

**Title:** “The Kill Switch”

**Text:** Matthew 5:3 NKJV

**Proposition:** We must die to our desires in order to prosper in our relationship with Jesus

**Purpose:** Stir hunger and thirst for the Holy Spirit – at any cost

**Event:** Pinecroft Baptist Church – Senior Pastor

**Date:** 4.6.2025

## **The Beatitudes**

5 *“And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.*

2 *Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:*

**3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

4 *Blessed are those who mourn,*

*For they shall be comforted.*

5 *Blessed are the meek,*

*For they shall inherit the earth.*

6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,*

*For they shall be filled.*

7 *Blessed are the merciful,*

*For they shall obtain mercy.*

8 *Blessed are the pure in heart,*

*For they shall see God.*

9 *Blessed are the peacemakers,*

*For they shall be called sons of God.*

10 *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,*

*For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

11 *Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.*

12 *Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

## **Believers Are Salt and Light**

13 *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

14 *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

15 *Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*

16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

**Matthew 5:1-16 NKJV**

## **I. Introduction: His Love Requires Death**

Recently, I was on a flight to Miami and had a stunning experience that will paint the picture perfectly for this sermon. I saw a friend of mine, and he looked a lot different. I spoke to him since I hadn't seen him in a while, but he was different, depressed, almost lifeless, devoid of joy or hope it seemed.

What happened? Is what crossed my mind. I sat on the same row as he and a woman who was with him, who turned out not to be the woman I know to be his wife. I was shocked to see this and very hurt for him over whatever had brought him to such a stage in his life.

In a subsequent conversation with his pastor, I discovered that my friend had bailed on his wife. He just wasn't feeling it. And he blamed her. He was apparently unfaithful and had moved to another city to be closer to the woman he had been spending time with – again, a woman who is not his wife.

What I know to be true about my friend, is that he has been hurt. And his hurt has much to do with his lack of achievement. Some years ago, he thought he was going to pastor a church. He took the job, but found out later, the current pastor had changed their mind, and he would not ascend to the senior pastor position. Why would the Lord allow such a thing? Could it be the Lord had possibly protected my friend from himself? Even protected the church? Or did my friend have a genuine reason to feel betrayed and grow bitter to the point of rejecting his life in church and family?

I truly believe the Lord knew my friend's motives were not pure. Achievement was more important than relationship. My friend certainly loved God, but did that love have conditions?

Many of us can find ourselves in this position and not realize it. We are not quite committed like we think we are. We are not honoring our covenant with God, to love Him above all others.

I believe my friend's journey into unfaithfulness, is the stark evidence of what was in his heart the entire time. He wasn't serving at all costs. He had a hidden agenda, hidden even to him. And the Lord would not allow my friend to experience the depth of blessing that he could have experienced, because he was unfaithful in his heart, not just to his wife, but God Himself.

*"...For love is as strong as death..."*  
**Song of Solomon 8:6 NKJV**

My friend has been deceived. It's very much like what happened to Judas, the disciple of Jesus. We will examine that later. But I want to begin with this thought:

**\*WHAT YOU WON'T GIVE UP FOR JESUS IS WHAT KEEPS YOU FAR FROM HIM\***

I want you to have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. I want your world to be rocked by the love of Jesus. I want you to be immersed in the love of the Lord. But I want to warn you, if you're walking in an adulterous relationship with the Lord, it will cost you much more than you realize. You will not achieve the greatness the Lord has intended for you. You will not achieve the intimacy He has for you. You will not receive, because you do not ask. You won't ask, because you're not willing to pay the price.

## II. Jesus Wants Your Whole Heart

### **\*\*\*SHARE TINMAN DREAM\*\*\***

What we know from the Wizard of Oz, is the tin man's issue had to do with his heart. What the Lord wants you to know, is if you don't allow Him to pour out His Spirit on you, it will be impossible for you to remove the paralysis of your heart. He wants to bless you and overwhelm you with His presence, but if your heart is not available, you will have a hard time receiving the Holy Spirit.

Many of us are hard hearted, rusted and paralyzed by the elements around us. The storms of our lives can embitter us and create places of pain and turmoil in our hearts. But if we only trust the Lord for what He says in His Word. Just give it all to me, He says. I want the burden. I want to give you rest. I want to love you. But I need you to let me in.

