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Hour of Power 17.03.2024

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

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. Wow, welcome to Jerusalem. We started this amazing tour in Galilee and Capernaum, we made our way to Masada last week, and now we finally come to the final place of Jesus earthly ministry here in Jerusalem. You may not be able to tell, but we're in an incredible place, just across the way we came up through the Lion's Gate. You could have been at the Mount of Olives across the way there. And this way, just a little bit, there's the Temple Mount, but here is a very, very special place.

HS: Yes, shalom visitors and church family. Thank you for joining us at the pools of Bethesda. We are so happy to be here. We love you and God loves you.

HAVEN: Yes, now can you join me in prayer. Dear Lord, I pray that you will bless the audience today, and that you will give them peace and love, and that through this sermon said today, that you will just touch each and everyone's heart, and that you will communicate the message they need today, and that you will give them your peaceful presence. Amen.

HS: Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – John 5,1-9 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, John 5:1-9. "Sometime later Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. Now there in Jerusalem, near the Sheep Gate, a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda, and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie: the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for 38 years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he been in this condition for a long time, he asked 'do you want to get well?' 'Sir,' the invalid replied, 'I have no one to help me to the pool when the water is stirred. While I'm trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'get up, pick up your mat and walk.' At once the man was cured. He picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was the sabbath." And friends, and let me tell you it so, so special to be in the very place that Jesus healed someone. The pool of Bethesda right over here is where Jesus told the man get up and walk. And I've been watching people come and take pictures and they're in awe of what the Lord did here. And I am in awe with them. But you know where else I am in awe? I am also in awe at home when I see the Lord do these same things. And just not long ago I got to pray for a woman named Amy in our church and she had hip pain for 30 years. She had severe hip pain and had to walk with a cane. And we got to pray for her before the service, and after we prayed, we said act your faith, and she did and she checked out where her hip was and she goes 'oh, the pain is less. There's not as much pain there.' And then by the end of the sermon, she came up holding back tears, she had disassembled her cane into three pieces and were holding them, she goes 'the pain's all gone. The pain is all gone.' And she has been walking around just as perfectly as anyone. And it was so fun because last week she came and she showed me her MRI. She goes 'the doctors can't believe this. The MRI shows that I have a perfectly healthy hip.' And so Jesus, man, Jesus healed me of multiple autoimmune diseases, and we've seen many healed before our very eyes, sometimes instantly, sometimes gradually. And Hebrews 13:8 says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And I stand before you now as a living testimony that this is true. That Jesus, like He healed in the Bible times, still heals today. And I want to pray for anyone who needs healing right now. At this moment, dare to believe God's words to you that say He took up our infirmities, He bore our diseases, and by His stripes you are healed. Jesus paid it for you. So let's pray. Would you pray with me? Jesus, thank you for paying for our sin and sickness at the cross. Wow.

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Lord, I ask you to forgive us for our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness right now. We believe you when you say you are faithful to forgive us when we confess them. Now Jesus, we also ask you to heal us just like you've saved us. I command every spirit of disease and pain to leave the person who is praying with me right now in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Spirit of disease and pain, go now by the blood of the Lamb. Thank you, Jesus. Thank you you are healing right now. We love you, Lord. We are in awe of you, in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Now, my friend, would you act your faith just like the crippled man did when Jesus said get up, pick up your mat and walk, and the crippled man did. So would you act your faith right now by doing what you could not do before we prayed. If you had severe pain in the part of your body, just move it around and see where it's at right now. If you couldn't walk, get up and walk now and keep moving until you have full motion in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Jesus.

Now if you experienced an instant healing right now, we'd love to hear your story. If you didn't experience instant healing, know that healing is still for you. It took myself a little over a year of speaking God's words before my full healing was manifested. And Jesus, it says in the Bible, He has no respecter of people. If He did it for me, He will do it for you, my friend. Keep seeking Him with all your heart. You are incredibly loved by Him. And we love you, too.

INTERVIEW – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Ron Winter (RW)

BS: Well Ronny, here we are in the pools of Bethesda. The Lion's Gate is just over there, the Temple Mount is back that way, maybe five hundred feet or so, and what is this place?

