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GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Bobby & Hannah

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning.

HS: And happy Advent season, friends. We love celebrating the season in which the way and the truth and the life, Jesus, was born unto us. Thank you for being here. You are so loved.

BS: Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, thank you so much as we begin this Advent season, a time of hope and preparation, where we're coming into your house to prepare our hearts, our minds and everything for all that you're about to do, which is good. We thank you, God. We love you, and we worship the name of Jesus. It's in His name we pray, all God's people said, amen.

HS: Amen.

HAVEN: Turn to the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

SCRIPTURE – Isaiah 11,1-10 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Isaiah 11:1. A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from its roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord - and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. Amen. Thank you, Lord.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (HOPE) – HOP Worship Team

DIANE: On this first Sunday of Advent we remember that "God has made known among you the glorious riches of the mystery which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

NATALIE: Each Sunday during Advent, we join with people across the world to light a candle signifying God's promise to us. Today, we light the candle of Hope.

RORY: God's promised salvation is a great mystery, but Jesus opens up the mystery as He gives His life for us all. As we place our faith and our trust in Him and stand against the powers of evil, God's love has made known and hope comes alive.

FERNANDO: So let us join together in unison and let's pray this prayer: Faithful God, out of the despair and chaos of our world you have made known the hope of glory in your Son Jesus Christ. As this candle glimmers, may your light shine through our lives, a witness to your promise. Through the light of the world, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen. JH: Yes, well as a pastor, as a Christian, as a human being, I think a diagnosis like that is devastating. You ask the questions like why me, and you're tempted to walk away from your faith. But for me, I was in a Dunkin Donuts parking lot, and I got really honest with God, and I asked Him, what are you doing? Because it made no sense. I was so confused.

If the Roots are Deep, the Shoot Will Grow

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Well whoever you are, let's stand together. We're going to pray this prayer together. Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving. 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: If the Roots are Deep, the Shoot Will Grow

I want to begin with a story that was published some time ago in Psychology Today, fascinating case study. Young man in high school does incredibly well. He gets straight A's, becomes a National Merit Scholar, has a number of scholastic achievements, and is accepted into a very prestigious elite university, very excited.

But part of that journey, he takes his SAT test, and he gets the results back, and as he's going through and reading through his results, he finds an IQ score of 98. And as he's reading, he says huh, 98. Now 98 isn't terrible, it's slightly below average. Average is naturally 100, but a typical college student at elite university is going to have an IQ of 115 to 120. So immediately he's concerned about this.

And as he begins at this elite university, begins to take courses. He doesn't do very well. He starts to get C's and D's and mixed responses from his professors. He's really struggling. Finally flunks one of his classes, and the dean of that school then brings him in for a discussion.

They sit down to talk and the guy says 'I do not understand, young man. You did so well in high school. You have all of these achievements. Everything says that you should be doing well now as a freshman. What's going on?'

And he said, 'I just don't know what to tell you. I just don't think I'm made for this school. I found out on my SAT score that I have an IQ of 98, and I think all of these other students just are a lot better than I am. I don't have the hardware to make it here.'

And so the dean says, 'huh, that's funny. Never heard of an IQ score on an SAT score.' Pulls it out, starts to look through it and says 'young man, this is not your IQ score, this is your score percentile. You scored a 98 percentile on the SAT, meaning that you did better on your SAT score than 98 percent of the other students. You're in the top two percent scoring of all students.'

And see what happened was this guy brought this false idea into school with him, and began to naturally make excuses when things got tough. Began to see only the worst in himself that he didn't have the hardware to achieve what he set out to do, you see. And this is a great case study because it showed immediately after that, that all of a sudden, this guy, wouldn't you guess, started making straight A's.

Isn't it incredible when we get a wrong idea up here, how it affects everything else in our lives: our achievement, our relationships, our attitudes, the way we treat people. So much is beginning with a false, negative idea that's up here that oftentimes is not rooted in anything that's useful or helpful.

