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INVOCATION – Bobby and Hannah Schuller

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Hello.
HS: Welcome visitors, welcome church family. It is truly a joy to be with you today. Thank you for being here. You know the Lord can do miraculous things through simple humble faith. He is with you. He is for you and you are loved. Thank you for being here today.

BS: Amen. Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we love you so much. We're so, so grateful for the good that you're doing in our lives. We thank you that you love us just exactly where we are. We pray, Father that you'd help us to see spiritual things, that when things in the material are not going well, that we understand that in the spiritual, you're working on our behalf. Lord, give us faith. Help us to trust in you even more. And Lord, we love you it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HS: Amen. Turn to the person next to you and wave and say God loves you and so do I.

SCRIPTURE - Philippians 23, 12 - 14 - Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Philippians 3:12-14:

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press onward toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Amen.

INTERVIEW – Bobby Schuller (BB) with Audrey (AR) & Jeremy Roloff (JR)

Audrey and Jeremy Roloff are best known for appearing on the TLC show Little People, Big World. They are also authors who wrote the best-selling book A Love Letter Life. Inspired by their experiences, they started "Beating 50 Percent," a website dedicated to helping couples create healthier marriages through more effective communication. Their newest book, Creative Love: 10 Ways to build a fun and lasting love offers a Biblical approach on creating an energized, enduring and Christ-centered relationship. Please welcome, Audrey and Jeremy Roloff!

BS: Hi guys! Welcome! So nice to see you.

AR: Hi!

JR: Thanks for having us.

BS: I've heard about your new book, and I'm so glad we're going to have a chance to talk about that, but first I just want to say welcome. A lot of people at home may not know who you are. You certainly have a lot of fans here at the church, actually. But one of the things I love that's so cool, I saw on your Instagram that you do this creed that we do here in the church that we took from Henri Nouwen, and a little Dallas Willard. You guys actually do that with your family, don't you?

AR: Yes.

JR: Yes.

AR: If we could flip the computer around, you would see we made it into artwork and its hanging in our living room, but yes, we read it with our daughter Ember. We've been pretty much. She knows it by heart now and she's been saying it every night for the past like year. She's three years old, but it's definitely been a special thing in our home, so thanks for sharing it.

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BS: That's awesome. Thank you for doing that, it's great, and it would be so great to see more people do that at home with their kids. Well for those who maybe haven't heard your story, tell us a little bit about how you guys met, and sort of how you got to be so well known in the public eye.

JR: As you mentioned, I grew up on that show Little People, Big World. Several years ago, my wife and I, we decided we've had our run here. The Lord we feel called us very strongly into marriage ministry and we started asking a lot of questions, we started meeting with a lot of people, and that interest was really sparked because when we got engaged, we were met with a pretty equal positive/negative energy around it. People were saying oh good luck, you're going to lose your freedom, but then other people congratulating us. Being in the public light, we had a huge pool of people to acquire that data from. We were just like wow, there is a lot of negative stuff surrounding marriage. Why is that? And then we just started asking questions and started Beating 50 Percent, and started writing tools and resources and books, and the Lord's really grabbed a hold of it and given it legs.

BS: That's awesome. Just so everybody knows who may not be familiar with it, you aren't little people, but Jeremy your parents and your brother and sister are little people, right?

JR: Yes, so my parents are little people, my twins a little person, and the rest of are average height.

BS: One of the things I love about what you're saying to couples, especially in your book.. well let's just jump to your book. You have this book coming out called Creative Love: 10 ways to build a fun and lasting love and I am so stoked to read this book, and I can't wait to get my hands on it. There it is. And one of the things I love..

AR: And you guys are the first to see it.

BS: That's awesome! Well one of the things I love..

AR: Yes, we just got our first copy..

BS: Say it again, please!

AR: I said we just got our first copy last week, so we haven't even shared about it on the internet yet, so you guys are the first to see the real thing.

BS: Thank you. That's great. Well one of the things I think is so important, I feel like too often marriage advice is too in the head, and one of the main things you're telling people is like have fun together. Right? That's like a key part of what you're getting at. Tell us about your book.

