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### GOOD MORNING – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Hannah Schuller (HS)

BS: Today is a new day. It doesn't matter what you've done, the Lord can forgive you.

MUSIC

BS: God wants to change our hearts before He changes our circumstances.

MUSIC

BS: I believe that God is going to bring peace in a broken world through you.

### SCRIPTURE – Genesis 25,24-34 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Genesis 25:24.

*When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was 60 years old when Rebekah gave birth to them. The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.*

*Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." "Look, I'm about to die," Esau said. "What good is a birthright to me?" But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.*

Amen.

### INTERVIEW – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Dave Roeveer (DR)

Dave Roeveer is a public speaker and author who was hospitalized for 14 months after a grenade exploded in his hand while he was on duty during the Vietnam War. Dozens of surgeries and years later, Dave took this devastating time in his life to start speaking all over the world to inspire hope and resiliency in others. He also started his own ministry, Roeveer Evangelistic Association, to let others know that they can overcome tragedy and be triumphant in life.

BS: It is such a privilege to me to be with my friend Dave Roeveer today. I was tempted, even this morning, to not even preach and just spend the whole time talking to you, but I've been gone for a month so it's probably not a good idea to do that. But Dave, your story is incredible. You and I have been a part of the Global Church Network, and that's the first time I really heard you speak. I had to go after you. There's a Key and Peele skit about the guy who had to go after Martin Luther King when he gave the I Have a Dream Speech. That's kind of how I felt. I was in the back kind of crying, listening to your story. And let's just begin there. Maybe you can tell us a little bit about your story, for those who haven't heard.

DR: Well first of all, I'm honored to be with my hero. I love you, pastor and the whole congregation. I've enjoyed you many times on TV. I grew up in South Texas. My mother was perfect health till I was born. And when she gave birth to me, it almost killed her, and she did die later. But I was raised by a Mexican nanny, and I spoke English at the age of six. Until six years old, I spoke Spanish and at six they told me I wasn't Mexican, which really blew my Hispanic mind. So all through my life, I've understood change. Well on July the 26th 1969, and that's for all you teenagers – that's after the war of 1812. I just thought you'd want to know that. A grenade blew right beside my head. White phosphorus, I was trying to throw it in Vietnam, and a sniper put me in his crosshairs and pulled the trigger, and my life changed at the squeeze of the trigger of a communist warrior.

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And half my skin was blown off my body. It blew right here. And so everything not covered. If it's covered, it remained, but it was second degree burn. Everything else was blown off to the bone. I looked down, I could see my heart beating; I was on fire. I had no pain. I was instantly in shock and I jumped in the water thinking.. I was with U.S. Navy special warfare command. I was assigned to SEAL Team One, but I was not a SEAL, I was a Brown Water, Black Berets, and I was the boat guy. And Pastor Bobby, all the years I grew up in a ministers home paid off that day. I knew the scriptures. "Thy word have I hid in my heart," not my pocket. If it had been in my pocket, the word would have burned up. It was in my heart and it sustained that blast. I could actually see my heart beating. And in the water, phosphorus burns in water and I continued to burn in the water. I don't want to make anybody sick this morning, but it was pretty bad. I crawled out of the water and I saw the damage, I just fell over backwards and they thought I was dead. And I was listed KIA – killed in action. And to make it short enough here, a helicopter picked me up, flew me to Saigon, then to Japan, and it was there I asked for a mirror, and I looked at the mirror, and I remembered the promise to my wife that day. My wife said, "Are you coming back?" I said, "I'll be back without a scar." July 26th I looked in that mirror.. as a result of July 26th I looked in the mirror and I saw what was left, I knew. I tried to take my life, pastor. I was at my wits end, and Jesus was there. He's always there. I pulled the tube, and I got hungry. I pulled the wrong tube. I pulled out lunch. That was my lunch dripping on the floor, not my life. And they got me to America. And in a few words, a year and two months later, I was released from the hospital. And 62 surgeries later, I'm talking to my man on the Hour of Power right now because God is good.

