

Hour of Power vom 14.05.2017

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GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Bobby and Hannah Schuller

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

HS: Welcome to Shepherd's Grove. Thank you guys for being here. We love you, and I want to say today that you are stronger than you know, and your life makes a greater impact on history than you could possibly know. So thank you for choosing to be a source of goodness in our world.

Would you turn around and shake the hand of the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

BS: Let's pray: Lord, we thank you that you called us here, and we come with expectation and desire and joy, and we're asking, Father, that you would open up heaven, that you'd forgive us of our sins, that you'd lift us up, that you'd take away our worries and our burdens, and help us to realign our minds and our hearts with your word. Lord, we love you. Form us into the image of Jesus Christ, we pray, it's in his name we pray, amen.

HS: Amen.

SCRIPTURE – Mark 10:41-45 – Hannah Schuller

You may be seated. In preparation for Bobby's message, the words of our Lord found in Mark:

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Through your life in Christ you are letting loose waves of goodness that will carry on through all history. Amen.

INTERVIEW WITH DAVID A.R. WHITE – Bobby Schuller

BS: Well today we have the joy to invite back to Shepherd's Grove and Hour of Power, David A.R. White. David, we're so glad to have you here and if you don't remember, David is the leader of Pure Flix and has been involved in making a lot of big Christian films recently. He's more well known for a huge success, "God's Not Dead," which actually I think you told me recently was like the fifth most profitable movie of all time or something based on the cost against the revenue that came in so let's welcome back David A.R. White.

This is a great book. The reason you're here is actually not to talk about a movie, but a little bit about your story From Heaven to Hollywood – to talk about like the way that God.. I mean you were in the middle of Kansas in a Mennonite community and how God brought you to Hollywood to use story to tell people about the gospel. And at the beginning, it's funny because at the beginning of the book, it's a great book, you start with talking about how there's this receipt; you tell people to keep the receipt. Why do you start that way?

DW: I don't know, I'm not a very serious person, and so if you don't like the book, keep your receipt and you can always return it. So I just wanted to get that out of the way on the first page.

BS: That's great. And it really comes.. I mean it really.. we've gotten to know each other a little bit and it shows a lot of your humility. I really believe a lot of what you're doing is just kind of trying to obey God and do something great for him, and that's really your goal, isn't it.

DW: It is. The tag line is chasing your God given dream, and so it's all about how do you know if that dream that's inside of you, how do you take what's inside of you and turn that into the writing on the wall, how do you live out your passion in

Servant Leadership

an actual day to day world. And so I just wanted to share my story with folks so that ultimately, hopefully it would encourage you guys to chase your God given dreams.

BS: That's awesome. And you actually grew up in a pretty small Mennonite community in Kansas. And the reason Mennonite is so important, if you don't know, it's like a break off Amish where it's like we really want to limit a lot of things like movies. Now your dad was a pastor, right, a Mennonite pastor?

DW: Yes.

BS: And you were born in Tulsa, my old hometown, but you lived in Kansas. How did you go from there to making films?

DW: Well I kind of was like the last person on the planet that probably should have gone in the movie industry, but like all of us, God puts these dreams and desires into our heart. Romans 12 talks about we all have different gifts according to the measure given to each and every one of us. And for me, God had put this desire to go into the entertainment industry at an early age. I'd be sitting on a tractor in the middle of a wheat field with nothing but wheat in front of me and back of me, to the left and right, just as an ocean of wheat..

BS: Mennonites are allowed to use tractors?

DW: ..they're allowed to use tractors, yes.

BS: Okay, okay.

DW: To harvest wheat. But I couldn't shake this dream. And in the book we talk a lot about how do you know if that dream that's inside of you is from God and should you chase it.

BS: So what was the first movie you ever saw? I mean were you like 18 when you saw your first movie? Had you left the farm and then you're like oh this is a movie.

DW: Well I saw one movie in the theater the first 18 years of my life.

BS: Wow. What was it?

DW: Well some friends' parents had taken me to a movie, unbeknownst to my own parents, and it was "Grease."

BS: You sinner. Big old sinner.

DW: Yes! Right there, way to just break me down, Bobby. You know to be honest, I was very young and I was sitting in the movie theater, and seeing Olivia Newton John on the theater..

BS: Absolutely.

