

Sermon Title: “**Choosing Life**”

### **Introduction**

This is a message I have desired to put together for some time, but it hasn't been until now that I have felt God give me the green light. It's a subject that has become more and more urgent to me as I help lead the inner healing ministry and as I pray for Korea. That subject is abortion. While this message might be a little hard for those who have committed abortion in the past, I want to encourage you to listen through it. While much of this message is a warning and a wake up to the church, hope and healing will also be shared.

The title of today's sermon is, “Choosing Life.” Before I get started with the message, let me say a prayer for us.

### **Pray (release justice, release healing)**

#### **Kris Vallotton – Choosing Life**

To start this message I want to show you all a clip of a testimony given by Kris Vallotton, one of the senior pastors at Bethel Church. He is going to share with you some dreams he had regarding abortion. I feel it needs to be shared more and more among the church...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgMjoUeS0BA>

#### **Life at Conception**

I grew up most of my life without an opinion on abortion. I felt like it was something more to do with politics or personal choice than something Christians should be fretting over. This changed when I attended IHOP's (International House of Prayer) OneThing 2004 conference. On the last day the main speaker told us he was going to speak on abortion and I immediately began to tune him out. I remember thinking to myself, “There is no way I'm going to get ministered to during this sermon, this subject simply doesn't relate to me.” But by the end of the message, I was weeping, along with the other ten thousand people present. Through the message God revealed to me that abortion is a subject that affects all creation, not just the mothers and the little ones in their womb.

God spoke into my heart that life comes at conception... the moment the seed and the egg come together new life is being formed.

Psalm 139:13-16 – For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Some say that infants aren't real people until they are developed enough to survive outside the womb. But the truth is, most children couldn't survive until years after being born. If I had a baby before me, to think of killing the little one because the baby can't survive without help would be horrific. Whether the baby is in front of me or within the womb, big or small, to kill the little one would be horrific.

Think of Pastor Eddie's baby Emma, who was born premature and has had to remain in an incubator to survive. This tiny little one has already become so precious to all of us. How could anyone think of taking the baby's life? **Sadly, for most of us when something is out of sight it is also out of mind.** We know of the atrocities in the world and, unless we see them face to face, we tend to ignore them. But it's when we see through God's eyes that compassion grows.

### **Crystal's Stories**

Before I came to Korea in 2005, I met with a friend of mine who had served with IHOP in Kansas City for six months. She shared with me that while serving there she took some time to join a group of silent protesters against abortion. They each put tape over their mouths with the word "Life" written on the tape. They stood down the street from an abortion clinic, close enough that they could see the clinic but far enough to not disturb. Their battle wasn't in the physical but in the spiritual, and their sole purpose was to pray. They stood at the street corner all day, silently praying against Satan's grip on the abortion clinic and interceding for the girls who were going to it.

Crystal shared that they would watch as girls would drive into the clinic's parking lot and park their car. Some of the girls would go into the clinic for the operation, but other girls would sit in their car and simply stare at the steering wheel. Crystal, while praying, would watch as these girls would break down in tears and even hit their steering wheel in distress. The girls would then turn their car back on and drive away, without ever having gone in.

At the end of the day the team members shared with each other and some said they had seen a huge demon above the clinic with a very satisfied look on its face. They knew their prayers had helped protect some of the girls from following through, but that much more prayer was needed.

### **Facts on Abortion**

Kris Vallotton shared that more babies have been aborted since Roe vs. Wade than all the deaths of American soldiers from every war combined. In just the past four years about 5 million babies were aborted in America. But America isn't the only country where abortion is rampant. According to most statistics, about 42 million babies are aborted in the world each year. 42 million.