JR: Totally. With this book specifically, yes. Our first book left people with a lot of concepts, a lot of ideas surrounding marriage. We really tried to tell our story, but bring people back to these general truths of why marriage was set up. It's not to make us happy. We all know that. But a lot of people don't, so we explore that concept. This is a necessary follow up with to your point very practical tangible ways to actually do that. So it's really meant to be kind of a snacking book, like anniversary's coming up, I need some creative ideas, right?

AR: It's like that jolt of inspiration. Our first book was more like you read it cover to cover, it's more of a story. This is more like concept driven, lots of ideas, lots of questions. Things that will help you have more meaningful conversations and give you some fun ideas of ways to connect.

BS: Plus you are uber creative. That's why I love your Instagram so much. It's like every single picture I'm like this is awesome. You're so creative. And you bring that to this book, right? I mean like a lot of the stuff is pretty original. What's one of your favorite things in the book that you feel like really worked for you or you think people will really appreciate?

JR: I would say one of the things is we packed this book full of conversational questions. And one of the biggest responses we get for a lot of our work is people will write us honestly and they'll say 'I'm not going to lie, I chuckled, it seemed gimmicky or this or that, and then I actually asked my spouse this question that you posed, and it totally transformed our marriage. We've had some of the deepest, best conversations we've ever had because of that question, that idea. I kept coming back for more.'

AR: Like for example, like here's just one example: I started asking Jeremy this year, just in light of so much information coming at us and we're consuming so many different things all day and sometimes we'd be consuming very different things but never talk about it and kind of just getting in our head about it. And I started asking Jeremy at night before we went to bed: what's one thing that you've thought a lot about today that you haven't told me. And that simple question has sparked so many like meaningful life-giving conversations and helped us just understand..

BS: Say the question one more time. What is the question one more time?

AR: What's one thing that you thought a lot about today that you haven't told me?

BS: Interesting. That's a great question.

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AR: So it's so simple like..

JR: So what it's done though is, if I may real quick, we're all being bombarded by information. It is so easy to be consumers, and as a married couple, growing in different directions. So if you're never collaborating about what we're both processing, we might find ourselves on very different pages of the same book a year or two year or months down the road, and so that's just one thing back to your question that we love about this book, it is just full of questions. And I think in 2020, and in the information onslaught that we're all experiencing right now, connecting and communicating with our spouses it's never been more important.

BS: That's awesome.

JR: That's one thing we love about it.

BS: Can you hold up the book one more time? Let's see it.

JR: Love to.

BS: All right, Creative Love: 10 ways to build a fun and lasting love. Jeremy and Audrey Roloff. Thank you, guys, so much. We appreciate you just sharing with us and thanks for encouraging, especially young people to believe in marriage again. We're going to believe in it and see it bless our lives and bless our families. We love you guys. Thank you so much.

JR: Amen. Thanks for having us!

AR: Yes, thank you all.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Would you stand with me? We're going to say this creed together as we do every single week. Hold your hands out as a sign of receiving from the Holy Spirit and 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 the world. Amen!

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "Stubborn für the Kingdom "

I want to begin my sermon today by talking to all of you stubborn mules. You ever been called stubborn before? You're looking at one. I've been called stubborn lots and lots of time by lots and lots of people, most of whom love me, my family members. You ever been a stubborn mule, stubborn about something? I want to tell you keep being stubborn. I was told when I first started in ministry that tenacity and stubbornness, you get this feeling that it's a bad thing, but today I want to talk about the importance of being stubborn for good things. Stubborn for good things, but soft towards people. Stubborn towards your goal, but soft towards the people that are working with you. Stubborn towards your vision, but soft towards your team. Stubborn for your job, but soft to your family. It's funny that we say stubborn like the mule because mules are certainly stubborn, but you know mules are known to be really soft and compassionate, too. I saw this video on Instagram. Check this out real quick. Isn't that so precious? See that's the thing is so many people who are stubborn really have this soft side to them. Maybe you're married to someone like that, or maybe you're that person, I want to encourage you, keep both. Be stubborn towards the good things but soft towards the people that love you. About once a year I get to tell this story, I try and limit myself to once a year because it's my favorite story, and it's about when I caught this huge shark. If you've gone here long enough, you could probably tell me this story, and the older I get, the bigger this fish gets. I mean it's amazing, but I love this story so much because it describes the stubbornness about my personality, and it's also the coolest thing I've ever done in my life. Growing up, I was just on boats all the time. And most of them were little boats. When I was in high school, I worked on boats. I would say in the summers, I was on boats more than I was on land. So I would be sleeping on boats sometimes, we would be working on the boats, cleaning them, repairing, fixing tackle, fixing all sorts of stuff, and there's just like a constant job. And part of that was just fishing, so we would go out and normally we would fish for tuna or bass or Bonita or barracuda, smaller fish, big fish in the sea, but small comparatively. But every once in a while, we would see like a swordfish, a marlin or a shark. Like that was the goal, right?