DW: ..screen. I thought for sure I was on my way to hell.

BS: You were on your way to Hollywood!

DW: Yes, and so instead I just went to Hollywood.

BS: And there you were and so as an adult then you see things that a lot of American kids just grew up watching. Things like Star Wars, or..

DW: Yes.

BS: ..did you ever see Willow?

DW: Nope.

BS: Never seen Willow. That's a good one. The movies like that were just like.. you start seeing these as an adult and did you just come out being like I want to make movies, or did you get into films first and then become a director?

DW: Well I went to Moody Bible Institute where my entire family had gone, graduated and met their significant others there because when you're from a small town in Kansas, right, there's not a lot of options. So it was a chance for my family to widen the gene pool. I went to Christian college. But unfortunately after a year I said to my dad, I want to leave bible school and I want to go to Hollywood to be an actor. And..

BS: He was thrilled.

DW: ..yes, it was kind like that. But you know I love my father for saying this, he said David as long as you serve the Lord and keep him first and foremost in your life, whatever you pursue then we support you.

BS: Well and I really just want to reiterate this, because so much of what you're doing, I mean you get a lot of criticism. I mean people pick on you and things like this..

DW: Thank you.

BS: ..of course, yes, but that's a good thing, right? I mean you get a lot of criticism because you are standing up for your faith and your beliefs in Hollywood and that doesn't always go over super well. And yet you've been so successful.

Servant Leadership

Your films have done so well. I believe that you didn't come here to be famous, you came here to do something good for people, to do something good for God, and don't you think that's really why you've been blessed in the way you have?

DW: I don't know other than to the extent of if you live God's dream for you instead of the dream you have for yourself, then you will not fail.

BS: Oh that's so good.

DW: And it's about the faithfulness of God. And so my message in the book is just to encourage folks to take what's inside of them, right? Weigh it out, obviously see if it is from the Lord, and then chase that God given dream and then you will be amazed to see what God will do with it. He did it for me. I love this quote: a dream deferred is not a dream denied for God can bless you with a dream bigger than the one you ever had for yourself, and he did it for me, and he can do it for all of you guys.

BS: Amen to that, thank you, David. And the book is good. It's great. So the book is *Between Heaven and Hollywood*. It's terrific. And it's an amazing story of how God can take someone from a Mennonite field in Kansas and really bring you to Hollywood to make some amazing things and wow, what an impact you're having for so many people. We're so proud of you and so honored to have you here, and thank you David for all you do. Appreciate you.

DW: Appreciate you guys. Thank you.

BS: God bless you!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT—GLENN & MARILYN DEMASTER— Bobby Schuller, Chad Blake

CB: This last week, a man who we both love and respect so much, Glenn DeMaster announced his retirement, and so we wanted to bring Glenn and Marilyn up here.

BS: Yes, amen.

CB: As evidenced by the roaring applause, Glenn and Marilyn are a powerhouse couple who have served the Lord faithfully in vocational ministry for over 45 years, and before that in the public education system, and we love you so much. You guys are such advocates for both of us, but advocates for this church and for these people, and I know you have touched every life in here, so we wanted to give you an opportunity if you can hold it together, but Glenn, we just love you. Glenn and Marilyn, we just love you guys so much.

GDM: You may be seated, by the way. Feel much more comfortable when you're seated. God is an awesome God, and listening to David, we had a different dream when we came out of college. We got married in college back in our little college in Pella Iowa called Central College. And we both had a dream of being teachers and in the public school system, which we were for 11 years, but then God made us really uncomfortable and it was like well we're changing, but then we discovered that the dream we had of being teachers, and I always wanted to be a coach, I've been doing that all of my life, teaching people, and coaching other leaders in the ministries I've been involved in.

It's so interesting because where did the time go? In March, I'll turn 78 years old, we've been in the ministry for 45 years, and we've been here at the Crystal Cathedral for 23 years, over half of our ministry. A place I was never too excited about coming to was California, but God has this wonderful sense of humor.