RW: Well this is an amazing place. This is the pool of Bethesda, in Hebrew, in the House of Grace, and this is the pools that we know from the Bible, that eventually I can say we can identify them with no doubt because they were dug by the French group that came here around 1860's and we know for sure where Bethesda, the same Bethesda that we love to show to the tourists because this is it. We don't have to say this is maybe a traditional, this is it. The pools themselves are big pools that stretch from here all the way to the street and from here all the way to the trees behind you. Most likely during the time of Christ if I live in the Galilee, I'm not going to take my little goat all the way from a little village in the Galilee, say come on goatee, let's go. And I'm going to carry the goat for about ten days walk all the way to the city of Jerusalem because if on the way the goat is going to get a little scratch, it's not kosher.

BS: It's no good, yes.

RW: I cannot sacrifice. So me as a small village in the Galilee, I prefer to sell my goat, take the money, and buy a goat or a sheep that came most likely from the area of Bethlehem, they cleanse it here, they took it to the back of the temple and over there I can purchase it and bring it to the temple when I come to pray during the feast.

BS: So this was a place where they actually washed (I didn't know that) they washed the sheep and different animals that we use for sacrifice. So why was it also used as a pool, then. Was it actually like a swimming pool?

RW: A reservoir used to.. a Jerusalem for many years had a lot of issue with water. If there's a drought, there's no water, and so every time when there's a little spring that you can pull it to a reservoir, you're going to do it, and this was the main reservoir in this part of the city. Later on Herod is going to go to Bethlehem, he is going to catch two springs, and he's going to bring them with a water aqueduct to the city of Jerusalem, and this is going to solve the whole issue of water in Jerusalem. But this was before Herod, even, and of course those are two pools that are going to be reservoirs. And there was a tradition that if you sit by the pool and there's a movement in the water, and I know you're going to talk about it in a few minutes.

BS: But it's a good question, actually, because when I had read different scholars, it seems like nobody agrees on John 5. Some people say it was a mikvah. That the reason the water was moving is because in a mikvah you have to have living water from a river or a stream, and that's why sometimes the water would come in, it would stir the water. Other people say it was Asclepeion, the pagan site of healing. And it seems like people disagree on what was actually happening in John 5. What do you think was happening?

RW: Well I can look at it as a mikvah because mikvah needs running water. If there's a little movement in the water, it doesn't mean running water. If we're going to look at the mikvah this size, I'll go most likely to the other pools, okay? That are going to be in the city of David, okay. But this is going to be most likely for cleansing the animals. The tradition that people were sitting here and the first one who jumps into the water when there's a movement in the water, was already at that time.

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BS: Probably superstition, right?

RW: Superstition, no doubt. The city itself is a Jewish city, but we are out of the city walls. So people can do whatever they want. It's not within the city wall but everything is so holy and people protect their faith.

BS: In the Bible, too, this is some redaction, but we know like in John chapter 5, verse 4 says "when an angel stirred the water," but scholars know that the earliest versions of the Bible don't have that. So you'll see it in parenthesis, a lot of times it'll say this part was probably added later by some Catholic guy or something. So we don't really know if they believed there was an angel or whatever. So it probably was just a superstition, and the guy had been sitting there 38 years, and it's an interesting story. So then the famous Rabbi, Jesus, comes and He heals him. What is significant about this story that really stands out to you?

RW: Well, if I'm looking at it from the Jewish point of view, the Rabbi is coming on Shabbat. He's approaching the man. He tells him three things to do: to stand up, take your mat and walk. He can't do any of these. And eventually what is interesting is maybe the dialogue between the Pharisees and Jesus after the miracle took place. And this is very Jewish. In Hebrew, there's a word call it {SPEAKS HEBREW}, which means let's talk about it. And we always say that every two rabbis have three opinions. It's very funny because everybody has his own opinions, which you think he's the only one who is right, and many times those little disputes between the rabbis have to be decided by a Rabbi who will say, hey, enough, we don't do it like that. But the dispute between the Rabbi is classical, what Jesus is doing. He's a knowledgeable rabbi. He knows His way around. And when the Pharisees tell them listen you're not allowed to do it, this is not the way, He comes and says but I say, and here comes the authority, and this is classical {SPEAKS HEBREW} if you look at it from the Jewish point of view.

BS: What an amazing thing to be right here where the man who was lame was healed by Jesus, picked up his mat and walked, and what a testimony it is to the power of God to help us when we're in a desperate situation. Thank you, Ronny. Appreciate you.

RW: Thank you so much. Thank you. Bye now.

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 – "Holy Land – Jerusalem: Do You Want to Get Well"

Well welcome to the beautiful pools of Bethesda. Lots of history here going, I think, all the way from the Greeks to Napoleon Bonaparte. All sorts of people have been here and claimed this property. You'll see there's a church behind me with a French flag over it. Beautiful church, full of people love to sing when they go in there; it has an echoing noise. But the thing that's most known about this place is the chapter from John chapter 5 where there's a man who's invalid and has been trying to get well for 38 years, trying to get in the water when its stirred and can't seem to find the opportunity to get in, and that's when the famous rabbi Jesus enters the picture and heals him. This is a great place to end this journey because even though we often talk about the crucifixion and the resurrection and those things happen in different places, the purpose of those things is to heal us. Not just to heal us from sickness but to heal us from our sin; to heal us from our brokenness. And so John chapter 5 really is a great model of the gospel, that we look to all these other things in life to heal us, but its only Christ that can heal us. It's when we come before God and we just receive His gift by faith that we're transformed. As we said in the interview, there's been a big debate about what was this place even. Some people say it was a mikvah. I think that's probably wrong, but it could have been. You have to have a spring of living water and we haven't really found that here, but maybe because that's the thing that makes the water move. Other people say it might have been an Asclepeion which is a pagan site, a pool of healing. It might have been all of those things at one time, at the different times that there was a pool here. What we do know is this: it wasn't the pool that healed the man, it was Jesus that healed the man. It wasn't the superstition, it wasn't some special water, it wasn't some special place. And that's a good reminder that even though you're not here with us in Jerusalem, that even though this is an amazing, special place, and even though God's presence is here, God's presence is with you right where you are in the same way that is here. And the thing that makes it real is faith, and trusting that God's word is true.

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That's why so many people have such a great experience when they come to Jerusalem is they're able to dig deep and find the faith. But you can find that wherever you are. If you're in LA, if you're in New York, if you're in Berlin. Wherever you are, if you're in Amsterdam, if you're in Sydney, you can reach down deep and experience the Holy Spirit in the same way. God wants to be with you. So people came here because they wanted something. They wanted to be well. Most of them were sick. And look at how huge this place is. Its massive. I wish you could see it. It's the size of like.. it feels like two football fields or something. It's a massive space. And so you think people came here, there was probably people all over, and they were just hoping for that one moment that the water would swirl and they could jump in and get well. So people came here because they wanted something. Most of the people that came to Jesus didn't want to get something like a message from Jesus or like learn some wisdom from Him. Most of them wanted something. They were hungry, they were sick, they were poor, they needed help, and so they came to the great Rabbi because they needed a miracle. Maybe today you need a miracle in your life. Maybe your life, you just feel like you're sick and you're never going to get well. Maybe you feel like you're lost. Well the good news is you can be found. Maybe you're brokenhearted. The good news is God can heal your heart. Maybe you feel betrayed. The good news is that God can help you trust again. Maybe you feel ashamed. God can heal you and cleanse you and give you a new beginning. Maybe you're broke. He can give you your daily bread and all you need to sustain your life. Maybe you're angry. You can be at peace again. And this is the good news of the gospel. In Hebrew, there's this word "shalom" which we say all the time. When you're here in Israel, you go around and say "shalom." It's a greeting. But we always think the word shalom means peace, but there's a deeper meaning to it, a tranquility of wholeness, of a good life, and this is what God offers us. He offers us the good life, the best way to live, and that's what we find in Christ. So maybe you want these things. You want to be well; you want to be whole; you want to have friends, you want your life to grow, you want to live the fullness of what you were born to be. But there is a price. The price that you have to pay is to turn your back on the thing that made you sick. Many of us, we want these things, we want a better life, but we're not willing to turn our back on the people, the substances, the places, the jobs that are keeping us stuck in a rut. And so maybe a message for you today is turn your back on the thing that's wrecking you. Turn your back on the thing that's making you sick, or on the things that have you stuck in a rut. So that brings us to John chapter 5. And this is an amazing story. I'll just read it again, even though Hannah did a great job. Starts with this – John chapter 5 verse 1. "Sometime later Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda, and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades." We couldn't find those, by the way, when we were looking, but we know this is the spot. And it says "here a great number of disabled people used to lie: the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been invalid for 38 years." Now think about that – 38 years he was sitting here. "When Jesus saw him lying there, and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, 'do you want to get well.'" These are words that haunt me because the man obviously wanted to get well, you'd think. He was at the pools of Bethesda to get well. But Jesus asks him the question anyway. He says do you want to get well. And as you think about that, Jesus probably knew something about this guy. Maybe he did want to get well, and maybe he didn't. So you say why wouldn't the guy want to get well? One reason might be that because he's got friends at this place. This is full of people. You don't sit in one place for 38 years with a bunch of people around and not make a few buddies. Maybe he thinks if I'm well, I'm not going to be able to hang out at the pool of Bethesda anymore with Joe and Jack and Bob and Ryan and all my friends. It's amazing how often people that we love, people that we care about can keep us unwell; can keep us stuck in a rut. I know a lot of you in the past have struggled with substance or alcohol. You can imagine a man who has been clean and sober or dry for a long time, he's on the wagon, and so he thinks about the bar. He doesn't think about the alcohol, he thinks about his friends that are there. He thinks about watching the game with them, or she thinks about going to the party. And it's being around other people that causes her or him to want to go back to the booze, even though they know it was destroying their life. I met a girl once who she became a Christian and she loved to smoke weed, and the main part of smoking weed was sitting around with her friends and smoking a bowl. And she just told me that. She's like the thing I miss most about weed is not the weed, its sitting around in a circle with my friends. But she said you know what, I know that God wants me to give this up, wants me to have a better life, and so I realized that I have to make different friends if I want to live without weed.

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So isn't that a weird thing? So maybe that was one of the reasons why the guy maybe didn't totally want to get well. He didn't want to lose his friends. The second reason the man at the pool of Bethesda might not have wanted to get well is, to be honest, this was a nice place. I mean look at it. I mean it doesn't look super nice now, it's been a little run down, but back then, wow, it would have been beautiful; the marble and the water and colonnades and coverings and this was nice stuff. If he had been here for 38 years, he probably didn't have a home, probably didn't have a place to go, but here if you're by the pool, it's a safe place. And very often we don't get where we want to go in life, we don't make progress in life ironically because we're too safe. Maybe you know a 30-something-year-old guy who wants to have a great job, wants to have a family, wants to get married, but he's living in his parents' basement. Or maybe you know somebody who they want to start a business; they know they can launch and get out there and pursue their dreams, but they're at a really safe job, and so they love the safety of the job, but they hate the job itself because maybe it pays too good, or they don't want to give up a salary. And so sometimes the nice place, the safety of it all, keeps us from becoming who we're really called to be. The last thing I think of when I think well why would the guy not want to get well, is the handouts. If this place is full of sick people and religious people come here, they're going to probably give them food and bread. If he's been sitting here for 38 years, he probably doesn't really know how to work, doesn't know how to make money, doesn't know how to earn his way. And I've known that. I've known people.. maybe you're out there right now and you're getting disability pay, but you're actually fine. You used to be injured; you got injured at your work, and now you know if you go back to the workplace, you're going to lose your disability payments. Or maybe there's somebody out there, maybe you have a trust and you're a part of a toxic family, and you want to break free from your family, but you know if you do that, you're not going to get your trust payments anymore. There are a million and one reasons why things like friends, things like safety, and things like handouts, even when we think we think they're good for us, are actually keeping us sick. They're actually keeping us stuck in a rut, and they're keeping us from growing and becoming who we're called to be. And I think this is what happens to a man. When you think if a guy sits in one place for 38 years, maybe the first few months he was trying, but after a while, you kind of wonder if he's just given up. And that brings us to verse seven. Jesus asks him 'do you want to get well' and in verse seven he says, "sir," the invalid replied, 'I have no one to help me into the pool. And when the water is stirred and while I'm trying to get in, someone else goes ahead of me.'" Notice how he doesn't just say yes! I want to get well! You'd think if Jesus, this famous Rabbi said do you want to get well, he'd be like yes! Heal me! He doesn't say that. He gives a bunch of excuses and reasons why he couldn't get in the water. And it's funny, in life, every decision is a thousand renunciations. Every decision you make for God, for your family, for your life, for personal growth, for who you want to be, every time you make one of those decisions, you're rejecting other things in your life. Every one "yes" in your life is a thousand no's. And that's why it's hard sometimes to turn your back on the thing that's making you sick. Had a really good friend who was great snowboarder. Got in a terrible snowboarding accident, broke his back, had a couple of surgeries to try and fix it. It got worse and he was on these pain pills to get better over time, and he just was stuck on pain pills forever. And finally, one day there was a procedure that came out that healed his back and he was fine. He was walking normal, he had no more back pain, but he couldn't give up the pills. It was four years he went taking those pills and he knew they were wrecking his life. And he turned to Christ and he cried out to God, he said Lord, I don't need these pills anymore, but I want them. Every day I feel like I need them. And God gave him freedom. But it's amazing how sometimes there's an excuse, like a sickness or a thing in your life that you use because the deeper thing is he really wanted the pills. You might know a story of a girl who has a boyfriend and they've been dating for years; four years, five years, and she wants to meet a really good guy, and this guys like okay, but he's not great, but she's worried if she breaks up with this guy, she's going to be alone the rest of her life. She's never going to get married. She's never going to meet somebody. Maybe it's the other way. Maybe it's a guy that's with some toxic girl. But then someone comes along and says the right guy or the right girl out there is waiting for you to break up with the wrong person. So often it's a scary thing to cut those friendships. Do you want to get well? You have to turn your back on the thing that's making you sick. Do you want to get better? You have to turn your back on the thing that's making you average. Do you want to grow? You have to turn your back on the thing that's making you comfortable. If you want to get an awesome church, you have to get up in the morning and go to church. If you want your family to get better, you probably have to turn your back on some of the rounds of golf, or some of the times with your friends, or the time you're spending at work.

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If you want to turn your back on addiction, if you want to get rid of addiction in your life, you're going to have to reach out for help. And this is the hard thing about life, is that we just don't feel like it. We want to get better, but when push comes to shove, we just don't feel like it. Jesus tells a parable and it goes like this. He says there's this amazing wedding, amazing wedding that's being thrown by a king. Of course, in those days, I mean a wedding's awesome, right? You're going to get amazing food, you're going to get wine. If it's thrown by a king, you're going to get the best food and wine ever. It's going to be an amazing time. Dancing, singing, it's going to be a great celebration. And so the king sends out these invitations to his special guests, and the first guest says well, I can't go to the king's wedding because I just bought some land and I have to go look at it. Well, this is classic rabbinic humor. Nobody buys land and then goes and looks at it, right? And He says the next guy, he says oh I can't go to the king's wedding because I just bought five oxen and I have to go and try them out. Well, nobody would buy five oxen and then go try them out. That's ridiculous. Why would you do that? And then the third guy says I can't go because I've just gotten married. Well, I don't know about you, but I don't know any wife that if the king of England was getting married and invited her husband, he would say oh we can't go because my wife wouldn't want to go. It's a joke, right? Like everybody would want to go to a king's wedding. And the point is that this is how people are with what God offers us. He offers us this amazing experience, and we come up with these petty fake excuses because the truth is we just really don't feel like it. We just are complacent. We're just fine with being in the average rote, whatever, of life. But not you, my friend. Not anymore. Not anymore. It's time to make a change in your life. It's time for you to get a heart for the kind of person you can become, and not just for you, but for the people that need you. There are people in your life that need you, that love you, and one of the best reasons we can become the best version of ourselves, to get better, to get well, to beat the things that are dragging us down, to conquer our addictions, to grow as disciples of Jesus, is because that's what people need from us, and that's what the Lord needs from us. He needs committed disciples. So the man makes a bunch of excuses, but finally Jesus just gives him a choice. He gives him a moment and in verse 8 He says, "Then Jesus said to him 'get up. Pick up your mat and walk.'" Now he has a moment there, right? The man can't walk. So he has a decision there to try in faith to believe the word of God and just stand up, or to say no, I don't feel like it because I don't want to lose my friends, I don't want to lose my pool, I don't want to lose my handouts, and by the way, if it doesn't work, that's kind of embarrassing. He doesn't think about any of those things and congratulations to this guy, he just gets up and he walks. And, he picks up his mat and does it on the Sabbath, which is also a big deal. Because Jesus could have just said get up and walk, but He doesn't. He says get up and pick up your mat and walk. There was probably some bad religion, bad religiosity that was also keeping the man stuck. At the end of the day, it's not religiosity that heals us, it's not special pools that heal us, it's not special places, it's not anything like.. its God, and God is available right now through Jesus Christ to heal you through His Holy Spirit. To turn your life around. And it is just an amazing thing. This is what Jesus likes to do. He likes to call ordinary people to do extraordinary things. He doesn't ask us to go to seminary and to get everything right and to learn everything. He just asked us to trust Him and start acting out our faith. My friend, if you want to walk on water, you got to get out of the boat. If you want to see the loaves and fish multiply, you've got to start giving those loaves and fish away. If you want to walk today, you have to trust and stand up and pick up your mat and just do it, and not worry about all the other consequences or things you're going to lose. If God wants you to walk, you can walk. If you want to walk, you can walk. Today is the day to make a difference in your life. Stop waiting for all the right conditions to happen in your life. So often we are waiting for summer and not winter. We're waiting for all the winds to blow in the right way. We're waiting for all the conditions to be perfect. We're waiting for all the right people to come along, but the truth is, that's what the man was waiting for. He was waiting his whole life for the water to swirl and for him to be the closest and to get in. It's never going to happen if you're waiting for conditions to be right and perfect. It's just not going to happen. You have to decide that even if it's snowing, that even if its cold outside, that even if the economy's bad, that even if everything is going against you, you're just going to make a decision today to make a difference in your life So often we think my life will get better when my spouse gets better. My life will get better when my employer gets better. My life will get better when the economy is better. My life will get better when the party that I like is in power. My life will get better when interest rates are better. My life will get better when taxes are better. My friend, can I tell you, things only get better when you get better. You don't need any of those things to change for you to become better.

Holy Land – Jerusalem: Do You Want to Get Well

You can become smarter, wiser, you can go deeper in your walk with God, you can beat the things in your life if you're hand in hand with Christ. Things get better when you get better. Not when the water starts swirling and you get in. Things get better when you look to Christ and He transforms your life. It's interesting I had a friend of mine that told me.. it's a great reflection. He said human beings are the only beings on earth that can be less than they were created to be. When you think about a tree, for example, how tall does a tree get? How tall does a tree get? As big as it can get! Right? It just goes as high, as deep and as wide as it can go, as much as it can, right? And it's interesting to think that human beings can decide to be 50% of what we were created to be. Human beings can be 10% of what we were created to be. But don't do that, my friend. Be all that you were made to be. Don't be less than you were made to be. All that you were made to be. That makes us different than the animals of this world, right? A wolf has to hunt, a goose has to fly south in the winter, a beaver has to build a dam and a chicken has to lay eggs. But you don't have to do any of those things. You can choose today to be all that you can be, or to be less than you can be. And that's the amazing thing is that so often we just don't feel like getting up and walking. But that day is different for you. I want to encourage you today to choose something different. I want to encourage you today to recognize that you choose how you spend your time, you choose how you spend your money, you choose your friends, you choose what you eat, you choose your church. If you don't like your church, change your church. You choose the media you consume. You choose the attitudes that we have. You can choose what kind of attitude you're going to have today. You choose the books that you read. You can choose to improve the skills in your job. You can choose to improve your skills as a husband or a wife or a grandpa or grandma or a friend. Those are all skills that you can develop and you can choose to become all that you were made to be by committing your life completely to Christ and saying I am done, done leaning on the things that keep me in a rut. You can turn your back on the things that are keeping you from all that you were made to be. And most of all, you can choose life. The Bible says that the Lord lays before us life and death; blessing and curse. And He says choose life. There are so many times in life where we look at our life and we say I'm a Christian, or I'm a good person, or I was baptized as a kid or something, but at the end of the day, you have to choose God. You have to choose a relationship with Him. And I want to encourage you at the end of this message to just right now wherever you are, to make a decision today to lean and trust your life to Jesus Christ. If you do that, you'll never be the same. It's so important that you don't just say oh my family's Christian, or I think of myself as a, whatever, a good person. But that instead you say I'm a committed disciple, follower of Jesus. I'm committing my life to trusting my life to Him. I believe He was crucified and raised from the dead for me. And I know that my life can be different if I trust in Him. Make that decision today. Choose life. And if you make that decision, I want you to text the number on the screen because I want to pray for you. I want to know that you made that decision today, and I know your life will never be the same again. Well thank you, my friend. God wants to heal you. He wants to transform your life. He wants to do good things, but you have to make a decision. The Bible says I'll draw near to you, if you draw near to me. That's what God says. And you say well I just want Him to just draw near to me. Nope, it doesn't work that way. You might say well that's not fair. Well, my friend, you got to draw near to God, and He'll draw near to you. Do it and watch how much He'll transform your life. I want to pray for you. Lord, I pray for the person that's watching this, wherever they are, whenever they are. I pray that today they would make a decision to get out of the boat, to have a whole new life, to turn their back on the thing that's making them sick. And I pray that today they wouldn't rely on their own strength, but on the strength that you give us through your Holy Spirit. Thank you, Lord, that you love us, even when we mess up. Thank you that we're not what we do, or what we have, or what others say about us, but that you love us just as we are, and we thank you for that. And we thank you, Lord, that you can transform our lives into anything that you want us to be, and we love you, it's 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.