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To check a really big sporty, big game fish and bring it home and either sell or eat the meat. One day, we catch this fish and it is a giant, I mean I can tell, I'm 11 years old, but I've been fishing my whole life. I've definitely done my ten thousand hours by 11 years old. Is an eleven-year-old even ten thousand hours old? Anyway, so I'm fighting this fish, it's for sure just a giant fish, the biggest fish not only I've had on, but probably the biggest fish I've ever seen. And this fight goes on, the line goes out then you reel it in, it goes out and in, and it's just this exercise of your back and your legs and your wrists, and this is going on for 30 minutes, an hour, two hours, finally after two hours we start to see the shark, it's coming up to the boat and it is mammoth. If you've ever been deep sea fishing, when you see a big fish underwater, there's like this thing that the water does that makes it look even bigger than it is. So it looked like a whale. I mean it looked like the biggest thing you've ever seen in your life. And it was a giant, was called a thresher shark. Threshers have this big, really long skinny tail, a big old gnarly shark. My dad, who's our deckhand, has this thing called a gaff which is a long metal pole with this very brutal, very dangerous actually hook, and you're supposed to gaff the fish, which means you get it like behind the fin and you pull it up onto the little board, on the back on the stern. The shark freaks out, writhes, mouth in the air, and it's this gnarly thing, and it takes off again. I literally go NOOOOOO and I am melting and dying, I'm breathing in all these diesel fumes and I'm exhausted and a little seasick and I'm a kid. But my dad kept saying.. I had my best friend there, Abe, and if you've ever had a best friend as a boy, your best friend is also like kind of your competitor, at least it was for me. And my dad's like 'pass it to Abe,' and I'm like NEVER! You know, I'd rather die! I'm like I want this fish. And when it comes to records, too, if you set a record but if you pass the pole, it doesn't really count. I'm just fighting this fish forever, I finally get it in after two hours and 45 minutes, this giant fish. So here we are, this is a thresher shark. I was 11 years old, its 271 pounds. The fish, because you count the tail, which you can see bowing behind my dad's head, you can see the fish is kind of bent in half, is 13-feet. And my dad, who's standing in this picture, is still shorter than the shark and he's six foot three. I realized this morning that my dad in this picture is the same age I am today, which is 39. Isn't that interesting? But he's way cooler looking except for the hat. I could borrow that hat, but look at those quads, though. He's doing squats. But I was 11 years old here, about a year older than my daughter Haven, got my lucky hat on, but this is like seriously one of the proudest moments of my life. I was so stoked about this shark. I always look back on that story and I believe that the reason I caught this shark was because I was personally born a stubborn person and this is where it was. I had had a lot of training in fighting, but when I was fighting this shark as a kid, everything in me wanted to cry, because I was still pretty small, I wanted to throw up, I felt exhausted, but there was this stubborn thing about me that like I was either going to lose the shark or bring it. I was just not going to give up or pass the pole. And that has served me pretty well in life. I remember we had a good friend, I was driving with him and we were in an In-n-Out parking lot, and we were talking about something and he got distracted and he barely just bumped into the car behind us, and it didn't feel that hard, and so he was super embarrassed and apologetic. We both get out of the car and this guy gets out of the car and my friend just goes 'oh, I'm so, so sorry. I didn't mean to do it,' and there was clear damage on the back of the person's car in front of us, and there was something about this guy.. and the guy in the car was like 'oh it's, you know, it's okay, it happens, happens.' My friend is giving him his insurance information to make a claim, and there's something about this that just something doesn't settle right with me. And I started looking at the like lines and markers on the back of this car, and I look at my friend Michael's car, and it didn't line up. It was like off a little bit, it wasn't the same shape and the same size, and so I just said 'were these markers here before we bumped into you?' He goes 'those markers?' I was like 'look the markers don't match up to his car. Are they the same?' And he goes, 'oh you know what, actually maybe those were there before already. No, never mind, it's okay, guys.'