But we're not leaving you. So don't.. well maybe some of you would like to vote on that, but we're not leaving you. We've really enjoyed the ministry as it blossomed here at Shepherd's Grove, and when I look at our I'd say next generation, but I was trying to figure out, they're almost my grandchildren's age. So maybe its two generations now. But we're excited about what's happening here. Even though I'm stepping out of the role as the pastor of Care Ministry, I'm still going to be teaching the class I've been teaching for 16 years, and I said I would volunteer to care for the pastoral care for that group as long as I have the health and the strength. So you're not rid of us yet and this has been a great experience. God is just so awesome. We would have never dreamed, by the way, the path he took us, just like I think David would never dream ending up in Hollywood. Here we are in the shadow of Hollywood, I guess.

Marilyn, what do you want to say?

MDM: Okay. I just want to say that this is not a difficult transition. Many times in our ministry we've had to leave and those were difficult transitions when you have to leave the people you've loved. Well, because we're going to be able to stay here, worship here with these great leaders, and hang out with all of you, and serve with you, and then I get a little bit more time with my husband, it sounds like a win/win to me so.

Servant Leadership

BS: We love you guys so much. So grateful for you.

CB: Stay here, don't leave yet. So you know Glenn's still got a few months so you'll hear more about a little reception we'll have for him after church one upcoming Sunday, and I'm sure it's going to be a packed house in there. But even though this isn't their last weekend, don't worry I would have been way freaking out if it was. We'd like to just pray for you. So if you could maybe extend a hand towards them as we pray for their next chapter, and Bobby, maybe you can lead a prayer.

BS: Sure. Well and I've been so grateful for these two, too. Glenn was my mentor when I was in seminary and has been such a dear friend, so we're glad you're not going anywhere but you deserve a break.

So Lord, we pray your blessing over the DeMaster's and pray God that you'd open up heaven and pour out so much blessing on their life there wouldn't be room enough to contain it. I pray that you'd bless all the time they're going to spend with their grandchildren and the time they're going to spend doing fun things and relaxing and not carrying so much of the burden of the church, but caring for one another. And we thank you Lord, I think every single person in this church has been touched by Glenn and Marilyn in some way, and we just want to say thank you for the DeMaster's. Thank you for what a blessing they've been to all of us and we pray favor, blessing, life, joy, everything that they need and everything they want, in Jesus' name, amen. Love you guys.

MDM: Thank you.

BS: Thank you, Glenn.

WELCOME/COME VISIT – Bobby Schuller

Welcome! Thanks for joining us today. And we are so glad that you're watching today and believe that God has a word for you, so don't change the channel and if you live in Southern California, come down to Shepherd's Grove. We want to meet you. Hannah and I want to shake your hand at the door, give you a big old hug and remind you of God's love and blessing and favor for your life.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Friends, would you join me and we're going to say this creed together as we do every Sunday. We're going to realign our identity with the word of God:

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 the world.

Thanks, you can be seated.

MESSAGE/PRAYER "Servant Leadership"– Bobby Schuller

Today I'm going to talk about fame and glory, impact, leadership and what Jesus says about all these things. And I want to begin this morning first by affirming in you that you are doing a lot more than you know.

Many of us, we feel in life, we wonder, especially as we get older, if we really did anything that mattered; if we really made a difference in the world. And many of us, especially those of us who are younger, have a desire to be famous; to be well known. And I actually think that if you have that desire to be famous, that usually it's not from a bad place. I think most people that kind of want that, they want it because they want their lives to have an impact. And I think you get this message sometimes from the world that if you're famous, then your life really mattered. In other words, if you're a great politician, or actor, or singer, or you write a bestselling book, or you do something that most people know you for, well then you really made a difference. And I believe that the first part is good. I want to have a life that makes a difference in the world, but I think the second part is missing something. That it's okay and even great sometimes to have a claim and to succeed, and even be famous, that in the end, that's really not what's going to matter. And we'll talk about that in a bit. But what I want to argue today is that in spite of being famous, your life is having a much grander impact than you probably know, and especially more than you feel.

I remember I was driving Haven to school recently, a few days ago, and we always talk about stuff.

And she was saying, "Daddy, I learned something. D.R. means doctor and J.R. means junior."

And I said, "Oh like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?"

She goes, "Yes, he was a great man."

And I said, "He was a great man. He is an American hero."

And she said, "So it's for Dr. King."

Servant Leadership

I said, "Yes." And I said, "Or someday can be for Dr. Haven, Dr. Schuller, you know, Haven Schuller."

And she said, "Daddy, my dream isn't to be a doctor."

I was like, "Well that's okay. Mine isn't to be a doctor, either."

