was a command given to the whole human race.”

Bob smiled. “Mom, it is obvious why you are in such demand as a Bible teacher. But these are your religious convictions, and I agree with you, as you well know. I believe that humans are spiritual beings, created in the image of God. But do we have the right to impose our religious beliefs on others?”

“You told us that David Mullins asked that same question of you,” Hannah replied, “and I am sure you know the

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answer. Everyone's conduct is influenced by his religious beliefs — not just Christians, but everyone, including the followers of the humanist religion. So let's put the question this way; do the humanists have the right to impose their religious beliefs on the unborn babies? That is the really important question, isn't it? Remember, the opposition to slavery was mainly religious. The anti-slavery people believed it was wrong for one human to own another, since both were created in the image of God. So they were imposing their religious beliefs on the pro-slavery people, but remember that the pro-slavery people were imposing their beliefs on the black people. I wish some of your great-great-grandparents had lived long enough to tell you what that was like.

"But I don't want you to think that my belief that humans are spiritual beings is based solely on the Bible," Hannah continued. "Of course, that is the best authority, and sufficient for me, but also we can see our spiritual nature just by looking at ourselves. Consider the position taken by the humanists, or atheists, or materialists, or whatever you want to call them. They claim that man is the product of evolution, coming forth by accident from an organic soup. In other words, they regard humans as nothing but chance combinations of chemicals. Now how does that fit with what you can see in yourself and in others? Do you feel like nothing but chemicals?"

"Of course not," said Bob. "I feel like a person."

"So does everyone else," Hannah continued. "Deep down inside, we all know we are more than just chemicals. We not only live, we can see ourselves living, that is, we are self-conscious. And we can do more than just react to our environment. We don't just have thoughts — we can think. And we have this sense of oughtness which we call our conscience. How could chemicals have such a thing as that?"

"But, son, I don't need to tell you all this. I know you are

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well aware of the absurdity of the humanist view of man. The point here is how this shapes their view on abortion. If human beings are nothing but chemicals, then it is foolish to talk about the infinite worth of each individual. Certainly, there is no shortage of people. And if we are nothing but chemicals, and our behavior is nothing but chemical reactions, then it is foolish to talk about moral and immoral behavior. So, if you have the power to do it, why not get rid of inconvenient people, such as unwanted babies?"

Maria said, "I remember reading Jack London's novel about the brutal, atheistic sea captain, Wolf Larson. He argued that all life is nothing but a 'yeasty ferment', and that the lives of other people meant nothing to him. It reminds you of the evolutionist's 'organic soup', and of the abortionist's 'blob of protoplasm'."

"If you take the humanistic view of man to its logical conclusion, then Wolf Larson was right," Hannah replied. "Once you reduce humans to chemicals, then you have cheapened all human life and it is easy to justify abortion. But it doesn't stop there. If there is nothing wrong with killing inconvenient people, then the ruling elite can justify the elimination of any group that is in the way. Already they are accepting euthanasia. Who is next — the elderly, the permanently disabled, the mentally ill — then maybe the blacks, the Jews, the Christians? It has happened many times in history, and recent history at that."

"Hannah, what do you think of these politicians who say that they are personally opposed to abortion, but don't want to impose their beliefs on others?" Maria asked.

"Well, Pilate was personally opposed to crucifying Jesus, but when he saw which way the political winds were blowing, he decided he could not impose his beliefs on others. I wouldn't give two cents for a man or woman who believes

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that millions of innocent babies are being slaughtered, but refuses to lift one finger to help them. It is a phony, fence-straddling, position. It makes as much sense to say, I am personally opposed to rape, but don't want to impose my beliefs on the rapists."

Matthew took the Bible and said, "Let me read a passage from my favorite book in the Bible — Matthew naturally. Here it is in the fourth chapter. 'Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to Him, "All these I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! for it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve." ' Son, you have been offered some great things. I am very proud of you, to think that you have attracted attention all the way to our nation's capital. But it seems to me that in order to accept this offer you have to go against your Christian faith. Neither you nor Maria could be happy doing that."

Hannah nodded her agreement. "Stay true to God and He will bless you. I am sure that God has some plan for using both of you in a way that is better than any of this."

They were silent for a moment, then Maria said, "Bob, your parents are right, of course. There go my plans for re-decorating the White House."

Bob laughed. "Honey, I am glad you can joke about it. I know how excited you have been. But really, there is only one answer — we can't do it. Mom and Dad, thanks for helping us to see that. Tomorrow morning I will call David Mullins and tell him I must vote for HB 160. I need to call Senator Fairfield too. He is the Senate sponsor for HB 160, and he is anxious to know where I stand. I'll tell him that I will vote yes."

