

A Conversation at the Airport

REBEKAH DYER'S JFA UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2021



Dear Friend,

I was sitting in the Denver airport on layover waiting for my flight to Nebraska when I got into an unexpected conversation about abortion with a fellow traveler. I was preparing for multiple days of training that week, and “Matthew” sat down behind me. He asked me where I was from. When I told him I was from San Diego, he asked me what I was doing in Denver, so I told him I was traveling for work. I told him I help people have good conversations about abortion. He readily began to share his story and his view on abortion.

He shared with me that just last week his baby girl who had spina bifida was born. While their daughter was still *in utero*, Matthew and his wife had flown to Pennsylvania so that their daughter could have surgery. She was born soon after that and is doing well, but Matthew told me that some doctors had pressured him and his wife to abort and “just try again.” Matthew shared how hard that was to hear because they wanted this baby. Adding to the emotional pain this caused, he also shared with me that his wife had had an abortion previously and went to have it done without telling him. It wasn’t something he wanted, and he said she still cries about it today.

I spent time expressing my sympathy for him and his wife and for what they had gone through. I listened as he shared more of his story, and I also asked him what his personal views on abortion were. Matthew said he was religious and didn’t believe in abortion. As we talked, I eventually asked him if he thought abortion should actually be illegal.

This is a really important question to ask people, and Matthew’s response illustrated why.

Matthew was quiet for a moment and then communicated a very common position many have on this issue: he said he believed abortion was wrong, but it should be legal because we can’t force our views on people. God has given people choice and free will, and we shouldn’t infringe on that.

He then asked me what I thought.

I said, “Generally speaking, I agree we shouldn’t force our views on people, but there are some things we should



Pictured here is my Instagram post about my conversation with “Matthew.” Follow me to see more posts like this!

RESULTS OF MY SUPPORT-RAISING EFFORTS TO DATE

I’m so grateful for your support and prayers as I continue to fundraise for my position with Justice For All.

My goal is to reach **\$2800** per month, and because of your generosity, **94%** of that need is met! If you are not part of my support team, please prayerfully consider joining. I cannot do this work without you.



JUSTICE FOR ALL - TRAINING THOUSANDS TO MAKE ABORTION UNTHINKABLE FOR MILLIONS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME
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absolutely legislate against. I think abortion should be illegal for the same reason I think rape and murder should be illegal — they harm another human being. Our laws reflect what we value in society, and I think we should protect life in the womb because abortion kills an innocent human being, and I don't think that should be legal."

As we got ready to board our flight to Nebraska, he looked at me and said, "That's a really good point you made about murder." While I don't know if the conversation caused him to change his mind or not, I do know I was able to plant a seed that made him think more about his views.

So much of our work here on earth is planting seeds. Most of the time, we don't get to see the "harvest" or the change of mind at that moment. People's views about abortion are deeply influenced by their life experiences and many other difficult factors, making it highly unlikely that you will see an immediate change of mind during the conversation.

As a follower of Jesus, I know that even when we don't see the immediate change of mind, we can trust God because He is working behind the scenes to accomplish His purposes. We cannot change anyone. As I am often reminded by my colleagues, we are not called to see success as the world would define it. We are called to be faithful.

I could have easily missed out on this conversation with Matthew. When people used to ask me what I did for work, I confess I would hesitate and give a vague answer about "working for a nonprofit." When people ask a person what she does for work, it's normally a very casual question, and I know people are not expecting me to bring up abortion. That's why I have tended to be intentionally vague about my work. I was afraid.

In the past year, though, I decided I needed to just tell people what I did, instead of being afraid of them and how they would respond to my line of work. I understand the fear of man so well. I understand wanting to hide the truth from people for fear of how they will respond. I also know that God calls me to a different way of life. His truth is freedom, and we have the amazing privilege of being his ambassadors to a lost and hurting world.

May you and I boldly take each opportunity to speak the truth. May we be like Peter and John who, when told to be silent about Jesus, said, "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20)

In Christ,

Rebekah

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