She said, "My dream is to be either a famous singer, a famous artist, or both."

And of course I said, "You're going to be both. You're going to be both a famous singer and a famous artist."

But it shines light. The key word, I think for Haven, and in her innocence as a child, I want to be famous. I don't think it was as much about being an artist or being a singer, as much as being famous. And I think children reveal, in many ways, what many of us have – this desire to be well known. And I want to change that thought. I think that most of us who want that, it's again, coming from a good place. We want our lives to just matter.

And what I feel like the Lord is saying for you today is whether or not you're famous, your life matters in real ways. You are having a bigger impact than you know. And I think when we get to the end of life, and we make an accounting of the decisions we've made, many of us will regret that we focused so much on stuff that in the end didn't matter, and didn't focus enough on in the end the stuff that really does matter.

And many people who are famous, who are very successful, many if not most of them seem to struggle with things like despair, depression, meaninglessness, and yet they've achieved many of the things that LA tells us we need to achieve. Why is that?

There was an event; Simon Sinek who's a tremendous secular author wrote a book on leadership, it was great, called Start with Why. And he shared a story about how there was this elite gathering of CEO's and some of the most powerful people, and richest people in the world. And in this room the guy who started the speech had everybody raise their hand. He said to them how many of you have reached your financial goals? And almost every hand went in the air. And then he said how many of you feel successful? And almost every hand went down. Almost every hand went down. You see all people struggle with this feeling that I'm not really successful, and it's easy to ascribe that to not having done something really big and momentous.

Today I want to talk about that. Jesus teaches us that the biggest impact is in the deep places, not the wide places. In Jesus' day in the Roman Empire, it was all about glory. They had a cooler word for fame. It was glory because glory encompassed more than being well known, it meant that you had these huge trophies that you defeated some barbarian army, or you built some monumental city or something. And they believed that if they could do something so awesome with their lives that they would sort of live forever in the memory of others because of their achievements. Julius Cesar, for example, when he was a kid would be brought into this room, I believe it was called a death room or something like that, and on the walls were wax faces. These are what are called death masks. You can see a death mask of Napoleon Bonaparte, for example. When famous men in Julius Cesar's lineage, at the moment they died, they would pour wax on their face to create like a monument of their actual face so that generations later you can actually see what they looked like. And Julius Cesar would be brought into this room and his dad or his mom would put his arm around his son and say something like son, this man did this, and your uncle did that, and your great, great grandpa did this, and you need to achieve these things, too. You need to do greater things than these. So Julius Cesar, and many wealthy Romans, grew up with the idea that unless you do tremendous great big things, your life doesn't matter. The dream was glory. Everybody say glory. You can almost feel it; feel like a Roman. They had this quote: they said that a man dies twice - one when breath leaves his body and again when his name is spoken for the last time. So this idea was if people speak your name forever, you'll live forever. So in other words, hear me out guys. In Jesus' day, the prevailing secular view was you can live eternally by gaining glory for yourself. Become famous, become a hero, become a celebrity and you will always be remembered. And though in a way you're dead, and another way you're alive because people will talk about you forever.

I want you to know something – again, I'm going to keep saying this. It's easy when we're doing little things like raising kids, or doing small things in a ministry, or doing things like reaching out to our neighbor at our work space, or doing things like being a quiet loving presence for hurting people. It's easy when we're doing those little things to feel like it's not really having an impact on history, for example. And I want to promise you it is. We're going to talk about that a little bit more in a minute. In Mark chapter 10, Jesus repeats this theme over and over. In Mark chapter 10 there's these two guys James and John. They're two of the twelve that are following Jesus. And you have to understand something about the disciples.

Servant Leadership

The 12 disciples, many of them believed that Jesus is ushering in a theocracy. They don't think he's talking about a changed heart, and like a new culture, a new life that's going to bleed into all nations. Rather they think there's going to be an actual throne, a throne room, it's going to be in Jerusalem, and there's going to be a God king Jesus who's a theocrat, and they're going to be like his governors and lieutenants. And so what they're doing towards the end as he's getting close to Jerusalem to establish his kingdom is they're vying for position in the new government.