BS: Amen, yes, that's right. One of the things.. I don't know if people caught it, that you said is the Bible wasn't in my pocket, it was in my heart. And this is something that so many people have forgotten today in the age of now cell phones. I've always got my Bible on my cell phone. But if I don't have it memorized, there's something about memorizing or learning or understanding the stories, understanding the word that gets us through those times. Were you a committed Christian when this happened?

DR: Totally. I was already credentialed to be a minister and I was very, very privileged to be raised in a Christian home that had suffering, not as judgement from God. God doesn't make us sick. We know that. But in life, we get sick, we get hurt, we get devastated, and because my mom was such a godly woman, she never blamed God, it never entered my mind to blame God when I was injured. In fact, blame wasn't even included in the formula, but because I had been raised to love the Lord, believe God and see God's faithfulness in suffering, it never entered my mind to not stay true to my call. So yes, I was a very committed Christian. In fact, there were four of us. One of them called me Dudley Doo-Right, the other one called me Doctor Dolittle, and other one called me Preacher Man. I called them pervert number one, pervert number two and pervert number three. Really, that's how we got along – Preacher Man and three perverts. Sound like a gospel rock and roll band, doesn't it? And so when I was injured, they thought I was dead, and 13 years later, the life I had lived in Vietnam for eight months unscathed until the last three days, I was injured twice, unscathed; thirteen years later, unbeknownst to all the other three, all three of them gave their heart to Christ. I sowed and 13 years later I reaped.

BS: Amen. That's great.

DR: Yes it is.

BS: I'm just so touched by your story. What do you think is your biggest message you have for the world today?

DR: Well it's undoubtedly tragedy to triumph. Today I'm a contractor with the Department of Defense and I'm sent all over the world: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, Syria, Kosovo, North Africa, South Korea, Japan, Okinawa, all these countries to tell them there's hope beyond what you see. And as a resiliency trainer in the comprehensive soldier fitness program, my message is you can get through anything with God and that's the message that came out of my life. We can make it, Pastor Bobby.

BS: Amen.

DR: And you know what? I'm a good salesman. I brought my book.

BS: Hey! Tell us about your book, because you are a terrific writer and speaker, and I love your stuff.

DR: Thank you.

BS: So I'm glad you brought your books.

DR: Well a quick story about your grandfather. Pastor Robert Schuller told me one day at the 50th anniversary, we were at the Disneyland Hotel and he came up to me and he said:

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'by the way, Dave, I just thought I ought to tell you I took one of your messages on cassette and listened to it and I'm preaching it the way it ought to be preached.' I said 'well when you're through, I'll listen to what you said and then I'll preach it the way you said it ought to be preached.' But I've been in ministry a long time, and I've written many books, but I brought two of them that are very special. One is called Scarred and I hope folks watching will order this because it is a history of the war written from a man of God's perspective. That's being a little presumptuous to call myself man of God, but I want you to know I kept my faith, and God kept me in His palm of His hand. Nobody can pluck you out of the hand of God. There's not a devil in and out of hell can take you out of the hand of God. Don't you ever forget that.

BS: Amen.

DR: Amen. So this book it's called Scarred – seemed appropriate. One guy calls 'I want that scared book.' I said no, no, no, he is scarred. No I want the scared book. I said okay, I'll get you my scared book. But you'll love it. It's a tremendous history. It shows what I'm doing today. I'm traveling with Department of Defense, including the childhood all the way up to present day. And then some of you might know, if you follow my ministry at all, my wife left me for another man almost three years ago and His name is Jesus. He took her to His place and I forgave Him, but it took me awhile. But I wrote a book called Forged in Fire, and its subtitled "A lifetime of pain forged a lifestyle of resiliency." And the story of our family and the hell I put my family through not knowing what post-traumatic stress was. I hurt them. Not physically. I was in pulpit everywhere. I was on TBN all the time, all over the world, ministering, but I'd go home and I'd look in the mirror and I hated myself. And the story of how God pulled me and my family through that. My little daughter's back there at that book table – I'm going to autograph books later – she used to, as a little girl, kneel down outside; I didn't know this till later, and she'd pray outside the bedroom door when she'd hear me in that room crying, she'd say 'God, don't let daddy hurt himself.' I'm not here because I'm tough, I'm here because I had a woman that loved me and a little girl that prayed for me, and a son that followed me in every step. My son's in Vietnam today in ministry. What do you think of that? Right in the very place the devil.. he should have killed me when he had a chance, but God kept me alive. Anyway, this book is phenomenal and it has a companion book called Consuming Fire and it's a Bible study that goes with it. Thanks for letting me mention it. I'm so happy to be with you all.