Here's the irony – he had everything he needed, he was just confused. Wow. He allowed a false number, a number in his life to direct his life in a negative direction. Now this is not uncommon. People like numbers. We look at numbers all the time. Any sports fans in the house? I think baseball is just a thing about keeping numbers on a scorecard. I don't know. And many of us, we have negative numbers negatively affecting our lives.

Here are some numbers, whether positive or negative, here are some numbers that may be messing up your life. Here's the first one: age. Let's start with that one. Age is a.. it's a number. It's a number. John, young man, 12-years-old, John, walking around Israel, says to himself 'someday when I'm old enough, I'll be able to make an impact for God.' 'Someday when I've got enough experience and learned enough about the Torah, I'll be able to make a difference for God.' Jesus comes along and He says 'twelve-year-old John, come and follow me. Be my disciple.' The older person says 'well of course John is called by God. He's got his whole life ahead of him, right? He's got all that energy. Youth is wasted on the young.' Right?

Moses. Moses was 80-years-old when God called him at the burning bush. Every movie I've ever seen, they make him look like he's like 30. He was 80. And by the way, 80 in the Bronze Age is like a million today. The average age in the Bronze Age was like 40. I mean you get a bad cut and it's over. You drink the wrong thing of water, get dysentery, it's over, right? So he's 80. He's already like the oldest man anybody's ever heard of in town. You get it? At 80. That's when it starts. And don't forget how rough Moses' story was. At the age of 40, he was a prince of Egypt. Right?

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He was receiving a prince's income, he was receiving prince's food, a prince's education, a prince's esteem, a prince's clothing, right? And one bad mistake, he loses everything and now, for 40 years, he's been in exile. He thinks he's in the twilight of his life, but he hasn't even gotten started at 80. He'll be 120 when they reach the Promised Land.

And of course the young man says 'well of course God would choose Moses. Look at all that experience. Look at all that lifetime of experience. When I'm 80, God will call me.' You see? So age is a number that for many of us is messing up our lives.

Here's another number that might be messing up your life: the amount of money in your bank account. Here's another number that might be messing you up: the grades you got in school 20 years ago. I still have guys that tell me, 'Bobby, I couldn't do something like that. I didn't do very well in school.' Notice how they disqualify themselves based on how they did on a test 20 years ago, 30 years ago, 50 years ago.

How well did Einstein do in grade school? The answer – not very well. Why? Because it was too boring for a genius. Maybe you're a genius. My daughter is going to try and use that one on me, I'm sure. Here's another number that might be negatively, or messing up your life: negative numbers from the doctor. I can't tell you how many times people have heard a number from the doctor and immediately they go downhill, because of what's up here. And I can't tell you how many other people have gotten negative numbers from the doctor - they resist it, they make the changes, they make the improvement, life gets better.

Here's another number that might be messing up your life: focusing on things like interest rates, or tax percentages, or the votes that your candidate got or didn't get. All things you cannot control. Imagine, I told a friend, imagine that the early church, Peter goes to Paul and says, Paul, and he's pulling his hair out. I can't believe it! We didn't get our Caesar! What's God going to do now? We didn't get the right Caesar in place. Right? The church was so much bigger than that. And I love my country, and we pray for our leaders, but at the end of the day, don't let any of these kinds of numbers mess up your life.

Here are some numbers to pay attention to. Here are some numbers that you should pay attention to, numbers that matter. The time you spend in real prayer. The time you spend studying. Here's a number to measure: the minutes, the hours, the days, the years, the decades. Here's a number that matters: how many books are you reading, and have you read? The amount of articles. The amount of hours in the classes that will give you the skills you need.

I heard a story yesterday from Hannah, great story. Man wanted to give his daughter a leftover car, but didn't want to just give it to her. He wanted her to earn it, but he also needed someone to run grocery runs; run errands and things. So he sets up for her a library of one hundred books on life and says you read these hundred books, you get the car. That's how many books it needs, how many books it takes to find out that knowledge is more important than a car. And she did it, of course. Here's another number that really matters: acts of love, acts of service, people you listened to when you were in a hurry and prayed for when you had somewhere else to be. Here's a number that matters: how many goals do you have? Three is a good number, but you can have four if you're a little more, like try hard; trying hard, going for it. And the numbers that you have on those goals are important.

