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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 feels so good to be with you today. You know, Jesus' sacrifice was not just for the salvation of our souls, but it was also for the physical healing of our bodies here and now. Today, trust that by His stripes you are healed. We love you.

BS: Amen. We're glad you're with us today. Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much that you love us just as we are. That you love us as sons and daughters, not as slaves, but as your children. And we thank you, God, that we serve and follow you out of a place of joy and belonging. And Father, we pray that this morning you would place in our hearts an understanding of how to use our time in an effective and wise way, in a way that counts. Lord, we love you and we thank you that every time we gather here, you see it and I pray you'd pour out your blessing on everyone under the sound of my voice. Lord, we love you and we thank you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HS: Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE - Mark 1:32 -38 - Haven Schuller

In preparation for the message, Mark 1:32:

That evening after sunset, the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon possessed. The whole town gathered at the door and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but He would not let the demons speak because they knew who He was. Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place where He prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for Him, and when they found Him, they explained everyone is looking for you! Jesus replied, let us go somewhere else to a nearby villages so I can preach there, also. That is why I have come. Just like Jesus, let's be intentional with how we spend our time. Amen.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Wherever you are, would you please stand with us? Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving from the Lord, we're going to 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. Its 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 "Habits of a Servant Leader"

I remember when I was a kid. My parents divorced, as I've told you a million times when I was maybe two or three. My mom lived in Los Angeles, my dad lived here in Orange County and they worked out a solution – the solution was that for the first four years as a child, I would spend most of the time with my dad.

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And the second four I would spend with my mom. And when I lived with my dad, I would go to school Monday through Friday and my mom would drive from the valley in Los Angeles, which is the farthest part of LA to San Juan Capistrano, which is the furthest south in California. Without traffic it's an hour and a half/two hours. With traffic its longer. And for every single year I lived with my dad, my mom would drive down every single Friday and pick me up from school and drive back every Sunday afternoon in an old station wagon. And during those times we had all sorts of time to talk and get to know each other. I remember very often, as a single woman, she would talk about men that she was meeting. It's interesting as an adult to look back and think of my young single mom in her late 20's and early 30's, a beautiful woman, and I remember when she told me about this guy Ron who I knew from work, because she'd bring me to work. A super nice guy. He was helping me write a book when I was like six or seven. Anyway, she and Ron have been married for 30 years. He's a wonderful man. We call him poppy. But I remember on those trips very often she used to get so annoyed by motorcycles. And I must have heard this phrase a million times. Every time we were stuck in traffic, and I believe this was coming from a place of jealousy, she would see a motorcycle on the freeway as we were basically parked on the 5, and it would go (MAKES MOTOR NOISE) right down the side or through the cars. She would grit her teeth and she would shake her head and she would say "his days are numbered." And I must have heard that phrase a hundred times. I don't know if you grew up, maybe you have family from the south or you're familiar with that expression: his days are numbered. It means he's not going to live very long. And I remember as I got older, every time I would see a motorcycle go flying past, I'd grab my mom's arm and say mom, his days are numbered. This expression "your days are numbered; his days are numbered" it comes like so many expressions from the Bible. In the ancient world, a feast was being held; a feast by maybe the wealthiest and most famous king in his life, Belshazzar, courtiers and earls and counts and different vassals and rulers gathered in his court for a feast; his many wives and concubines and songs were sung, and everybody was getting drunk. And there was dancing and singing and sin. And there King Belshazzar said to his hand, bring me the gold goblets that we took from the temple in Jerusalem so we can drink from them. And out came the gold and the silver goblets, and out came the grapes. I always think of in these old things for some reason there's some guy and some hot girl holding grapes over his mouth. I don't know if that was a real thing. But it was in the 60's. This feast was carrying on and people were going on and more celebrating was going on, and then all of a sudden someone screamed, and they looked across the court and they saw floating in the air a disembodied hand. And upon this wall as people in utter terror, upon this wall this hand wrote four words. Into the plaster and the stone, four words were engraved. It says that Belshazzar was so terrified that his knees began to tremble and that his face turned white. And nobody knew what it meant. "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin." "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin." He brought in all his magicians and soothsayers and wizards and nobody knew what it meant. It read like penny, penny, nickel, dime. What does this mean? Typically thought of as measurements of money in the Babylonian empire. Belshazzar's wife says 'husband may you live forever. I know a man.' Everybody look at your neighbor and say I know a man. "His name I Daniel. He could tell you what this means." Belshazzar had invited so many people to try and read this inscription on the wall. He offered them purple clothing which is a symbol of royalty and become a member of the royal family. Gold chain, and even promised that they would be given a third of his kingdom. Daniel comes in finally after nobody can understand or translate these words on the wall, and he says Daniel, prophet, if you could translate this, I will give you purple clothing and a gold chain and a third of my kingdom. Daniel looks at Belshazzar in the eyes and he says keep your clothing, keep your money and keep your land, but I'll tell you what it means.

