



40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

*Devotional for Day 27, Monday, March 20
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Intention:

That in the fight for life, we will not be discouraged; Scripture and church history are on the side of the pro-life movement.

Scripture:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

— *Matthew 11:28-30*

Reflection:

The fight for life can be exhausting, and it can be discouraging to feel like you are standing alone. However, pro-life Christians are *not* alone. No matter what the broader culture would like us to believe, those standing for the rights of the unborn have Scripture and church history on their side.

The Bible is unambiguous in its teaching on the personhood of the unborn. One example is Luke 1, the narrative of Elizabeth and Mary meeting. First, upon hearing Mary's voice, John the Baptist "leaped for joy" in Elizabeth's womb. John's response is an emotion that can only be ascribed to a human person. Second, Elizabeth refers to Mary as the "mother of my Lord" at a stage in her pregnancy when most women are not even aware that they are pregnant.

Jesus, in His embryonic state, is already recognized as Elizabeth's "Lord." Third, Elizabeth refers to her unborn baby with the same Greek word used for children after they are born. Moreover, Christian theologians, pastors, and leaders throughout history have affirmed the dignity of the unborn. For example, Clement of Alexandria (155–215), Athenagoras (133–190), and Tertullian (155–220) all preached against abortion (for more examples from church history, see frc.org/unborn). Because they stand on a firm foundation, pro-life Christians ought to feel encouraged despite the strong worldly opposition they face. For those grappling with discouragement, Jesus' promise of rest in Matthew 11 still stands. Amid life's most trying challenges, Jesus offers His yoke, which is easy and light. We can rejoice that Jesus is faithful, trustworthy, and true.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for your inerrant, inspired, and authoritative Word. Thank You for how clearly Your Word affirms the value of all life—born and unborn. Thank You for Your promise of rest. As we labor to promote a culture of life, give us strength. Help us not to rely on ourselves but on You. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.