In other words, the numbers that matter in your life are the numbers that change you. There are numbers that change you, and these numbers are the numbers that people cannot see, and that's what makes them a challenge to do. Nobody would run a marathon if they couldn't tell somebody. Okay, I think that's funny.

Here are the numbers that don't matter: the numbers that people can see. People can see your age, your bank account, your grades, the negative numbers from the doctor, the votes, these are numbers that everyone can see if you show it to them, if you brag about it, if you mention it, right? These are the numbers that don't matter. Here's the numbers that really matter – the numbers of things that people cannot see: what's happening in here. It's the roots. Building the root system is what makes the difference.

And that brings us to the text that Hannah read this morning, Isaiah chapter 11. If you've gone to church for a while, most Advent seasons you'll hear this passage. And it begins with this – there's this stump, a stump. What is a stump? A stump is something that used to be. It's a symbol of something that used to be there. There used to be a big beautiful tree, but not anymore. There used to be a young sapling that was growing, but not anymore. It used to have apples, but not anymore.

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It used to give shade, but not anymore. All that's left is a stump with a bunch of roots underground. That's what a stump is.

And maybe you feel this way. Maybe you feel like I used to, I used to be, God used to do great things in my life, I used to have adventure, I used to touch lives, I used to experience life, I used to make a difference, I used to wake up with excitement, I used to go to bed a little bit tired from all the great things I did. I used to, but not anymore. Something cut you down. Something came along with an ax, you weren't expecting it, or maybe it was tree rot, or maybe it was a storm, but whatever it was, whack, you came falling down, and all you see in the mirror is something that used to be, used to be, used to be. But that's not what God sees, and that's not what I see.

People see the branches, but God sees the roots, and my friend, the roots are still there. And out of that stump, Isaiah 11 says, it is the word of God a shoot will come. And this shoot will be better than the tree that was before because the root system is bigger and healthier. Isn't that an amazing image?

When you go to Jerusalem, there's this beautiful spot at the Mount of Olives called the Garden of Gethsemane. It's the place in the Bible where Jesus goes the night before He's going to be crucified to pray. And we get this image that He's praying under an olive tree. One of the amazing things is that there's a grove of trees there, and most of them are older than two thousand years old, which means one of those trees might be the Jesus tree! That's kind of cool, huh! I like to think maybe it was that one, maybe it was that one.

I used to, I'd get yelled at by monks and nuns all the time, but when the nuns weren't looking, I would reach up and pluck some olive branches and dip them in the Jordan River and give them away to my friends, because I thought it was a cool souvenir, and it costs zero.

So I am not a tree expert. I remembered the word and I forgot now. An arborist? I'm going to use that word again later in the sermon. Listen for it. I'm not an arborist and if this is wrong, email me later, but not right now because the metaphor is awesome.

I asked this guy, I said the average olive tree lives to be about 500 years old, which don't get me wrong, that's a long time, but how are these two thousand years old. Is this like some crazy miracle? And he said no, actually this is what's interesting about it. All of these trees you see here, and they were weird, they were kind of not like the olive trees you normally see, because they're ancient, they're big and fat trees, gnarly and burly. They look like the wicked trees from Snow White, do you remember those?

And he said what happens is every few centuries the tree dies and we think it's over, and it sort of cracks open like a nut. And he said but then all of a sudden, a new tree begins to grow from the center of it. If you go online, you can actually see pictures of this. A young tree inside an old tree. But guess what – it's the same tree from the same seed. And over the centuries, it dies but it doesn't die, it remakes itself because the root system is still good.

Isn't that what we do as people? Isn't that what the Lord does in us? There's a sort of death that happens, but there's a remaking of a new tree. And in that way, we endure for the ages and provide fruit and shade for those around us. See it's not the branches, it's the roots. It's the roots.