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Have a good day' and he got in his car, and I was like ohh ... He was going to try and take one over my buddy. That's what I'm saying is very often, those of us who are not afraid to pick a fight, or are fighters, like you're stubborn, you refuse to give up, you're going to press through until the thing is done, that can serve you very, very well, can serve you very well in life. The problem is, and this is what I've done, and this is what many, if you're stubborn like I am, this is what many people do, you take it home with you. You become stubborn towards the people you love. In your hardness for your goal and your vision sometimes you become stubborn towards the people in your life. Sometimes when people are trying to get through to you, you're putting up a wall, you're stonewalling. Or you're being ice cold. Or maybe you're being that way with God. You're being stubborn with God. Or maybe you're even being arrogant. And this is what I would do, I just wouldn't let go of things or become arrogant or prideful, or make a big thing out of something really small. And that's not the way of the Lord. That's not the way of Jesus. What He calls us to is to be stubborn for the good things. Stubborn for the kingdom of God. Stubborn for the vision, but tender-hearted, soft-hearted towards the people that we love. Gentle towards the people that we love. As Dr. King said, "be tough minded and tender-hearted." Be tough minded and tender-hearted, and that will get you far in life. I think that's what it means to live life as a fighter in a Biblical way. It means to be tough minded and tender-hearted. Maybe you feel like oh I can't be this tough person. I can't be this way. That's not it. God loves to choose people like you who are sometimes a bit stubborn. That's good, but use it for the good, not against the good. And I want to just encourage you that whatever you're going through, maybe you're pressing through, continue to have that tenacity; continue to have that perseverance and you're going to get pretty far in life, just make sure that you continue to be soft towards the people who love you. Amen? Paul was this way. When I read Philippians.. let me open this real quick. This is our scripture reading for today. Paul, his back-story, Paul was like a Pharisee who imprisoned, probably murdered a lot of Christians in his stubbornness for God, but he was off. And God turned his heart around, he became this amazing man of God, wrote a major part, most of the New Testament, a major part of the Bible, and was just clearly a force for good for the kingdom of God, and has framed so much of our doctrine today. But he talks about how he wants to be like Christ and how that old life he did so many bad things in his past and so many good things, but they're like rubbish now because of what Christ has done for him and how he's driven to see Gentiles come to faith. He finally says this in Philippians 3 chapter 12: "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that which Christ Jesus took hold of me. But one thing I do forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Press on, as Paul says here. Press on to the goal. Don't forget the goal. Be stubborn for the goal. Keep going. Be like Paul but never forget the other thing Paul said in 1st Corinthians 13: "If I have all these things, if I speak in the tongues of angels," we can say if I build the biggest church in the world, if I'm the most spiritual person you've ever met, if I have a gigantic business and make millions of dollars, or a huge ministry and reach millions of people or whatever it is that your goal is and you're persevering towards, but have not love, it's worth nothing. It's worth nothing. In fact, when we remain stubborn towards a vision or towards a goal, but soft towards people, the good thing is we're going to have people with us at the finish line that will celebrate with us when we get there, and that's really, really worth it. That's what it's all for. Paul was that way. Joseph was that way. Joseph was a tough fighter, endured so, so much, had to endure prison, had to endure slavery, had to endure betrayal by his brothers. He had to be a young healthy man with a beautiful woman who wanted to sleep with him, his master's wife, Potiphar's wife, and still he ran away. The guy was tenacious, strong, and yet in the end, he's soft, right? His brothers, those ones who betrayed him, that tried to kill him but decided they wanted to make some money, so they sold him as a slave. He forgives them.