If you find yourself in a place in your life right now, where things just aren't working. It's an issue of the heart:

*"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."*  
**Proverbs 4:23 NKJV**

What I have witnessed in Kenya, Colombia, Honduras, and Guatemala is this: God's people wilt in His presence, when all they want is God. The truth of the matter is this is the only safe way to live. God wants you to come to Him and allow Him to minister to your heart. You can't manage your own heart. Your heart is deceiving:

*5 'Thus says the Lord:*

*"Cursed is the man who trusts in man  
And makes flesh his strength,  
Whose heart departs from the Lord.  
6 For he shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
And shall not see when good comes,*

*But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness,  
In a salt land which is not inhabited.*

*7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,  
And whose hope is the Lord.  
8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters,  
Which spreads out its roots by the river,  
And will not [c]fear when heat comes;  
But its leaf will be green,  
And will not be anxious in the year of drought,  
Nor will cease from yielding fruit.*

*9 "The heart is deceitful above all things,  
And desperately wicked;  
Who can know it?  
10 I, the Lord, search the heart,  
I test the mind,  
Even to give every man according to his ways,  
According to the fruit of his doings."  
**Jeremiah 17:5-10 NKJV***

Desperation is a gift. Desperate people stop caring about things that don't really matter. They don't care what you think. They don't care what it takes. They just want freedom. They want the truth. They want to surrender to the truth, because lies have cost them so much.

Is that where you are today?

### **III. Don't Take The Bait**

What we don't realize, is the devil wants you to share his fate. He wants to lead you down a road that costs you everything. Whether you know it or not, your heart can be deceived by the devil, and he can even enter into your heart and take control of your actions, if you're not careful.

What he does is he tries to get you to think like him. He is selfish and full of pride. And the Bible teaches us this about pride:

*"Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall."  
**Proverbs 16:18 NKJV***

## Submit to God, Resist the Devil

5 *“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for*

*“God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble.”*

6 *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

9 *Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*

10 *But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.*

11 *To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*

**1 Peter 5:5-11 NKJV**

Jesus called some people, children of the devil. To quote Jesus:

43 *“Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.*

44 *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

45 *But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.”*

**John 8:43-45 NKJV**

Many of us can't receive love from the Father, because we are more acquainted with the counterfeit of love that comes from the devil. His version of love is self-centered and unwilling to yield. It is pompous and proud. The value system of the devil is the embodiment of his personality:

## Lamentation for the King of Tyre

<sup>11</sup> *Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying,*

<sup>12</sup> *“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God:*

*“You were the seal of perfection,  
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*

<sup>13</sup> *You were in Eden, the garden of God;  
Every precious stone was your covering:*

*The sardius, topaz, and diamond,  
 Beryl, onyx, and jasper,  
 Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.  
 The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes  
 Was prepared for you on the day you were created.  
<sup>14</sup> "You were the anointed cherub who covers;  
 I established you;  
 You were on the holy mountain of God;  
 You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.  
<sup>15</sup> You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,  
 Till iniquity was found in you.  
<sup>16</sup> "By the abundance of your trading  
 You became filled with violence within,  
 And you sinned;  
 Therefore I cast you as a profane thing  
 Out of the mountain of God;  
 And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,  
 From the midst of the fiery stones.  
<sup>17</sup> "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;  
 You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor;  
 I cast you to the ground,  
 I laid you before kings,  
 That they might gaze at you.  
<sup>18</sup> "You defiled your sanctuaries  
 By the multitude of your iniquities,  
 By the iniquity of your trading;  
 Therefore I brought fire from your midst;  
 It devoured you,  
 And I turned you to ashes upon the earth  
 In the sight of all who saw you.  
<sup>19</sup> All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you;  
 You have become a horror,  
 And shall be no more forever." " "*

**Ezekiel 28:-19 NKJV**

Pride is the opposite of humility. We should be humbled when we look at our sins in view of the cross of Christ. We don't deserve anything. We put the perfect Lamb of God to death, by our actions. Our willful sin has been redeemed by the love of Jesus. This should be our pursuit! Delving into the never-ending wonder of the mercies of God for sinners like us. Without Him, where would we be? What doesn't He deserve?