So James and John say to Jesus, Lord, when you enter into your kingdom, we are asking you that we sit one of us on your right hand, and another on your left. What does that mean? We want to be the number two guys in your kingdom. We want to be the second most powerful people in your kingdom second only to you. And what they're saying is look at all that we've done. We deserve essentially Roman glory in your kingdom. Put us, remember us, put us in the highest position at your right hand and your left. And Jesus says to them, you don't know what you're asking for. First, these positions have been saved for someone else but I have to ask you a question: can you drink the cup I'm going to drink? And can you wear the baptism I'm going to wear? And they said yes we can. And he said you will receive the baptism that I've received, and you will drink of the cup that I've drunk, and a lot of people think that means martyrdom, and they were martyred.

But he says to them but things are going to be different in my kingdom. And the word of God says this: he says you know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles, or Romans, those in the Roman Empire, they lord it over people. And the high officials exercise authority over others. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant. And whoever wants to be first must be slave to all. For even the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. Later, when Jesus is washing their feet, he says no servant is greater than their master. In the same way that I have served you, go and serve one another. In Jesus' upside down kingdom, the least become the greatest, and the greatest become the least. In Jesus' kingdom, to be great means to serve, or as my grandpa would say, to find a need and to fill it. You feel successful when you're meeting the real needs of other people. That's when you feel it. Not when you've elevated your own ego, not even when you've gotten famous, but when you've helped others. And let me tell you something. If you're not a Christian or you're a secular or atheist, there is real wisdom here. The greatest people in history are not the Julius Cesar's and the Napoleon Bonaparte's. They're the Dr. Kings and the Mother Teresa's. Those are the true heroes. Those are the ones that are remembered, the ones who served others and oftentimes died in the process of helping those in need. In the kingdom of God, the greatest are those who serve, not those who are being served. And although we always want to look out for boundaries, and we don't want to neglect our own needs, God has called us to have a big impact in a deep way before a wide way. Let me explain that. Remember the song deep and wide? If you grew up in Sunday school, deep and wide, deep and wide there's a fountain flowing deep and wide. Thank you, choir, you guys are the best. I think God wants us to have a deep impact and a wide impact. I think he wants both. The wide impact is the thing that everybody sees. That's the reach of your audience. That's how many people see you, know you, or are touched by you.

But the depth of your audience is how much you've touched them. And not just your audience, I'm talking about the people in life. And the depth of your reach is really, in a way, unknown. The width of your audience is measureable. The depth is unknown. You can't know. And so very often we neglect the deep things, like caring for our kids, for the wide things - creating some new project or ministry. Both are great, but I believe that the scriptures are telling us that the deep things matter more. That if you have to choose, if you have depth and width and the width gets cut but you have depth, the width will grow back. If you have width but no depth and the width gets cut, it's gone forever. The things that last are the things that are deep, not the things that are wide.

Jesus is the greatest leader who ever lived. And the reason he's the greatest leader who ever lived is he understood the dynamics of how we are all connected, and how the little decisions we make have a big, big impact. Jewish philosopher, wonderful man, the guy that said "give a man a fish feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime." Maimonides the Rambam. He believed that the whole universe was fifty percent good, and fifty percent evil and that one act of good or one act of evil could tip the whole scale one way or the other. I don't believe that, but it's a nice thought. I do believe that one small act either way can have an eternal impact on history in a way that you will see when you get to heaven, and you will see it. You will see how being faithful in the little things caused you to have a grand impact on the big things.

Servant Leadership

Jesus shows us what it means to truly lead. What it means to truly lead means to meet the needs of others. Jesus' goal was not to glorify himself, although he will be glorified for all time. Jesus' goal was to bless people. That's all he did. He went around giving wisdom, healing people, raising people from the dead. He didn't go around making people sick, he didn't go around condemning everyone, he was here to bring people to life and he did, and he's still doing that. And it seemed like Jesus focused on 12 people, not the mobs. And although big crowds would follow him, he'd kind of shoo them away. There was one event in which his crowd was almost the biggest, he's almost the famous he'd ever been, and he said something crazy. He said unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you'll have no life in you, and everybody just walked away. They're like this guy's nuts. And then he went to his 12 disciples and he says why haven't you left? And they really, they just go we ain't got no place to go. It was like yes, everything you said was totally bat crazy, like it was out of this world nuts, but we don't have anywhere to go, so we're going to see how this all plays out.