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He was tough minded, but tender-hearted. Jesus. He's stubborn as a mule, isn't He? You see Him with the Pharisees, you see Him at the temple, with the Canaanite woman, the story where Jesus is trying to get away, He's in this house and there's a woman outside and she's saying 'Lord, heal my daughter, heal my daughter,' and like they're inside this house and she says heal my daughter. And He goes outside and He says 'I was sent to the lost sheep of Israel.' And she says 'please, Lord.' She gets on her hand and knees; please heal my daughter. And He says 'it's not right to take the children's bread and toss it to dogs.' That's a pretty big insult, huh. It's really out of character for Jesus, actually. It's a different sermon, but it's a very rabbinic thing to do, actually. He actually loves her. It's a game. But she says 'even the dogs eat the crumbs from the children's table.' And He just says 'my child, nobody in all of Israel has greater faith than this.' Amazed by her faith and He heals her daughter. So stubborn, but He's soft. I was at Rancho Capistrano recently, and this is one of the stations of the cross, and you can pray the stations. Rancho Capistrano is owned by Saddleback now. It's our old campus, but I still go there on retreat. And this is a great example of Jesus being stubborn, like when He was being prosecuted and all this stuff, most of the time he just remained silent. That's pretty stubborn, isn't it. Just stonewalling. But here this artist rendering, which I love, Pilate is looking down on Jesus, you see? But Jesus is actually higher than Pilate. Really great. Jesus was stubborn but at the end of the day, He was so compassionate, so loving, just everywhere He goes, healing, loving His enemies, loving the outsider, loving the alien, sitting at the table with sinners. I love this story of the lepers that He heals in multiple accounts. In Judaism, you're not allowed to touch a leper. In order to touch them, they not only have to be clean, but they have to go to a priest and that cleanliness has to be verified basically in court by a priest and you get a certificate. Jesus, when He sees a leper and the leper says heal me, it says that He touched the man. One translation the Bible says He embraced the man, like He hugged him. He touched him as a leper, in other words saying, I don't think you're gross, I'm not worried about your leprosy. You're not an outsider to me. I love you. He touched him just as he was, and then He healed him. You see? You see? The compassion. They touch him first, he belongs first, and then he's saved. This is the heart of God is stubborn, a fighter, tough for the good things. Tough for the kingdom of God. Tough for what is good, but tender-hearted. Tough minded, tender-hearted. Let's be like Him, amen? Let's be like Jesus Christ where we're tough for what matters, but we're tender-hearted towards the people we love. That we never get cold, we never stonewall, we don't get arrogant, we don't get mean spirited, we don't pick fights with the people we love, we don't make mountains out of molehills, we say we're sorry. This is an important part of succeeding in life, that you're not just tenacious, but you're tender-hearted, and that's who you are, and I'm so proud of you. You're doing better than you think so I encourage you with that. Revelation, there's this great story, not great story, famous prophecy against the church in Ephesus. And when Revelation begins, John, who is writing to all the churches, is an old man, and he names these seven churches. And the first church he mentions and he says this is what Jesus said, is a church in Ephesus which in Paul's day was probably in John's day, one of the most important churches in all of the Mediterranean where the church was blossoming. And this city was incredible, so he says to him.. let me read it here. Revelation chapter 2, he says "The church in Ephesus I write: I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance, I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardship for my name, and have not grown weary." He's about to give a but. So this is about to be a rebuke. But listen how.. look in that whole line. You're just persevering, you're pressing through, you don't tolerate wickedness, you're enduring hardship. What's he talking about there? The church in Ephesus, in Paul's day, which is about 30 years before this, the church at Ephesus is just blossoming. Ephesus is called the crown jewel of the Roman Empire.

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It's incredibly wealthy and beautiful, definitely a place of influence. Right at the heart of Ephesus is this great temple called the Temple of Artemis. If you love classical history, you'll recognize this is one of the seven wonders of the world. So seven amazing places in the world. This is considered one of the seven most amazing places in the whole world. Beautiful, and it's sort of the epicenter or Vatican for Artemis worship. What happens is this temple begins storing gold as offerings, but then their vault is so large that they're able to store gold for private stores, and they begin basically an early version of a bank where they start storing and lending money, and so because of that, that the temple of Artemis becomes like City Bank. They become like Chase. Bank of America. They become this behemoth lending thing in Asia Minor, and because of that, the city just fills up with our version of merchants and investment bankers, it becomes a hub for trade, and because of that, a city of bricks becomes a city of marble and it becomes a glory of Rome. So it's called the crown jewel. At the heart of this economy is this goddess Artemis. So you might remember in Acts chapter 19 when Paul is preaching, and all these people are coming to faith, they're leaving the temple of Artemis and Artemis worship, and they're gathering with Paul, and this becomes an economic crisis because people are not storing their money there anymore, people are not buying the idols anymore, and so an idol maker creates this huge revolt, drags Paul and his friends into this theater, actually. It's still there. You can read about this theater in Acts.. isn't this amazing? That this ancient world is still here. I'd love to take you guys to Israel or to Turkey someday. This theater is the exact place in Acts 19 where they took them. It seats 25,000 people. Isn't that great? They would have been just right down there. Right down in that little pit. Isn't that incredible? And so there they were chanting and it created this tension, and so the church in Ephesus is constantly in a place of tension and persecution. They're not like trying to pick a fight, but no matter what, the city hates them because people are leaving the temple of Artemis and turning to the Lord. By the time John is writing to the church in Ephesus now 30 years after that story, he's telling them I know your deeds and I know you're persecuted. So when John is writing this, it gets even worse. There's an emperor named Domission who's the first emperor to call himself god. He called himself king of kings and lord of lords. Does that sound familiar to you? He put this gigantic statue in Ephesus, which then became the epicenter for Domission worship. This statue, which is at the Ephesian museum, is humungous. Its 27-feet tall. That doesn't sound very tall, but that's about the height of the sanctuary. And it stood on a pedestal, and you could see it from the sea, you could see it everywhere coming in, and you had to make offerings to it. And so everybody would do it, they would make these little offerings of incense and this type of thing, but the Christians wouldn't do it. When they wouldn't do it, Domission just started killing people. Just started killing people. Anybody that didn't leave an offering coming in and out of Ephesus died. In fact, many people died right there at the foot of that statue. Isn't that horrible? Ephesus is going through all of this for like 35 years. When Paul first writes to the Ephesians, he says everybody has heard about how much you love each other. He says you guys love one another so much, this is in Ephesians chapter 1, and he says that I can't stop giving thanks for you every day. Wouldn't that be a great commentary of your church? I bet he would say that about Shepherd's Grove. We're a very loving church and I appreciate that. So they're known for their love, but here in Ephesus it says, 'I know your deeds, I know your hard work, I know your perseverance. You've persevered and endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary, yet I hold this against you.' Do we have the scripture? 'You have forsaken the love you had at first.' Now very often we interpret that as.. or sometimes it reads you have forsaken your first love. We read that as your love towards God, which love towards God's important, obviously, but that's not what this means. Your first love means how you love each other. How you love each other. You have stopped loving one another.