And by the way, this is a messianic text. It's a text about that the Messiah, that Christ Himself will come out of this stump, which is Israel. And what does the Bible say over and over inside of it, He's going to change the earth. He's going to touch the earth. He's going to transform the earth. He's going to help the earth. He's going to bring peace to the earth, and when Jesus teaches us, what does He say? He teaches us to pray. What is it as it is in heaven? On earth as it is in heaven. And we can, I know I went to seminary, I'll just tell you – we can swap that word "earth" for "Irvine." We can do that! We can say in Los Angeles, in Orange County, in San Diego as it is in heaven. We can go bigger. In America as it is in heaven. We can go smaller – on Alton Street. What street do you live on? Say it out loud. That was great. That's exactly what I was hoping for, like a million streets. That's good. On whatever street you live on as it is in heaven.

How about this one – can you say in your house as it is in heaven? In your car as it is in heaven? In your bed as it is in heaven. In your kitchen as it is in heaven. My mom is here right now, and I can tell you, we do not need to pray in Linda's kitchen as it is in heaven. It's already that way. Her food's that good.

My point is, God cares about your life, God cares about your problems, God cares about your children, God cares about your fears, God cares about your money, and He cares about all of these things more than you do, which is crazy to believe. If that's true, and that's what the Bible says, we don't need to worry about anything. We don't need to be afraid.

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And here's what we can do – you can put your absolute trust in God. This is step number one to the important change you need in your life today, by the way. Just begin in here. Just begin in here.

See God's not worried. God's not worried right now. If God were pacing around in the room, pulling His hair out, calling His mother, then I would be worried. Then it's time to be worried. But He's not. It's okay. And so what happens is when we put our absolute trust in God, we get this kind of peace, and ironically, it opens up our eyes and opens up our ears to see that the universe in God's world is full of opportunity, its full of health, its full of resources, its full of love, its full of all the things that you need. But when we're in a fear place, it boxes us out from the ideas, from the people, from the books, from the churches, from the experiences that invite all of those things into our lives.

Open your ears, open your eyes, open your heart, open your feet, open your hands and your body and your life will begin to see solutions instead of problems. It'll begin to see possibilities instead of disappointments. God's solutions are miraculous opportunities. Now we want just the miracle, but He doesn't really do just miracles usually. He does it His way, not our way. He brings us opportunities that are miraculous, but we still have to take advantage. And if you're blind, you won't see them, and if you're unprepared, you won't be able to take advantage of them.

So goal number two for us is to be able to see and hear clearly, and number two, to be prepared. A miraculous opportunity means that you do something, too. And this is God's way – a partnership solution to everything we do. We're not children spiritually anymore, we're adults. Children have their diapers changed, but adults use the restroom, right? Children are spoon fed, but adults cook their own food. Children have a hand held as they cross the street, but adults look both ways. And God is providing opportunities for you to have adult-sized results to your risk, to your prayer, to your moment, to your miracle and to your experience.

When the disciples say to Jesus, we don't have any food and we got all of these people, He does not manifest fish and bread. Rather, He takes the offering, the fish and bread that were brought to Him, and He multiplies it. When a lame man was found at the pool of Bethesda and asked the Lord to heal him, God doesn't just heal him, Jesus doesn't just heal him, He tells him to take up his mat and walk; to defy the Pharisees.

When the blind man asked for healing from Jesus, He doesn't just heal him, He makes some mud, which is the exact opposite forbidden thing to do on the Sabbath, He does it anyway, puts it on the man's eyes, and the man has to participate in this rebellious thing in order to receive his healing. He has to be brave.

And the widow of Zarephath is not given food, rather, she's given the opportunity to give away food; the opposite of what she thinks, to the prophet, and when she does that, she never runs out of bread or oil ever again.

See they're not given directly the thing they were asked for, they were given an opportunity to act in faith. They were not given the thing directly that they asked for, they were given an idea. They were given a thing to multiply. They were given a thing to grow. It's almost like we were put on this earth to abide and shamar God's kingdom to care for and guard it. And of course, we were.

So many of you here, you're watching, you say I just need to get married. I just got to get married. Finding a spouse is not your problem to your spouse problem. Here's the solution to your spouse problem – becoming someone that everybody wants to marry. Well how do I do that? There's books on that.

Money is not the solution to your money problem, believe it or not. There is an idea out there, and it's executing that idea that solves your money problem. It's adding value to the marketplace that solves your money problem. It's taking the kind of risks that God wants you to take that solves these problems. And the list goes on and on.