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When I was at Fuller, we had to learn at graduate school, we had to learn Greek and Hebrew, and I always thought like Greek was going to be the hardest. You ever heard the expression it's all Greek to me? Greek is actually very easy. There's five million words in Greek, which makes it sound hard, but Greek is a very precise language. Hebrew is a very mysterious language. When the Bible was written, so Greek having five million words, Hebrew only has two thousand. And to make it even more difficult when you're translating the Hebrew Bible into your native language as we had to do, all words in Hebrew as in many ancient Phoenician languages have no vowels. Imagine in English we had no vowels and you wanted to write phonetically "car." How would you spell it? Well, you would write C-R. So if I showed you a car that said CR on it, that would be.. how do you know? CR could be cure, CR could be care. It could be a number of words that all have nothing to do with each other. This offers in Hebrew poetry and Hebrew ancient texts so much mystery and fun in terms of writing and interpreting what the Bible means. Every time you read the Old Testament you're reading an interpreter's decision. You can't see unless you read Hebrew. Anyway, that sounds condescending. But it was very difficult for me. Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin can mean penny, penny, nickel, quarter, or it can mean penny, penny, nickel, Persia. When Daniel comes in and he looks at the king, and he sees the goblets from the holy temple being defiled and he sees the writing on the wall, he looks at the king and he says Mene, Mene. This means your days are numbered. Tekel – this means your life has been weighed and it has been found wanting. Upharsin – Persia is coming for you and you will fall. The scripture says that that very night the King was assassinated and the king of the Medes and the Persians came and took his empire. Well, our days are numbered, aren't they? Our days are numbered and we feel it. We feel the time. The days, the seconds, the years, sometimes it's scary, and today I want to talk about this important aspect of life that a good life as a disciple to the Lord happens when we make a decision to give our numbered days and our weighted life to the things that matter most. Daniel's not only probably my favorite book in the Old Testament. It almost didn't get included in the canon because part of it is written in Aramaic. I love it so, though. When we think of Daniel, we always think of the end of his story, the sort of crescendo of his life, Daniel in the lion's den. You probably know this story. I don't need to tell it here. But we forget about Daniel who was an old man thrown into a den of lions. What we forget about him is that he had become someone special because of a pattern he kept in his life. Daniel's story coincides with the exile of the Jews to Babylon. It begins when the Babylonians come and they sack Jerusalem and they cart away its people and take from it from the holy family of a King of David four of David's great, great, great, great grandsons. You could call them four princes or four earls or four counts, these were four men who were supposed to be of the royal family and they were gifted. It was Daniel, Shadrack, Meschach and Abednego. And they were carted to the great place of Babylon, Babylonia and it was there that many stories sort of happened. In the midst of all of them, you see the leader of this pack, Daniel, a man of prayer. I believe when Daniel arrived in Babylonia, the first morning that he woke up, he opened his window and he faced the west and he prayed to Jerusalem. And he did it in the morning, and he did it at lunchtime and he did it before he went to bed. As a young man, Daniel lived through so many things. His life was a direct contrast to the life of the people whom he lived with. In the way he ate. When an idol was placed up by Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar's father, Shadrack, Meschach and Abednego and Daniel all refused not to bow down, and they were thrown into the furnace and preserved. And even then, Daniel prayed three times a day. Through every king and every dream and every miracle, every high and every low, every morning Daniel would get up and open his window and pray to Jerusalem. And every middle of the day he would open his window and pray to Jerusalem. And every night he would pray to Jerusalem. Finally, you see that by the time Daniel reaches this lion's den story, he's an old man. But in his oldness, he's stronger than has ever become. Daniel's basically become Gandalf.