South Korea now has the lowest birth rate in the world. One of the greatest reasons for this is abortion. Because most families want boys, statistics say that one in twelve girls is aborted in the womb *after* their gender is revealed. Official numbers say that every year 450,000 children are born in South Korea while 350,000 children are aborted. That means that nearly 45% of all babies conceived are aborted! And one politician says the abortion numbers are much higher, closer to 1.5 million. So popular are abortions that doctors in Korea have been threatened for NOT performing them. South Korea has even been referred to as, "The Abortion Republic."

So what is the danger here? What does this have to with us?

### **Abortion is Murder**

Turn with me to Leviticus 20. In the Old Testament a pagan god named Molech is mentioned various times. Molech was a metal statue with arms that went out from it. Its worshippers would heat the metal statue with fire until it was red hot. Then, with the sound of loud

beating drums in the background, they would place their infants on the arms of the statue until the babies would burn to death. This was both worship to their god and also was basically abortion before they had tools to kill the unwanted babies in the womb.

Let's read Leviticus 20:1-5. Notice how strongly God hates this practice and how clear His warnings are...

Leviticus 20:1-5 – The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Say to the people of Israel, ‘Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name. **And if the people of the land do at all close their eyes to that man** when he gives one of his children to Molech, and do not put him to death, then I will set my face against that man and **against his clan** and will cut **them** off from among their people, him and all who follow him in whoring after Molech.’”

**God's judgment is not just for those who kill the infants, but for all who tolerate the killing as well.**

Flip forward to Numbers 35:33. Think about the 42 million babies who have been aborted each year. Think of all the little ones aborted here in Korea. Now look at God's warning for the nations...

Numbers 35:33 – You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it.

Abortion is destroying the land. In Genesis 4 God tells Cain that the blood of his murdered brother Abel cries out to God from the ground. Hebrews 11:4 and 12:24 says that Abel's blood is still speaking, crying out to God. With every act of injustice, more and more innocent blood is crying out to God for justice. More and more curses are filling people and the land.

2Kings 24:3-4 – Surely judgment (this) came upon Judah at the command of the Lord, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all he had done, and also for the innocent blood that he had shed. For he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the Lord would not pardon.

I believe much of the barrenness, birth complications, and other struggles with having children are a result of the curses from all the abortion that has been taking place. If sin is not dealt with, it quickly spreads, as does the consequences. God's warnings were not just to those committing injustice, but to those who were tolerating it as well. The consequences and curses were for both those who committed the sin and for those who chose not to stop them. God is asking the church, “Do you care? Will you choose life or will you choose to look away?” A choice is in front of us.

### **A Critical Choice**

A few months ago I received a call from a friend that a former worker from the children's home I serve at had gotten severe stomach pains, gone to the hospital, and then found out she

was three months pregnant and that her water had broken prematurely. She needed the water to reappear inside or else her baby would die. A problem though, is that this worker had only been married for a month so clearly her and her husband had unknowingly conceived the baby a couple months before the wedding. And they are both Christians who love God. When I heard this news I knew that her decision for how to pray would be critical for the baby and for her future. Would she pray for the baby to live? Or would she rather just let the baby go to avoid any shame for having conceived before marriage?

Within 36 hours the water did not reappear within her so the baby died in her womb and they then aborted the deceased baby. I went to visit her and her husband the next day and we talked for a while. I shared with her the need for healing from losing life within her and some of the steps she will need to take. I sensed in my spirit that she had a dream amidst her struggling time in the hospital and so I asked her. Sure enough, she had a dream during that time...

In her dream she saw two babies in her womb. One was red, small, and in bad shape. The other was healthy and a full 10 months developed. She told me she didn't have a heart for a baby yet and so she didn't have a heart for the surprise baby when she received the news she was pregnant, but in the dream her heart grew for the healthy baby and she wanted him, despite not being ready. I sensed that God was speaking to her that she needs to desire and treasure the children, and that even the surprises and mistakes are small treasures from Him. To her, **the surprise baby was unwanted because she never saw the little one as God saw him**. It wasn't until she saw some of the potential that her heart grew. God wants us to see the potential in each and every little one.

Imagine the potential for the 42 million babies aborted each year. The world sees them as red, small, and perhaps better off dead. **God sees life**. God sees His image in each and every little one. They are the apple of His eye.

### **Let God Open Our Eyes**

Our church is becoming more sensitive to the Holy Spirit and the spiritual realm. This past year we have been learning about God's heart for justice and righteousness. Our eyes were opened to the reality of sex trafficking during the mission trips to Thailand. Our eyes are continuing to be opened to the tragic realities in North Korea. Our eyes have also been opened to the pain and needs of the typhoon victims in the Philippines. God has set it on our hearts to intercede and for some to even go and help serve. I feel today God is calling the church to let Him open our eyes to the injustice of abortion and the reality of its consequences all around us.

I know there are some who are called to go to North Korea, others called to fight on behalf of the sex trafficking victims, and others called for other causes... but all are called to pray and intercede, particularly for our community. Abortion is happening in every country. It is an issue the indirectly affects all of us.

I believe when some of you will pray on behalf of your nation and this issue, you may begin to hear the cries of the infants, just as Kris Vallotton could hear during his dream. Our prayer needs to be that Christ's blood come and redeem the blood of the children covering the land. We need to pray that God receive and comfort each little one and for His healing and life to fill the nation.

There are so many young women who need guidance, the truth, encouragement, and healing. For those who are unexpectedly pregnant, they need to learn the reality of abortion and its consequences, including how it can affect their body and their emotions. They need to know that although the little one in their womb was not a part of their plans and may have even been formed through sin, **that God is a redeemer and that He has blessed plans for the child**. That there are other options including support groups and also many loving families who would desire to adopt their baby.

42 million babies also mean 42 million mothers every year. That adds up. In America statistics show that nearly **half of all women** will have an abortion during their lifetime. For those who have committed abortions, what does God desire for them? Healing. Complete healing. And God is able.

### **Hope and Healing**

Recently I visited America and I met a wonderful couple, Peter and Sunny, who have an inner healing ministry in Northern Virginia. At a retreat they shared their testimonies of past trauma they endured and past sins they committed and how God healed and delivered them from each. I want to share with you all Sunny's testimony of how God healed her and her husband for a mistake they made long ago. Our God is so good, so loving, and so powerful! May you be blessed by this...

### **Sunny's Inner Healing Experience**

My husband and I have been training for a healing prayer ministry down in Jacksonville, FL. Last month, we attended our Level 2 prayer training conference. I encountered Jesus in an amazing, supernatural way and just couldn't keep it to myself.

We had several speakers throughout the week of training, but I was especially encouraged by one speaker who shared her testimony about how the Lord brought about healing and restoration in her broken marriage. During a conference, her ministry partner asked her to share that testimony to thousands of clergy wives. God gave her strength to share about her testimony through the famous "doubting Thomas" passage.

Thomas couldn't believe that Jesus had resurrected from the dead until he could see and touch Jesus' wounds. Through that passage, the Lord reminded her how Jesus was able to show His wounds to Thomas and to the world, so that we could believe. God was encouraging her to do the same. Isa. 53:5-6 says:

**But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

She also shared that by testifying, the Holy Spirit sealed her healing. Her testimony has given me courage to share my story of healing today.

With love and gentleness, two prayer ministers helped me through the process of inner healing from a sin that I had committed over a decade ago. I had received prayer and asked for forgiveness many times, but I still felt like the wounds were raw and exposed. **Almost daily**, I would feel self-condemnation, and the weight of guilt and shame would hover over me like a dark cloud.

This dark, ugly secret that held me bondage was the sin of abortion. While we were dating, my husband and I got pregnant. In a panic and in an effort to hide our sexual sin, we decided to abort our child. This decision would impact our lives forever.