So Jesus' goal is really to drill down and coach 12 people. He's God, okay? Twelve is the max for him, and he's God, okay? And so he focuses on 12 people, and that movement, we're a part of that movement, all of us, everyone in this room. The millions of people watching on TV are a part of one man touching 12 lives. Jesus never wrote a book. He never left his country. He never met an emperor. And yet he's the most famous important person in history. AD and BC is all built around his birth! Why? Because he realized that it's about serving others, and he realized it's not about the width, it's about the depth first. If you want to reach a wide audience, you got to reach a deep audience first. You can change the whole world and all of history by believing and investing in one person, not just 12. What you're doing for others is so important, and you'll see it someday. You'll see how you touched one domino and how millions were touched because of your faithfulness, and I'm so proud of you. I'm so proud of you. It's easy being a grandparent, being a parent, being an everyday employee, doing the rote things in life and just being faithful to God in those little things to forget that being faithful in those things makes all the difference in the world.

And by the way, don't give up on the promise that God really does have a big dream for you. It's coming. But you focus on your character and God will focus on your calling. That's a promise.

It's about the individual, not the masses. It's about serving, not being served. And it's about secrecy, not fame. And I know there's an irony about like I'm a pastor, I'm talking to a lot of people and there's a lot of people watching on TV, and there is an irony in me talking about this, but I just want to say that my hope in life; like I love this ministry and I love Hour of Power, but I know that the greatest accomplishment I can ever have is to be a great dad and a great husband. And if I fail in those areas, then all this, in a way in the kingdom of God, is almost forfeit. I believe that. And the pastors that I've seen that have gone the longest and been the happiest and done the best are the ones who recognize the importance of family and friends in the little things. If I ever leave the ministry, it'll be because of my two kids. And the greatest thing I'll accomplish in my life will be those two kids. And that's not in any way to say that I don't love this ministry, and I do, but I have to recognize.. we all have to recognize in life it's those little things, those little lives that depend on us that are the most important. Can I get an amen? Hey, all right. That's a good one.

The power is in the secrecy. The power is in the small things that nobody sees. The power is in the secret places. I think of myself in some ways as a bit of a Sermon on the Mount scholar. I love Sermon on the Mount. I studied it for years. I memorized it. I translated it from Greek. I love it. In almost every sermon I cite it at some point or another. And one of the big things that was a big surprise that very few, including Dallas Willard, ever pointed out about the Sermon on the Mount was this reward component. Jesus talks about a reward constantly through the Sermon on the Mount. He keeps asking this question: if you do this, what reward will you get? If you do that, what reward will you get? I infer, as I'm reading it, that I'm supposed to get a reward. That there's some reward I'm supposed to attain. What is the reward? Its eternal life, its treasures in heaven, but it's also blessing in this life, too.

There's this part where Jesus says "seek first the kingdom and his righteousness and all these other things will be added unto you." There is no way in its context you can deny that that's about health and material blessing in this life right now. You read it, it's clear as day. And as a Reformed guy, I'm super uncomfortable with that because that doesn't fit. But it's true. Jesus says something like.. so he's all these things like do it in secret so you won't lose your reward. Do it in secret so you won't lose your reward. It's not that everything you do has to be in secret, it means that you do it not for acclaim, you do it for God. That in your heart, whether people see it or not, you're doing it from the right place.

Servant Leadership

So he says when you give to the needy, don't let your left hand know your right hand is doing, or else you'll lose your reward. When you pray, don't do it so everybody can see it, or else you'll lose your reward. When you fast, don't act.. oh I'm so hungry. I haven't had waffles today. You'll lose your reward! And so often we get so frustrated when we do great things for others and nobody notices. We feel offended, we feel hurt. But I believe that the less people notice and the greater the deed, the greater the reward that's coming. I believe that! In fact I penned together this very well done.. this is my hand writing. I didn't take art or English. Okay anyway. Like this. I believe that the greater the deed and the lesser the acclaim, the greater the reward is in the middle. Now you feel like I've been doing all this stuff and nobody notices. Praise the Lord for that. Heaven is going to open up so wide for you, there's going to be so much blessing, there's not going to be enough room to contain it. The only thing better than not receiving acclaim for your good deed is to be persecuted for your good deed. Man, if you can get people blogging about you, if you get somebody to fire you, if you can go to jail for doing some great deed, oh my gosh! The reward are going to be so big! It's going to be like over the moon! That's the way things work in the kingdom. You want to be blessed, do great things and hope nobody notices.