This is why the very weighty word none of us like to hear, this is why sin is a problem and why God makes a big deal out of it, and wants to remove it from our lives. It's because sin, and I don't mean like don't drink, don't chew, don't go with girls that do, I mean anger, hardness of heart, fear, resentment, un-forgiveness, pride, ego, these kind of mental attitudes, envy, right. This kind of thing, it gums up our eyes and our ears. We just can't see.. we're blind. We can see in the material, but we can't see spiritually. We can't think creatively. We can't solve problems, and worst of all, we can't work with talented people, because we box out our life to all of these great things.

It's like having dirt in your ears, dirt in your eyes, and dirt in your heart. Get rid of it. Christ can set you free today. Christ can remove the old tapes. Christ can wash you clean. Christ can give you fresh ears, fresh eyes, a fresh heart to endure. Christ can give it all, if you just receive. He's already offering it! Just receive it. Like a Christmas gift. He can wash it away, and He will. He loves you!

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And this is what the negative patterns or the negative thoughts do, they gum up our eyes and our ears. So this is what obsessiveness or about the world's approval; approval from your classmates, approval from your peers, approval from your family, some of you, approval from your church, approval from whatever, you're political party, your this, your that. Living that way is going to keep you from ever doing what you're called to do, even if you're doing ministry.

Gosh, I remember when we planted our church, I messed up. I didn't really mess up, I got in huge trouble, I should say, from other pastors and people. Already, we started church in a bar, which is like a rough start, but I also found out that.. and I had a degree in marketing and I was like we should market our church, and people were like you're not supposed to market a church, but I don't know why. It's not in the Bible, I didn't read that anywhere. Why can't I market a church? It's great.

And I found out you could get a thousand custom-printed matchbooks for \$20! And I thought this is great. So I had this whole ad about our church printed on matchbooks, because I loved matchbooks, I don't smoke, but I just think they're cool, and I went around and I handed them to bars and night clubs and stuff, and people were like what are you doing? Matchbooks, you're encouraging people to smoke. I'm like you put them on the toilet. That's what everybody does with a matchbook, right? You fling them, you start a fire when you're camping, you light a candle. It's not like.. come on.

Now here's what I should have gotten in trouble for is it didn't work. I don't think I had one person that came to church from my matchbooks, but nobody was upset about that. That's something to be upset about. I wasted \$20. But I didn't keep doing it.

Where was I? Oh yeah, world's approval. That's right. Don't look for the world's approval, especially if you're in ministry. Stupidest thing you can do. The smallest churches in America that have the least spirit are the ones that are trying to win over the world's approval rather than just win the world for Christ.

Okay. Somebody's here today and things aren't great and you're saying to yourself it'll always be this way. It's been this way for a long time for you. And you say it'll always be this way. Can I just make you a promise? This is a million dollar promise – it will not always be this way, even if you want it to be. Even if you want it to be, it won't. Because one of the weird things about the universe, God's world we live in, is everything is always changing all the time, and we can't predict it. So if things are bad, take some hope in that. Take some hope in that.

I remember this hotel, a beautiful hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma where I used to live, I would see it all the time, gorgeous hotel, immaculate condition, one day it goes for sale. And it starts to get a little rusty around the corners. I come back two years later, only two years, the whole thing, something happened, never sold I guess, overrun with plants and animals and broken into the windows, everything's broken. You realize that it takes an incredible amount of effort to keep something the same way it is, even for a couple years. Nature finds a way. And so let me tell you that it won't always be this way. It won't, even if you want it to be.

And let me just make you another promise – a change is coming. Everything is going to change, but for you, the change will be in your favor. Just receive that right now as a prophecy. As a promise from the Lord. The change will be in your favor. The change will be in your favor. But here's what I want you to do – I want you to commit that you will do your part to be a part of that change. The more you change, the more everything else changes. The more you improve, the more everything else improves.

Change is inevitable for you, but progress is not. Progress requires just a little bit of effort, but it requires a little bit of effort almost every day. A pattern, you see.