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I couldn't use the DreamWorks picture because its intellectual property, but I found this one. He has become maybe in his physical body not super strong, but on the outside he is the man. He is so full of power, so full of wisdom that any king, whether they're Jewish or not, looks to this man. And when the Persians finally do come, and they do kill Belshazzar and they do take power, the new king sets up a hundred and twenty wizards, Satraps, and in that group is this guy Daniel, and very quickly being Gandalf, he rises to the top. You see we are the sum of our habits. I believe that Daniel became in his old age the man who he was because he consistently lived according to a set of habits. We don't know what all of them are, but we do know every morning, every noonday and every night, he prayed. And in fact, this was the thing that trapped him. These Satraps growing in jealousy who wanted to see Daniel taken out so they could have power, played by the world's rules, but Daniel didn't play by those rules. He just kept praying morning, noon and night. These Satraps said great king, let's make a rule that you are god and anybody who prays to anyone but you will be thrown into the lion's den. The king agrees and of course they grab Daniel and they throw him in the lion's den. And little do they know that because of the sum of his habits, Daniel wasn't in the lion's den. The lions were in the Daniel den. His life had become such a thing of power and wisdom because of his habits! Every great woman and man that we see in the scriptures or that we see in life is a result of the little things they do every day. Every great athlete, every great thinker, every great leader, they all have habits. Habits that change them. We think that a successful business, successful life, a successful ministry, successful parenting, very often we think it's this one great moment. Our kids hate us because we missed that one musical. No. It's the things we do every day. Our kids don't hate us, right Haven? You did great today. Jesus clearly had habits. I love the way in which our rabbi Jesus liked solitude. I found this painting from an artist named Greg Olson. I love this image. Maybe just keep this up for a minute. When Jesus, before He began His ministry, He went into solitude into the desert where he was tempted by Satan, and for 40 days and 40 nights He didn't eat, and He just lived in the kingdom of God. Before choosing His disciples, He went into solitude. When one of His closest friends and family member John the Baptist was brutally murdered, He went into solitude to seek the Lord. And after one of His great miracles, feeding 5,000 people with just a little bit of food, He still went up into the hills to just be alone with God. Solitude was a habit for Jesus. Bible memorization was a habit for Jesus. It was a habit for all Jews, and all children had to memorize the Torah, first five books of the Bible. And you see that the Lord uses this and the disciples use this to win spiritual wars. They begin these sentences like when He was being tempted: it is written. When they say that, they're not pulling out a scroll or a Bible from their pocket. They know it because it's in here and it's in here. The word has taken root in their heart and is bearing fruit. Jesus, of course, had habits of community, gathering in the synagogue where He would teach, and sometimes He would listen, and He would gather with His friends and family, and break bread and pray with them and give thanks to the Lord. You see Jesus, we believe, is the son of God, right? Amazing person, the most amazing person who's ever lived, and yet even He had habits, He had things built into His life. He knew, I believe, that the victory of His ministry was in part due to the habits of His life. See this is the pickle, isn't it? We don't have a lot of time in life. We don't have a lot of time. And much of the time that we do have is used doing things that exhaust us so that we have a little extra time, we're either exhausted or we're poor or we don't feel good physically, or we're all of the above. Anybody feel all of the above? Don't raise your hand. Join the club. Time really is our greatest treasure! It's our greatest treasure. Our days are numbered. I don't need a prophet to tell me that. I don't need someone to look at me and say your days are numbered – use them well. I already have an anxiety within me that tells me every single day! Bobby, not much time left. Make it count. Look even if you're young, you don't have much time left. Life is short. And it is important that we understand that to finish well.

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That when we get to heaven to look back and say I did a good life is the result of the little things we do every day. You show me your calendar, I'll show you your future. You show me what you do every single week, I'll show you where your life is going. Time is our greatest treasure. It's interesting how all people have felt this, even before we became capitalists of time. We felt very mystic about time and the calendar and the clock. There are all sorts of things around a calendar, isn't there, that different people outside of our faith or inside that they use all the time. Actually, we're coming up on Chinese lunar new year. This is the year of the ox, which I'm sorry I'm picking on you again, Haven, you were born in the year of the ox. Or who remembers when 12/12/12 happened? That was kind of a big deal. It was almost as big of a deal as 11/11/11, and 10/10/10. In the year 1000, all of Europe, east and west was in an uproar because there was a prophecy written hundreds of years before that at the end of time, the end of time would be 1000 A.D. and that at that time, a great king, a Roman emperor would come to Jerusalem and lay down his crown, and there Christ would rise up and put the crown on and the emperor would die. And a great battle, a great apocalypse would happen between Christ and Satan. And so, although it sounds silly to us, at the year 1000, the great holy Roman emperor, Otto the 3rd, moved the capital from Germany, so the Holy Roman Empire was really a German empire, but the idea was they were going to rebuild a fallen Rome because the year 1000 was coming! And the Bible says that Rome, which of course we interpret as symbolic, would fall, Otto the 3rd believed, so this was, at the time, the world's greatest ruler. Everybody is freaking out in the year 1000, and Otto believed that he was going to be the guy who was going to lay his crown down in Jerusalem and begin the great apocalypse in the end of days. He actually just died of a fever, though, and never made it. Who remembers Y2K? Year 2000? I was in high school, and yes, I was freaked out. But I am thankful that I had a good pastor who just told us plainly when Christ returns, nobody's going to be expecting it. Remember that? I promise you when Christ returns, it's going to be when everybody says, you know what? Christ isn't returning, and then BANG that's when its going to get you. There's something about calendars that cause us to see the world. I don't know what it is about time. And the clocks, too. I remember when Hannah and I and Chad and Hillary years ago, we were doing a tour in Germany and we finished by having a couple days of rest in Prague, which is maybe the most beautiful city in the world, one of the most beautiful. And I believe actually Hillary or Chad took this picture, but this is Hannah and me in front of the world's oldest astronomical clock. So an astronomical clock is just like a normal clock, but they also add, you can see on top, the signs of how things are moving. Prague is such a beautiful city. It's a very mysterious and very bohemian, literally, city. There's a legend that says something like the guy who built this clock did such a good job that the king gouged out his eyes so he would never make another one. I don't think it's true, though. But anyway, I thought a lot about this clock. Actually, when we got home, I got sick and we had to miss some friends. I sent them this video:

(VIDEO) Hello friends. I'm sick. And I'm trying to remember what it felt like to be healthy. I've got a flu and a fever and I got it in Prague. Ahhh. Ahhh. (END OF VIDEO)

Anybody remember feeling that way? When you're sick, you got a lot of time to think. I was thinking about that clock. Look at this. It's really interesting. So, when the clock rings, there's all these interesting things, right? You have angels and kings and things. But then you have this skeleton right here which represents death. And every time the clock rings, guess who reminds you you just lost an hour of your life. Good old death, ringing the bell, reminding you BONG, BONG, its coming! I remember thinking that artist, man, he understands that so many people in life live with this anxiety, not only about death, but just time. It's not just that I'm going to die, it's that I'm also getting older. That no matter how old I am today, I'm the youngest I'll ever be again. That is a horrible thought.

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I thought we were supposed to be positive here, possibility thinkers. That was very negative. But we all feel that way. We feel this angst about time. Monks were the ones who invented the clock, did you know that? There are lots of clocks before monks, but monks invented the mechanical clock most similar to what we use today, not to keep track of time, but just to remember to pray. Clock comes from a French word "cloche" that means "bell." And so, the monks have multiple times a day, set hours that they're supposed to pray, and imagine what it would be like if we didn't have clocks. Imagine if I was like church starts mid-morning. Church starts three-ish hours when the sun dial. So people would gather that way. Just imagine how different life would feel if you didn't have that tick, tick, tick, tick, tick, bong, bong. All right, all of this to simply say, you do have to worry about time, but you don't have to worry about time if you give it to the Lord. Your life is the sum of your habits. If you give your time to God, He will give time to you. When we build into our life habits, we change our future. The only way your future is going to be different in a positive way than it is now is by changing the habits you have in your life. Practice silence and solitude. Find time to do it. Find time to memorize parts of the Bible. When you find a Bible verse that really touches your heart, you ought to memorize it and you'll find that being able to recite it to yourself and to others will begin to change your life and your perspective and it will begin to fill your life with power. Be involved in community. Commit your life to this church or a church. It is so important. God asks us to gather once a week. We should do it. We should take that seriously. Not only to hear the word of God; look if you want to come to church and sleep, that is totally fine with me. Just come. Obey the Lord. Gather with His people. Pray with one another. Or watch online. I know we can't gather right now, but you know gather in a virtual way. Commit your life to your family and your friends. If you're married, get a date night. If you have children, set aside a specific time in your week that you'll get together with them. Just one on one. A time to go on a walk, a time to talk, a time to get a meal. Make sure that you understand that if you want your business, your personal life, your family, and especially your walk with God to change, you have to change your habits. Type them into your calendar. Include things in your daily life and in your week that will change. And you watch that and that fear of my life is ticking away, it'll go away. I promise. You'll give it to the Lord because you will have changed things in your life that will change your future. I want you to know you're doing so much better than you think, and I want to encourage you that God has your future in His hand and its very bright. And I think God wanted you to hear this message. And I believe it will change your life. We love you, Lord. You've given us time. We give it back to you. We pray that we would use it in a way that would bless you, our family, our friends and our neighbors. We love you, God, it's in Christ' name we pray, 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 peace in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen.