Wednesday Word

What Do You Say to Someone Who Doesn't Care?

Education: "Oh – I don't care about abortion – it doesn't affect me." What do you say to that? How about: "OK- well, suppose a family chose to have their child, but then something like maybe their house burned down or something, and now, for whatever reason, they feel like they just cannot handle this child, so they want to kill the baby. What would you think about that?" "Well, that would be awful. How could they kill their own baby? And if they can't handle him, they could just put the child up for adoption, there is no need to kill him!" "OK, I agree, adoption would be a good option to give the child a good home if they are just unable to do so." "Right!" "But maybe they feel like everyone would think they were terrible parents to give away their child, and it would be very painful, and they would always know that their child was out there somewhere, and they would feel terribly guilty about it. So, they figure it would be better to just get rid of the child and even though that would feel bad too, they would be able to put it all behind them and go on with their lives like the pregnancy never happened." "Well, maybe they would feel guilty about giving away their baby, but wouldn't they feel even more guilty for killing the child? How could they ever forget that they had that baby? And besides, they would be thrown in jail for killing their baby." "Yes, I think that they would eventually regret what they did, whether they got caught or not. If they later have another child, it would all come back and they would realize that that first child was no different than the one they have now – but they killed him!... So, you said you didn't care about abortion because it didn't affect you, right?" "Yes." Well, if some parents kill their child after birth, that wouldn't affect you personally either, right? But you seem to care about that." "Well, yes, but killing a child after birth is definitely wrong, and anyway, adoption is an obvious option." "OK. So, what about a woman who is still pregnant and feels like she just cannot handle having a baby. Doesn't she still have the option of adoption if she could just some help to get through the rest of the pregnancy?" Now you are getting to the real question. Your friend is likely to now be thinking of the child in the womb as the same child that will be born if an abortion doesn't happen. So, does the child in the womb deserve the same protection as the child after birth?

Prayer: Dear Father God, please have mercy on our whole society, that we learn to respect the value of human life in every circumstance. Help couples to value their children over economic security or comfort. If they feel that they can't handle the pregnancy itself, help them to know that help is available for them, and if they still feel that the child would be better off with someone else, they could make an adoption plan for provide that child with a good home. Help us all to appreciate the value of people with disabilities, people of advanced age, people who have economic difficulties, and even people who have committed crimes. We know that You love every one of your children, Lord; teach us to accept them and love them as such. People who have committed crimes can be imprisoned to stop them from hurting anyone else, but then have time to hopefully repent of their wrongdoing. Help everyone with serious problems to know that you are with them in whatever difficult circumstances they are suffering from. Help them to find some kind of support from other people, and have hope of improving their lives. Amen.

Action: When you hear someone comment that they don't care about the issue of abortion, be prepared, not to tell them that they should care, but to give them reasons to care. Bringing up a parallel situation of killing after birth, and then going back to the issue of abortion, leads to the real issue of whether the child in the womb is worthy of the same protection as children after birth. Maybe she feels like abortion is legal, and there is nothing she can do about that anyway. Just voting with a priority of protecting human life can make a difference. It doesn't have to be a big thing, but there are lots of things that can be done to work against abortion. Several ideas can be found in "Ten things that You Can Say and Do to Prevent Abortions".