BS: And I'm so grateful to have you here. I was telling our team I wish people could hear the rest of your story; we just don't have time.

DR: I know.

BS: But I want to encourage everybody to get a copy of this story. Get a copy of his book, and your life will never be the same. Dave Roeveer, thank you so much, my friend. We love you, and we're grateful for you.

DR: Thank you, general. Ya'll, bless you, sir.

BS: Awesome.

### DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Let's say this together: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. It's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with my neighbor. Thanks you can be seated.

### MESSAGE / PRAYER – Bobby Schuller – "Don't Throw Away an Amazing Tomorrow for an Average Today"

First thing I want to do is give everyone an opportunity to follow Jesus. It's the most important thing I say in any message. If you hear everything else I say and not this, I messed up. We all need to be at peace with God. We all need to be reconciled to Him because of our sin, because of the ways we've messed up, because of the ways we've fallen astray. Some of us have backslidden. Well you only get so many choices in your life to receive Christ into your heart. Jesus said anybody who denies me, I will deny before my Father in heaven. But anybody who acknowledges me, I will acknowledge before my Father in heaven. Jesus said I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me. And I want to encourage you today to be at peace with God. Christ laid His life down on the cross that we could be forgiven from our sins, healed of our sicknesses, renewed in life and culture and family; that heaven could be on earth right now. All that He's asking for you is to respond in faith and say forgive me Lord, enter my life, give me the Holy Spirit, forgive me, renew me. I want to encourage you to do that today.

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You only have so many chances to receive Christ, and I want to encourage you to do that. If you make that decision today, will you text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen. We just want to pray for you and send you some resources to help you grow in your faith. I want to encourage you today to not throw away your tomorrow. This is something my grandpa taught a lot. Here's something we want to talk about today – don't throw away an amazing tomorrow for an average today. This is something that most people are doing today. Most people have before them an amazing tomorrow. They have before them an amazing dream, an amazing calling, an amazing book, an amazing business, an amazing ministry, an amazing family, an amazing life, but they throw it away for an average today. Don't throw away your amazing tomorrow for an average today. You were called to be at least above average. This is something we all believed when we were children until somebody beat it out of us or something beat it out of us or someone shamed us or we fell behind or we failed or we didn't get back up when we ought to have. We believed when we were children that we were called to have an above average life, and we were right. We believed that we were called to have above average impact, an above average result, above average joy, above average health, above average state of mind. These are all things that are made available to us in this life that we throw away for today instead of living for an amazing tomorrow. Don't do that. Don't throw away your amazing tomorrow for an average today. That brings us to our passage to today from our lectionary that Hannah read this morning, one of my all-time favorite passages. If you have your Bibles, you can open with me, otherwise look to the screen. It's in Genesis chapter 25, verse 24. It says "when the time came for her" so this is Rebekah. So you know Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, this is Rebekah, this is the 'her.' "To give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment." Can you imagine a baby looking that way? I have my camera out. "So they named him Esau. And then after this, his brother came out with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob." Now this name Jacob, by the way, it means heel grabber, literally. But it's an idiom in Hebrew for a liar; a trickster, a deceiver. This is Jacob. So first you got out the red man, and then you got out the deceiver; one after the other. And technically, Esau, although he was only born minutes earlier, is the elder and has received the birthright, which is the lion's share of all the estate of the family, of all the responsibility to be head of the tribe, head of the family, make the decisions, be the judge. That's a big responsibility. "And so Isaac was 60-years-old when Rebekah gave birth to them. The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country." Think stud but maybe not so smart, maybe arrogant. Think Gaston from Beauty and the Beast. "While Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents." Think gamer. Maybe student, maybe a guy that's probably indoors a lot, kind of pale maybe, or something like that. Okay so "Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau" because Esau was a hunter, "but Rebekah loved Jacob." So you've got a little favoritism going on. "Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, quick, let me have some of that red stew. I'm famished. This is also why he's called Edom. Jacob replied, first sell me your birthright." Now when this story was told in the ancient world, right here everybody would have cracked up laughing. First sell me your birthright. Give me a break. The birthright. That means the lion's share of the inheritance, as I said, all the authority. You know it was supposed to be Abraham, Isaac and Esau, but it wasn't. It changes this day. "Esau says, look I'm about to die! What good is a birthright to me?" At this point, the audience would have gasped - he's going to do that? He's going to sell his birthright? Here's something in the modern world with all of our luxuries, and all of our safety, and all of our food that we don't recognize anymore. If you lived in the Bronze Age during this time, you would have known something that most survivors know today. It's the rule of fours. You can go four minutes without air, you can go four days without water, and you can go roughly forty days without food. There is no way Esau has been gone for 40 days. A man of the open country, maybe a day, maybe three days, maybe four days, but no way. You know how long it takes to walk from where they are to Egypt? Three days. There's no way he's been gone for 40 days and is on the brink of death. Everybody reading this back then in the Bronze Age would have understood that, and they would have said he's just really hungry. And here he is, a man who's not really dying, a man who's just giving into his flesh, he says what good is a birthright to me. Jacob says swear it to me. So he swears an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. And here's the famous line "then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate it, drank, got up and left, and so Esau despised his birthright." That's what the Bible says. Esau despised his birthright. Everybody knows that he wasn't dying, he was just really, really hungry. We've all been really, really hungry before. But he wasn't starving. He was just really, really hungry. Here's what it says really.