**[OUR PRIDE TELLS US WE'RE RIGHT. WHEN WE'RE NEVER RIGHT.]**

Only God is right. Our righteousness is as filthy rags. Humility is your inheritance in Christ. Receive it and live in it. In is the secret to life in the Spirit. Only God. Only love. Only Jesus. Not me, but Him. There is no substitute.

**[HIS WILL IS THE ONLY WILL THAT WORKS.]**

**IV. What Won't You Give?**

What is it that is keeping you from a vibrant life in Jesus? What is it that is keeping you from hearing His Words? What is it that is keeping you from surrender? Give it up TODAY. Don't delay, because that pride and fear, are working together to carry you away from Jesus. Look at what happened to Judas:

*22 "Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover.  
2 And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people.  
3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.  
4 So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them.  
5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money.  
6 So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude."*  
**Luke 22:1-6 NKJV**

Judas was so close. The Passover was near. The cross awaited. The resurrection would soon come. The Holy Spirit would be poured out. Judas would be at the center of the birth of the Lord's Church. He would have love poured out on him. But his love for money did him in.

I want you to know something. The devil knows you better than you know yourself. He has watched you from birth. He was at the center of your childhood trauma. He invented it. He is the

source of your pain. Without him, you'd be in perfect peace from birth into eternity. But he knows your buttons and your triggers. He knows your depression and your fear. He planted it.

He knew the fear of lack Judas had. Judas wasn't willing to give up a life of wealth for Jesus. He watched the miracles. He saw the healings. He heard the parables. He saw demons cast out. He saw Jesus walk on water. He saw the Lord tell the wind and waves to cease. Judas was there when the Lord fed 5,000 men, plus women and children with just five loaves and two fish. He saw Jesus feed 3,000 men, plus women and children with close to nothing.

It is not enough to know Jesus is real. It is not enough to attend church. It is not enough to be close the pastor. Jesus wants you to receive Him and His Spirit all over your life. And the devil will stop at nothing to get you to quit and take the bait of worldly pleasure centered on pride and the fear you've harbored since you were a little girl, or boy.

Satan will first enter your heart, and get you to think like him. And then he will plan to take over your entire life

### **Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet**

*13 "Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.*

*2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,..."*

**John 13:1-2 NKJV**

*21 "When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." 22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.*

*23 Now there was <sup>[4]</sup>leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.*

*25 Then, leaning <sup>[4]</sup>back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"*

*26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.*

*27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."*

**John 13:21-27**

It troubles Jesus when you turn from Him. It hurts His heart. It hurts when He considers who much He has loved you, yet you have still seen something else as more valuable than His love. You can't hide from this. Your life shows your heart. You will be seen for what you do. God sees your heart and your life shows where your heart is. Will you run from this truth? Or, will you run to Jesus?

**[\*\*\*YOUR HEART WILL BE TESTED BECAUSE GOD WANTS YOU TO SEE YOUR OWN HEART LIKE HE SEES IT\*\*\*]**

### V. Conclusion

What makes you feel full? What makes you feel alive? What makes you feel joy? If it's anything other than Jesus, you have a reason to consider your ways. I want you to have the fulness of joy in His presence. But before the Holy Place is a brazen altar. You need to confess to the Lord your idolatry and sin. You need to address the hidden sin in your heart. You need to confess your hidden agendas and motives that are not committed to loving and serving and learning Jesus Christ. Only by surrender can you truly know Him. Only by desiring Him can you truly be near Him.

Even after your sins are forgiven and you have fellowship with God, you can only truly behold His face and see His heart when you spend time with Him and seek to live a life of pursuit of His heart. It will cost you EVERYTHING.

#### **The Beatitudes**

*5 "And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.*

*2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:*

***3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,***

***For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

**Matthew 5:1-3 NKJV**

Jesus calls an empty vessel BLESSED. Empty yourself of your possessions. Your pride. Your plan. Your pain. Your vengeance. Your bitterness. Your self-righteousness. Whatever it is, it is keeping you from a vibrant life in Christ.

We have been praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. But the people who first received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit spend seven days in a locked room waiting for the Lord. All they had was a promise. They had His Word. And they believed Him when He said He would send His Spirit.

Is that what you want? Do you want to be baptized? Do you want freedom from trauma? Do you want freedom from fear?

**RUN TO THIS ALTAR!!!**