Not me, right? When I do something great and nobody notices, I get my feelings hurt, and wonder why I didn't get a thank you card. What does Jesus do? When Jesus does something great for somebody, so often he's like don't tell anybody. Right? Don't tell anybody. Don't tell anyone. Just keep it to yourself. You're welcome. It almost is like I wasn't supposed to do that. Just don't tell anybody.

I want you to know God sees the good things that you've done and the good things you're doing. He's so proud of you and so am I. I am so proud of you because I'm going to be standing with you on that day when you see the great impact your faithfulness in the little things did for millions of people. Millions.

There's something about the really refined perfect hero that bothers us all and something about the anti hero that we all love. That's why my favorite characters are the anti heroes, right? Batman, Strider from Lord of the Rings, the man with no name, Hans Solo. He was an anti hero. He shot first. He only saved Lei for the money. Right? There's something about these heroes that are these very flawed, leaders with a limp that seem to be more memorable than the typical superman type heroes. Right? Everybody likes Batman more than Superman. Who likes Superman more? Everybody.. am I right, choir? Do you even know what I'm talking about? Thank you. Hannah likes Superman. We're getting off the reservation here. Let's bring it back. Focus.

Okay. The point remains I think the reason I like anti heroes so much is because I see it in real life. I see that God likes to use imperfect people to do impossible things. God likes to raise up heroes along with their flaws, in spite of their flaws. All of their flaws are still there. They're still greedy, they're still angry, they're still neurotic, they're still unpredictable, they're still mavericks, and yet they still do incredible things for God. And I want you to know that many of the shiny, perfect heroes that you see are not as shiny and perfect as they look on Facebook. You need to know that. You need to know one: that you're having a bigger impact than you know, and two: God's going to get you to your destiny and you don't have to worry about it. You focus on your character God will focus on your calling. He'll get you there. It's a word from him. You focus on the depth he'll focus on the width. You focus on your heart he'll focus on the people. You focus on your character he'll focus on your calling. He will get you there.

There's one thing I've been mad about. Years ago, I used to preach about this thing called the chaos theory, which is something I love. And I remember I preached about it so much that Pastor Chad and another pastor, Pastor Michael pulled me aside and like you got to stop talking about the chaos theory. You talk about it way too much. And the reason I talk about it so much is in my opinion, mathematical proof that everything I'm saying and everything that Jesus said is true. Chaos theory is this: small differences in initial conditions yield widely diverging outcomes for dynamical systems. And this is a very nerdy way of saying little things make a big difference. It's oftentimes referred to as the butterfly effect because the father of chaos theory said something along the lines like it could be that the small flap of a butterfly's wings in Alaska causes a tornado in Texas. That that's actually.. you can see that and the reason it's called chaos theory is because the grand impact of little things can be so big and vast that it's actually immeasurable which makes scientists uncomfortable cause in the world of science, if you can't measure it, it doesn't exist. So they call it chaos theory because they're at least able to know that little things have such a big impact. And this is true.

Servant Leadership

And can I tell you, when you get to heaven, I believe God's going to show you how your faithfulness in that little tiny thing, it might have been really difficult and nobody noticed, changed history.

I've always believed that someone like Dr. Martin Luther King was the result of one loving thing another person did for someone else a hundred and fifty years before. Or a villain like a Joseph Stalin, that could be one act of theft or unkindness three hundred years before that ultimately culminated in the forming of this one rotten person that killed so many people. Your actions matter. And you may not be famous, but you're powerful and you're making a big difference and you're making a good difference and that difference is tilting the balance in the right direction, and God, am I thankful for you. I am so thankful for you and I'm proud of you.

Lord, thank you for calling us here. We pray, God that you would put a peace in our heart that in our faithfulness and obedience we're making a difference in the world. And I just want to pray for everyone that's desperate for a big dream. Lord, we are big dreamers here. I pray, God that you would help every person reach that dream and fulfill it according to your goodness and faithfulness. Thank you, Lord, you're not condemning us, you're not judging us, you're lifting us up, you've forgiven us, you're proud of us and we love you. And all of us, we depend in Jesus' name. It's in his name we pray, and everyone said, amen.

BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord life 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.