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To say he despised his birthright is to say he despised his future! He despised his blessing! He despised his promise. He despised his vision. He despised all that he could have been, and not just for him but his children. And not just for his children, but his grandchildren. He despised it all because he was hungry and wanted a bowl of soup. And as ridiculous as that sounds, this is something that all of us do all the time. You have a birthright. You have a birthright. There's a goal that God has given you. There's a dream God's placed in your heart, but it comes with a price. There's a person you've called to become. There's a life that you've been called to live. You know in your heart, many of you, you maybe aren't there yet, you want to be there, you have the dream in your heart. Here's something I picked up from David Goggins that has been a nightmare to me. Imagine that I live this life, and I do okay. And I do the right thing, I go to church, I'm a good civil man, I'm propriety; I follow the rules. I get to heaven, and God says here's the life you could have lived, but this is the life you actually lived. What if I live an average life and I get to heaven, and God says okay you had an average life, it was fine, and you're going into heaven. And welcome, come on in to heaven. But by the way, before you go in through the pearly gates, here's the life you could have lived. Here's who you could have been! Here's what you could have achieved! Here's who you could have seen, the places you could have been, the things you could have accomplished, the difference you could have made on history. Not for ten years, but hundreds of years, long after you're gone. Here's the impact you could have made but you didn't. I don't want to hear that, do you? Now will God do that? I don't think so. But He'll know. And I think if I ask Him, He'll tell me. But most of us will be too afraid to ask. We'll already know in our heart. You already do know in your heart. Pour it on. Get serious. Claim the life you were called to have. Take it seriously. Its life and death. You've been given life, live it. Grab it. Become it. Paul says to us do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world. What is the pattern of this world? Its average. What is the pattern of this world? Its laziness. What is the pattern of this world? Its lack of faith. What is the pattern of this world? Its revenge and pettiness. Don't be conformed to the pattern of this world. Be transformed. How? By the renewing of your mind. Your life changes when you get a new mind. Your life changes when you think different thoughts. Your life changes when you understand that the way you think is a choice. Your life changes when you decide that your mind is something that can be trained if you give it a little bit of effort every day. I'm not asking for legalism. I'm not asking for you to beat yourself up. I'm saying this because I love you. The life you want comes when you become a bigger person. You want a bigger life? Become a bigger person. You can. You can. Here's something we should all say and all can understand today: whatever I want I need to become more to get it. That is the message today. Whatever I want, whatever I need, I need to become more to get it. And here's how you become more – you live a life with God. You commit your life to Him and His word. All of us today are being sold to by politicians, by the marketplace, by everyone and everything to blame, blame, blame. We will pay money in order to feel good about the fact that our life is average, even though in our heart we know we were called to more. We want to blame our toxic relatives. Don't blame your toxic relatives. Don't blame a system. Don't blame your country. Don't blame the seed. Don't blame the soil. Don't blame your spouse. Don't blame your kids. Don't blame your parents. Take a look in the mirror. There's only one thing you can control and that is yourself. You say I can't control myself. Well, there are things you can do, my friend. Many of us, we don't understand the cost of the time we waste. You've heard me say this before, but maybe I ask you say.. or ask me, how much does your iPhone cost? He says well I got the newest, best one and it's brand new. It was \$1600. And I say that sound expensive, but it's costing you a lot more than \$1600. If you're on that phone two or three hours a day on Instagram or on YouTube or whatever, and it's fine doing a little bit of that, but if you're doing it all day in all your free time, here's what that phone is costing you. It's costing you an amazing future. It's costing you \$1600 plus the hours wasted, plus the attention wasted, plus the time you didn't give to the people who needed you. Here's what it cost you – it cost you a novel that you were supposed to write. It cost you the dream that God gave you. It cost you the walk you didn't take, the gym you didn't go to, the call you didn't make or receive, the family you neglected, this is what these expensive things in our life cost us when we devote our lives to oblivion; to fast forwarding our lives; to skipping. Don't do it, my friend. There's so much made available to you today if you can get ahold of the dream God has for you and stop checking out. Check in. Get serious about your life. Here's the key to the life that you want. Its personal change. Its personal change here. I know all of us were dealt a hand. Every single person in this room was dealt a hand, right? Some of us got a better hand than others. We all understand that. Some of us came from better families. Some of us didn't have the same trials. Some of us were born healthier than others, or given this or that, or this kind of advantage.

