



# The Kulas Kronicle



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November 2015

## Unfinished Business—Part 1

On Sunday, January 18, 2015, the Green Bay Packers were only 5 NFL minutes away from closing out the NFC Championship game, and they held a comfortable lead of twelve points. I'm sure the players felt like they had a sure victory. *(For those of you who don't follow NFL football, a NFC Championship win would've sent them to the Super Bowl, the pinnacle goal for every team, every player.)* But unfortunately for the Packers, some final key plays went their opponent's way. And they lost the game in overtime.

After all their work and preparation, they didn't reach their goal. Afterward, one Packers player, Josh Sitton, reflected, "You feel like it's a waste of seven, eight months... What's the point of getting so far? I'd have rather not even made the playoffs." Sitton felt like all the effort wasn't even worth it.

As I reflected on Sitton's comments, I thought of the preparation, training, and effort that my teammates and I put in this year to *train thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions, one at a time*. At Justice For All, we care about reaching large numbers of pro-choice people and at the same time we care about the individual conversations with each of them. Caring about pro-choice people and wrestling with why they believe what they believe is critical to: 1) showing that we care deeply about the unborn because they are HUMAN, and 2) showing that we care deeply about the pro-choice people in front of us because they, too, are equally HUMAN.

Our team's pinnacle goal with each pro-choice person we meet on campus is for the pro-choice person to become fully pro-life—to see abortion as "unthinkable." So if we don't achieve that goal with each person should we chalk that up to failure or say something similar to Josh Sitton? Were those eleven months we spent this year worth it? Were our efforts wasted?

### What is Success?

At my moments of greatest questioning, I'm reminded of something we teach at our seminar. We ask partici-



Above I am proudly wearing my Green Bay Packers hat as I converse with an OU student in front of our small Exhibit.

pants to consider what success means in a conversation about abortion. It's easy to think that the only kind of success is seeing a person accept the complete moral and legal equality of the unborn, right in front of our eyes. I can leave conversations frustrated and irritated that the person doesn't seem to take really good arguments seriously. But should I expect such quick results?

Although our desire is to see change in those we speak with, it isn't always immediately apparent whether or not we have sparked a change. People don't usually change their views right away, especially about issues as significant as abortion. I think most of us can relate to this. For instance, what if someone gave you a seemingly logical argument disputing the resurrection of Jesus Christ? If you are a Christian, as I am, I bet you wouldn't abandon your belief on the spot. **(In fact, I encourage you not to!)** Wouldn't you react with the best counter-arguments you can think of defending the resurrection? We wouldn't change our view on the spot. Why? Because doing so would have serious implications in our lives—so serious, in fact, that if this belief was overturned it would have to overturn our beliefs about God. (1 Cor. 15)

Obviously, I *don't* think Christians should change their view about the resurrection of Jesus. And obviously I *do* think pro-choice advocates should change their view about abortion. My point is simply this: We can't expect that people will change a long-held belief right in front of our eyes, especially when changing that belief would have serious implications for their lives.

## The Implications for Pro-Choice Advocates

After all, we're not talking about convincing people to change their beliefs about a small matter like the existence of Santa Claus. Changing that view doesn't have serious life-altering, long-term implications or consequences.

But consider people I've encountered over the years when talking with them about a very different subject—abortion. Some have been passionate enough about being pro-choice to convince others to become more pro-choice as well. Some have taken a friend to get an abortion. Some have perhaps even pressured their girlfriends to get abortions. If each of these types of people have doubts about being pro-choice in the midst of our conversation, they will probably only take time to consider those doubts once they are at home and don't feel like they have to save face.

For each of them, taking the pro-life position seriously wouldn't just mean they'd have to stop believing a certain way. It would also mean they'd have to face the fact that they sinned, that they participated in doing evil. They would have to stop influencing others to get abortions, and they certainly couldn't see it as an option for themselves anymore. These are the kind of implications that would truly change their lives.

Now to be clear, many people do change their beliefs in our conversations. For some it is a major shift, for others a smaller more incremental shift is seen. For instance, a large portion of students who initially say they approve of abortion in every stage of pregnancy will, by the end of a conversation with a JFA staff member or volunteer, reject legalized abortion at least in the 3rd trimester. *(I'm excited to share specific stories of students making this kind of progress in next month's newsletter—Unfinished Business-Part II.)*

## Leaving the Results to Jesus

Far from discouraging me, the life-changing nature of the transformation I hope to see in pro-choice advocates is the very thing that ends up motivating me to move forward. But seeing that it *is* so hard to change one's position, is this hope realistic? Well, if it were just me doing all this work, then honestly I think the answer would be, "No."

But unlike John Sitton of the Packers, I can rest in the knowledge that all is not lost when I don't see the "goal" accomplished at the end of my work day. When someone doesn't show immediate change in front of

me, the work has not ended. It is simply unfinished. I am not the one who was meant to finish this work in the first place. Christ is the victor and He is the one that accomplishes change in the hearts of human beings, but he allows me to be a part of the process. We say this to all of our seminar participants, but I have to remind myself of it time and time again: "Our job is to be faithful to our Sovereign, Jesus Christ, and to then leave the results to him, to accomplish in his time."

## You Can Help!

Thank you for helping me to at least *begin* this process of change with many, many students this year. Many of them may have otherwise never considered the pro-life position. This year, in addition to creating dialogue with students personally, I also played a major role in organizing 20 of our seminar events and 28 of our campus outreach days so that our staff and volunteers could create a ripple effect and help many others participate more fully in Christ's heart-transforming work. In total, 728 participants were equipped for dialogue at 32 JFA seminars in 2015, through hours of teaching and interactive practice. 251 of those people took the critical step of creating dialogue with pro-choice advocates at a JFA campus outreach event for the first time, which gave them the necessary preparation to create heart-changing dialogue in their own spheres of influence.

Would you please consider giving a special year-end financial gift to help me continue this important "unfinished business" in 2016? You can follow [this web link here](#) to our donate page of our new website if you would be interested in donating online. I am excited to be a part of what Christ is accomplishing through JFA again next year!

In Christ,



Paul G. Kulas



Two days of outreach with our small exhibit and other conversation generators like our poll table and free speech boards made it possible for me to talk to many students at the University of Oklahoma this November. In case you didn't know it already, I am a huge Packers fan!