Finally, if the roots are deep, the shoot will grow. If the roots are deep, the shoot will grow. It will grow. It will grow. The hope is in the roots. A man says the hope is in the branches! The hope is in the fruit! The hope is in the flower! And what he's saying by this is he's saying the hope is what's in my bank account. The hope is in my youth. The hope is in the title. The hope is in the position. No! Danger! Danger! No.

Cut flowers are beautiful. I just bought my wife some flowers, because that's what a good husband does. I bought her flowers, they're on her counter, they look gorgeous right now. But guess what – they're dead. Right? They look good. Cut flowers are beautiful, but they're already dead. There are some tricks you can do. You can put them in flour, you can keep it cool in your house, you can keep them out of the sunlight, put a little like chlorine or something else, I think, you can put in there, a little flower power, lots of things. You might add a day or two. But they're already dead. They've got no roots.

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But a vineyard, we've got a vineyards here in California, many great wineries, and you go around these vineyards and after they've been pruned, they look dead. Some of them, they look like a little nub sticking out of the ground, like the earth is giving you a thumbs up. And that's all that's left.

Pruned vine has no fruit. A pruned rose bush – you ever seen one of those? Just as ugly as the vine. A pruned rose bush, no flowers. You ever see a pruned tree? Pruned tree, no leaves, no branches. Right? It looks horrible. It looks almost dead. Nub sticking out like a stump or a big thing in the middle. And the tree says how could this happen to me? How could this happen to me? Look at all the other beautiful trees. They're providing shade for their owners. They're providing fruit in their season and look at me. I don't even have a little bit of shade for a young man to come and sit under my branches. How could this happen to me? And, the arborist says it didn't happen to you, it happened for you. Hallelujah. Praise the Lord.

Just focus on the roots, and everything will take care of itself. Everything will take care of itself. Just the roots. You can't get the roots right. If the roots grow, God will take care of the rest. You want to grow more? So, first of all, we are the sum total of our experience in life that forms our thoughts, our patterns, our emotions, our fears, our losses, our victories, and all of these things make up you. We are the sum total of our thoughts, our experiences, and all this, right?

If you want to grow more, experience more. If you want to grow more, experience more. Experience the groups. Experience the friends. Experience the prayers. Experience the churches. Experience the sermons. Experience the lectures. Experience the prayer, the worship. Experience the books! Experience the failures so you can experience the success. Experience the pain so you can experience the victory. Experience the loss so you can experience the life. That's what it means to be in God's kingdom. The roots grow, you'll grow. Good is coming for you. Really good things are coming for you. Don't be afraid. Be at peace right now. Don't be afraid. Don't be afraid. The best is yet to come. Have eyes to hear, eyes to see, ears to hear, a heart to go, and life will change for you. If you really want to change your life, the best thing you can do is be at peace with God. So many people have nice views of Christianity. So many people say oh, I believe in God. So many people say I'm spiritual, I'm just not religious. Let's quit that. Let's quit that. Today, make a decision to follow God. Make a decision to be at peace with Him. You don't have to know it all to know Him. Believe in the God who believes in you. Trust in Him and your life will change.

And the way to do that, the best way to do that is just right where you are, nobody even has to see it or even know about it, is to say Jesus Christ, come into my life. Forgive me of my sins. I trust that you were crucified for me. I want my home to be in heaven. I want your spirit to be in me. I want heaven to be in me. I want to live a life of power for you.

Won't you make that decision now? Please don't leave here without making that decision. And if you do, I want you to text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen, and things will really change for you. You and God will get through this together.

Father, we pray in Jesus' name for your Holy Spirit to come and do a good work. I pray for my church. I pray with the authority you've given me as a pastor. Every chain will break now. The opportunities will come, and they won't be blind to it, they will see. The message will be preached, and they will hear. The word will go forth and it will be planted in their hearts, and it will bear fruit, in Jesus' name. We will live according to what you said in Deuteronomy that we will be above and not beneath, the head and not the tail. Our baskets will be full. Our fruit will be in abundance. Believe it. I pray it in Jesus' name over everyone here, and Lord we love you, and we thank you, 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.