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It is absolutely true, but most of the people in this room were given one of the best hands of all time, and you know what that is? Being born in America. I'm just going to say it plainly. I mean it may not be this way forever, but nobody is coming into your house holding a gun to your head saying don't read your Bible. Nobody! There's a lot of talk, of course, and income about the top one percent, but it's the one percent in America, one percent in America. Do you know what the one percent globally is for income? If you took one percent, if you took a whole world, all people in the world, like we all agree, right, Afghani's matter to God as much as Americans, right? Somali's matter as much to God as Americans, right? Everybody matters to God. God loves everyone. We all believe that, right? Just raise your hand if you just believe everybody is important to God. Okay I believe that, too. Okay, now we're going to say it. The top one percent of income in the world is \$32,000 a year. That's \$15 an hour. Or as we say in California, minimum wage. And you say I'm not the top one percent. And the answer is if you live in California, you probably are. Look, I'm not trying to judge you, I'm just simply trying to say that here's something we all do. We compare up. We don't compare down. We compare up, we don't compare down. And that causes us to sometimes be full of bitterness, of envy, of blame. Let's get rid of all of those things. Those are not from God. Here's what we want in life – we want a new dream that there is no limit to what we can accomplish in God's kingdom. It's all about training. It's all about training. And can I tell you something? If you believe in training yourself to become the kind of person you were called to be, your life will get better and you'll have a big advantage over everybody else. Because training stinks. Until it doesn't. Anybody who's played sports, anybody who's been trained for a job knows that the training part stinks, until you get good. Then the training gets kind of fun. So you got to get through that first few months of training. You got to get through that first difficult thing in your marriage, in your job, in your family, in your walk with God. You got to get through the part that kind of hurts; that kind of aches; that kind of makes you not want to keep going. It's all about the consistency. And if you keep training yourself, you will acquire the life God has called for you because you will become a bigger person. Two lumberjacks are in the woods. Old proverb. They're chopping together, and every day, these two guys about the same size, about the same strength, paid the same amount, they're both chopping wood. He takes the axe, he puts it over his shoulder. He goes, disappears for an hour. Comes back. At the end of the day, the guy who takes an hour break has 50% more wood than the other guy. Finally, he gets so fed up, he looks to the guy that leaves every day. He says you leave for an hour every single day. You go and take a break, and yet at the end of the day, you have 50% more wood than I do. How is that possible? And he says well, for an hour every day, I leave, I go and I sharpen my axe. That's why. That's why. So it's not just about working hard, it's about training. It's not about trying harder, it's about taking that one hour at least every day to train your mind, to train your body, to train your life, to learn the things, to read the books, to listen to the podcast, to do what it takes to become all you're called to be. Think of your life as a magnet. Think of your life as a magnet that pulls things to it based on who you're becoming. Here's the wrong question to ask if you're single and you want to get married – how do I get married? How do I find the woman of my dreams or the man of my dreams? That's the wrong question. Here's the right question – how do I become the kind of person everybody wants to marry. That's a good question. That will get you hitched. Here's the wrong question – how do I get a dream job? How do I get that dream job I've always wanted. That's the wrong question. Here's the right question – how do I become the dream employee. How do I become the kind of person that I have multiple employers from multiple dream jobs knocking on my door. How do I become that person? The answer is sharpen your axe. How do I get a world changing ministry. That's the wrong question. Don't ask how do I get a world changing ministry. Here's the right question – how do I become a world changing person. You see? That's it. Jesus is all about 12 disciples. Twelve. If I can get 12 guys to change their lives, I can change the world. We all love big churches, but God cares way more about big Christians than He does about big churches. That's what the Lord needs today is big Christians. He just needs 12. That's all He needs. Just have 12 big Christians. That's all He needs. Sharpen your axe. Become like the 12. Give it all you've got. Take a hard look in the mirror. Don't blame your toxic relatives anymore. Don't blame your country. Don't blame this or that or anyone else. Look in a mirror. That's where the work can be done. That's where the change can happen. That's where the difference can be made. That's where you can become and have and do all that you were called to do. That's where it happens. Jesus says in Luke "the kingdom of God is within you." It's within you. Here's a goal I write every single day that's like this. I write down my goals every day. Believe that, like a captain, I should know where my ship is going. You ask any captain of a ship, what's your port of call, they will tell you without even thinking about it, where they're going.