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You stopped loving one another! Yes, you persevered, you got through death, you got through hardship, you made sure that you never turned your back on God and you continued to persevere, but this is Christ speaking, you stopped loving each other! Isn't that what happens? When you're fighting, fighting, fighting, fighting for something, pushing harder, harder. When you keep pressing towards some goal harder and harder, something can happen where something inside of you gets cold. I've heard this happens to soldiers a lot. Many soldiers who came back from the second world war, maybe you or your parents were; maybe you saw this change in your father. Many people who are struggling in a business or a ministry, they struggle, struggle, struggle, but something inside changes and it's hard for them to be gentle. It's hard for them to be merciful. It's hard for them to be kind. Maybe that's you. Maybe you've been fighting something, maybe you're just dying for this thing, whatever it is, to succeed. Maybe you need a breakthrough but I want to remind you keep being tough, keep being strong, keep fighting, don't give up, but remember to be soft towards the people who are on your team. Be soft to the people that are praying for you. Be soft to the people that are calling you and emailing you and visiting you and bringing you meals. That's your team. That's your family. That's the people who love you. Without them, it's honestly going to be meaningless. I just find, I'm speaking as someone who's done this, when you fight for something you care about, don't bring that fight home. Be soft. Be gentle. Be kind to your kids. Be kind to your spouse. Be nice to them. Goes a long way. We talk a lot about being kind to one another, and we'll always think about being kind to a stranger. Be kind to your spouse. Be kind to your siblings. Be kind to your kids. That's what really matters. And you're doing that. You're such a good person. I'm so proud of you. You haven't forgotten your first love. You haven't forgotten the importance of how much your love means to the people in your life. You don't have to fight them, they're on your team. That brings me to my final thought, and that's this. In business or ministry or whatever it is, if you're a leader, a lot of leaders have the temptation to be mean towards people on their team because they care so much about the goal, and that's not a good thing. That's not the Christian way to lead. Many business people are that way. Don't be that way. If you're a CEO or a leader or lead pastor, it's so important that you remember to be tough minded for the vision, but be tender-hearted towards your team. Be stubborn for the vision, but be soft towards your team. That's the best team you can make. I have a good friend of our family, Glenn Stearns, who just did this TV show. It's the only reason I watched it, on Discovery. I recommend you watch. It's an amazing show, especially if you love that American bootstrap spirit. This guy Glenn Stearns who is a billionaire, my dad met him because he, I think.. I might get this wrong, my dad became great friends with him because he saw a girl on Oprah who could make baby noises, and rooster noises, and he was like wow, she's beautiful so he was somehow able to contact her, dated her and married her. And so Oprah did the wedding on their show, and my dad was the minister who married them. And so after that, he and Glenn hit it off, somehow, and Glenn and Mindy have been friends in our family for like 15 years or something. He's this great guy and he had this vision for a show that he pitched to Discovery. He's like I believe the American spirit is alive today, and that it's so much about heart and knowledge. So he did this show where they flew him to a random city, he had no idea where he was going to go; they dressed him up like a hobo, and all they gave him was an old pickup truck and a hundred dollars. And the goal was, he told them, you give me a hundred dollars and a pickup truck and I guarantee I will build you a million-dollar business in 90 days. And so this team follows him and watches how he starts by like finding scrap tires and getting odds and ends jobs, and he's basically using these odds and ends jobs to meet relations and build a team for the big vision, and it's just this amazing thing because really it is not as much a show about business as much as it is about leadership. And the one thing that you see is that Glenn throughout this whole story is incredibly stubborn.

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He is incredibly stubborn when it comes to what he's going to make, he won't give up, he won't quit, he's like this is where we're going, but he's able to get buy-in from like 11 or 12 people who have real jobs, they work for him all day for free, and all of them are able to build this incredible thing. You just have to watch it. It's on Discovery or you can get it on Amazon, but it's an amazing show. But the main thing I would say is that he, like so many great leaders, exemplified that idea of being tough towards the vision, but soft towards your team. One of the people he has to fire, for example, and he does a great job of letting her go, but after he does, he kind of just cries and weeps, and I know that feeling, I've had to fire some people, and it's a horrible feeling. It's horrible because you usually know the person, and you know you're affecting like their life and their kids and stuff. It's a hard thing to do, but the fact that he weeped and like was broken up about it, meant so much to me. I think that is the heart behind great leadership is to be tough minded for the vision, and to be tender-hearted towards your team. That's who you are. God hasn't made your heart cold. God has not made your heart hardened, and this is a reminder. Many of us are fighting for our businesses and fighting for our ministries because COVID has done a number, especially if you're in the restaurants or entertainment, you're getting crushed right now. Many of you are just fighting so, so hard and I want to encourage you don't give up, but remember the people that are rooting for you and praying for you, that they're on your side. Be tender towards them. Don't bring your work home. Amen? Love the people who are rooting for you and you'll get a lot of buy in, you'll get a lot of support, and you'll be grateful at the end that you did. I'm so proud of you. Keep being strong, keep being stubborn. Stubborn is a super power. Just be stubborn for the right things. Lord, we thank you. We bless your name. We lift it up on high. There's no name like the name of Jesus and we ask Father that as we move forward, that we humbly ask you forgive us of our sins, that you renew our spirit and forgive us of the times that we've been angry or made mountains out of molehills or picked fights with the people that love us. Forgive us for that and help us, Lord, to continue to press on in the goals that you've set before us. Lord, we love you, and we thank you. It's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

Thank you all for being here. I know this is going to be a great week, and I just pray that it'll be abundant and blessed. 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.