Through the prayer time, Jesus gently and powerfully healed and restored me. In visions, He revealed many things to me. **He showed me my baby girl and even told me her name--Anna Joy.** I was able to hold her, baptize her, and tell her all the things that had been pent up inside me all these years. I told her how sorry I was and how I wish I could be with her. As I talked to her, there was a tremendous release of pain and shame. Both tears of anguish and relief came rolling down my face. Anna Joy actually grew in my arms and turned into this skinny, beautiful little girl—she looked just like her siblings. I asked Jesus what she was like. He said that she loves to sing praises to Him and is so full of joy.

Jesus also revealed why He had called me to serve as Children's Director at my church. I never fully understood why He called me because it was not a natural fit for me. I just simply obeyed when He called, but now it all started to make sense. I was reminded of Peter and his reinstatement. By calling me into this role, Jesus was telling me, "I forgive and I love you. I am entrusting into your hands the next generation. Feed my sheep." I was completely blown away by this revelation.

Finally, the Lord revealed that I had a lot of unforgiveness toward my husband. I subconsciously blamed him for not stopping us from making that mistake. Jesus showed me that my unforgiveness was like a wall in our marriage. I needed to be honest with him and let Jesus heal this part in our marriage, too.

When we returned to our hotel room, I opened up to my husband and shared with him my prayer experience and how I needed to forgive him. He asked for forgiveness and he prayed for us. I cried buckets of tears, soaking his shirt. God brought about a great healing between us and a new level of intimacy.

That night, **we both dreamt about Anna Joy.** My husband shared his dream with me as soon as he woke up. He said that Anna Joy was dancing around him, just like our daughter Sarah does. She came right up to him and said, "Daddy, you're the best daddy in the whole world!" In human eyes, how could he be considered the best daddy? Again, it was like God saying to us, "You are forgiven."

It's as if we never committed that sin.

As I prayed through how I would share my story, I remembered how Paul shared his encounter with God on the road to Damascus. He shared openly and honestly about how he used to persecute believers, tried everything in his power to destroy the church and imprison Christ followers, witnessed stoning and murders with approval. He was never vague about his sins because the healing that Jesus did in his life was so profound and so awesome. How could he keep it to himself?

When I received my healing, I felt like scales were falling off from my eyes, too. You see, I really didn't understand the full power of the cross, the full redemptive power. I believed that God forgave me, but I didn't believe that He could actually take away my pain, my shame. I



couldn't forgive myself. How could I forgive myself? Until I let Jesus into that wounded part of my heart, until I let him see it, I was held a captive, a prisoner to my sin.

I never thought there would be a day where I could actually see Jesus' grace washing over my sin. I never thought that I would actually be able to share my story with anyone and boast about what Jesus has done for me.

During my prayer session, God gave me this verse from 2 Corinthians 12:9:

**"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."**

Before the healing, I was crushed by my sin and all I could see and feel was the shame. After the healing, all I see is God's amazing love and grace poured into my life. I can now share this wonderful story of healing and freedom with people. Each time I share, the layers of pain and shame seem to be lifting off of me. His work on the cross is so real to me and His Word is so alive in me. I am secure in God's love and forgiveness. I no longer fear man, and I am no longer hiding in sin's shame and shackles.

It's taking me a long time, but I'm starting to get Jesus, His boundless love and mercy, His amazing grace, His transforming power. He is my Healer, my Redeemer, my Lord and my God.

Amen!

### **God's Desire**

God wants to touch our nation. He wants to touch every individual who has chosen abortion in the past. He desires to minister to them in a deep and powerful way. If you have committed an abortion, I want to encourage you to let the Healer in. Allow Him to touch your wounds. Seek the counsel and love of people who are near to God that you can trust.

And for the rest of us, **we need to pray**. We can no longer turn a blind eye and allow the curses and hurt to continue to grow. We need to pray and intercede for the lives of the innocent, for the lives of the babies in the wombs. And we need to confess the sins of our nation and seek God's grace and redemption to consume our land. We need to pray for His healing and His life to come and minister to the pain and death.

\*Pray\*