## Don't Throw Away an Amazing Tomorrow for an Average Today

We should all have this kind of a way of thinking about our lives. We can change our port of call; we can change our direction. We should know, so I write it every day. Here's the first thing I write: I want to become the world's greatest husband and father. That's the first thing I write. Now notice the key word here is 'I want to become.' I understand every single day that I am not the world's greatest father and husband yet, though I'm getting there. I got a card once that said that from my daughter: world's greatest father. But the other day I was walking with my daughter around, I saw another guy who had a hat that said the same thing, and I stopped him and I said 'there can only be one.' There can only be one. We write I want to become the world's greatest husband because here's where the onus is – I don't say I'm a bad husband because I got a bad wife. I don't say I'm a bad dad because I got bad kids. Right? We don't say those things. What we say is.. first of all, I don't have those things, but first we say is here's how I have a great marriage – I become a great husband. Here's how I would have a great family – I become a great dad. Better tomorrow than I was today. And your life, your marriage, everything gets better. When you fix things into one little area, they get better in every other area, too. The better your family gets, it'll have a positive impact on your job, on your church, and even on your country. Actually, the biggest reason our country is having problems is because we've forgotten the simple fact – it all starts right here. When this changes, everything changes. So you have a dream, you have a future, you have a thing you feel like God's called you to, here's the number one skill you can develop in your life, according to the scripture. Here's the number one thing you can do to completely turn your life around. Here's the number one thing you can do to open your life to answered prayers and to miracles and to abundance: learn to love people. That's not the answer you thought I was going to give, is it. Jesus tells us in John chapter 15 – if you abide in me, and if you obey my commands, ask the Father anything you want and He'll give it to you. And here's my command – love one another the way I've loved you. Did you catch that? Listen to what He says. If you obey what I tell you right now, ask the Father for anything, and He'll give it to you. Here's what I'm telling you to do - love one another. That's not it. The way I loved you. You say oh I love people. Well, do you love people the way Jesus loves you? Let me ask you – do you love your boss the way Jesus loves you? Do you love your colleagues the way Jesus loves you? Do you love your spouse? Do you love your enemies the way Jesus loves you? Do you love your political competitors and rivals the way Jesus loves you? Do you love annoying people the way Jesus loves you? And you say well.. maybe not on Wednesday's. Wednesdays are hard. Look, my friend, it's a skill. We don't love people by trying harder. Love happens by having a brand-new heart and a brand-new heart happens through the baptism of the spirit. A brand-new heart comes from training. A brand-new heart comes from being a disciple. So to love people is a skill. It's something you can study. Literally, it's something you can google. It's something you can improve at. Can I just tell you that this is true in every aspect of life? A leader who loves their team can ask their team anything and they'll do it for them. Isn't that the truth? It's true in the military, isn't it. A company who loves their customers and asks them to leave a thing on Yelp or whatever, their customers will do it. Citizens who love their countries, teachers who love their students. Teachers who love their students can ask most of their students, most, and they'll do it. When we learn to love people, we open up our world to abundance. It's just how it is. I'll just finish with this. I was at a church recently and the pastor said I'll finish with this about 15 times. Here's one thing you can know about me. I only say I will finish with this once. I'll be done in three minutes and 22 seconds. Here's something you can do every single day that will get you one step closer to the above average life, the amazing life God's called you to. Jesus gives us a formula. Here's something you can do every day. So say this to yourself: ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be open to you. If you memorize that passage, your life will change if you just do what it says. Number one – ask. Ask! You have not because you ask not. Haven't wanted this gift from – I can't say out loud what it is but from a colleague of mine that was worth thousands of dollars. And she went and she said 'pastor, the Bible says I have not because you ask not. I'm asking you for this. And he gave it to her! Why? Because she had hutzpah, they say in Yiddish. She had the gall to ask. Have you asked? Have you asked your husband? Have you asked your wife? Have you asked your boss? Have you asked your neighbor? And most importantly, have you asked God? Amazing how often we want something or need something in life, and we never pray about it! We never just say it out loud and say God I want this thing. God, I need this thing. Here's what prayer does – prayer forces you to say your goals and say your worries out loud. Here's what prayer does – it confirms to God that at least just a little part of you still believes in Him. If you're not asking God, you probably don't really believe that much that He's really going to make a difference in your life. Ask Him. But don't just ask. Ask and then what?

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Ask and you shall receive, and then sit around and it'll come to you. Think about it a lot and it'll arrive. No! Ask and it'll be given to you, seek and you will find. Here's a question for you: how much time do you commit every day looking for opportunity? How much time? So you've asked God for something, go look for it. You've asked God for something, go searching for it. Go find the signs. Go find the knowledge. Go find the data. Go find the person. Go find the door. Go find what you're looking for. Spend a little time every day looking for what you prayed for. Most of us, if we pray, we stop seeking. We're just like okay, God's unfaithful. I asked, but nothing happened. You got to ask, ask and it'll be given to you, seek and you will find, then what? Then what? Knock! Knock! Do something! Take action. You asked for a door, you went looking for a door, you discovered the door, and you walked away. You went looking for a door, you found the door, but you didn't knock. Knock. Knock on the door. Dot, dot, dot. You go well, I knocked on the door and nobody answered. You know what Jesus says? When you knock, and nobody answers, keep knocking. Even if you're knocking on the door of an evil person, just because they want to go back to bed, they'll get up and they'll answer the door. That's what He says. He says you knock at three in the morning. If you go to the unjust judge, he'll give you what you want. Knock. If you knock on enough doors, eventually one will open, my friend. So this is what you do. Ask, I'm going to ask the Lord. Seek, go looking for it. Knock, and the door will be opened. Do not throw away your amazing tomorrow for an average today. So Father, we thank you, we love you, we're grateful that you've gathered us together today, that all people are loved and treasured by you. All people have been given a vision. Most people will neglect it. But not us, Lord. Today we ask, today we seek, today we knock, in Jesus' name, amen.

### Benediction – Bobby Schuller

And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you His peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.