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

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

HS: Welcome visitors, welcome church family. We always love being with you. You know, if you need healing today, keep being diligent and trusting the Lord and sticking to believing that His word, it says in the Bible that God's word is health to all your flesh. You are loved.

BS: Amen. We're so glad you're with us today, too, no matter who you are, no matter what paradigm you're coming from, we're just so glad you're here and believe God has a word for you today. One word can change your life. So whether you're at home or out in the courtyard or here in the sanctuary, we're just thrilled to be gathered with you this morning and praying that it's a day of rest and joy for you. Father, we come to you in the name of Jesus your Son and ask, Lord, that today you would renew our spirits, that you'd form us more and more into the image of Jesus. Lord, thank you for your forgiveness and your friendship towards us. 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 – Genesis 3, 14 -15 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Genesis 3:14-15:

So the Lord your God said to the serpent, because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals. You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers. He will crush your head and you will strike his heel. Church family, we have the power to crush the head of the devil. Hallelujah, amen.

Interview Bobby Schuller (BS) and Noemi Chavez (NC)

Noemi Chavez is a pastor at Revive Church in Long Beach, which she founded with her husband Joshua. She is also the co-founder of Brave Global, an organization whose mission is to prevent the most vulnerable, both here and around the world, from becoming victims of human trafficking. By ministering to young girls and empowering them to understand their worth in God's eyes, she hopes to inspire change that transforms entire communities.

BS: Noemi, hi! Thank you so much for being with us today.

NC: Thank you for having me.

BS: You have such an awesome ministry, but before we jump to that, tell us a little bit about your testimony, your story, and how you got involved in this.

NC: Yes, so we've been pastoring, my husband and I, for about 15 years in Long Beach, and we always wanted to serve in our community. One of the things that we learned asking the chief of police, how can we better serve our city? He said father the city. And so we looked for ways to connect with..

BS: What does that mean, by the way, father the city?

NC: Father the city.

BS: Seems like a really deep answer for a cop.

NC: Actually he's a strong believer.

BS: Oh yes. Awesome.

NC: He's a passionate follower of Jesus, and he said we have a fatherless city. He said have leadership step in to parent the city, parent children in our communities. Both my husband and I grew up in church, and both of us have both of our parents still alive who have been married for a very long time. We prayed and we asked the Lord, how can we do this, God? How can we serve our community better?

Son of Eve

And we were able to come to the information that over 70, up to 80 and even 90% of girls that are being trafficked in the city were at one point in foster care and on probation. We connected with the social workers in our city, in our community, in our church, teachers in the school system, probation, because these case files are available to them, right? If we as a church could come alongside them, how can we inspire these girls and how can we encourage them to make decisions that would not take them to the streets. Our logo inside conversations was we want to get to them before the pimps do. We started to meet with probation and with foster care, and in our first opportunity for us to actually gather some girls that were in foster care, they literally brought to us about 200 girls.

BS: Wow, you must have been just overwhelmed. I mean they just show up..

NC: We were in tears. Our team was in tears. We felt like God was trusting us with something that would greatly impact the future of young girls, not only in our country, but internationally. Each year our conference and our gatherings with these girls grew by over a hundred. And we've had over 600 girls: foster care, probation and social workers in our gatherings, and we have found many other ways to connect with them. As we did this, other churches got wind of it and started asking us what are you doing? Out of that was birthed Brave Global. So now we are coaching churches throughout the U.S. and internationally, and we see its caught fire in the hearts of believers who have said I have a heavy, heavy heart for girls that are being trafficked and we said well how about we get to them before they end up on the streets. That is the heart of who we are. We want girls to know that they are not the problem, that they are a part of the solution, but they don't know this yet, so we get to inform them you are a part of the solution for our world today.

BS: One of the most amazing things I've learned from this interview is just that there's such an obvious connection between foster care and human trafficking. Like I would have never guessed that. I think we've always known there's a big need for foster care and we love it when, especially Christians from our church or from other churches get into the foster care program because we know that, who knows how good that place is going to be for the kid. Why do you think that connection is there?

NC: Well the vulnerability, the sense of abandonment and being embraced by somebody who would apparently care for them, right? So years ago I came across a woman when I got to share with a group of people from the Salvation Army and this woman came up to me and said 'man, I wish you would have shared this when I was a kid in foster care.'

She basically told me as an adult, I came to faith in Jesus and I fell in love with Jesus. She said, but it took me a long time to forgive the church. She said I used to walk by a neighborhood where there was a church constantly, but nobody ever reached out to me. I didn't know how to go into this building. We made a decision at Brave Global to say not on our watch. If there's any churches and organizations that want to reach the most vulnerable girls, and prevent them from ending up in the streets or in the hands of somebody who wants to harm them, then we will be that army that goes into those spaces and into those opportunities to journey with girls ages 12 to 18 are the ones that we target the most.

BS: That's awesome. What is something if you're just a normal Joe or Jane, and you want to make a difference. You feel like the Lord is putting something on your heart, but like is there something simple I can just do on my own to make a difference?

NC: Absolutely. Absolutely. Well, what we offer even through Brave Global is just different opportunities for people to either pray, financially contribute, but then there are people who like to get their hands in the work of the kingdom. And for that we have what we call Brave Circles. We can also get in touch with the representatives in your community, in your cities who are most in touch with girls that are vulnerable so that we can find a way for the church to be now a life-giving stream into the life of these young women.

BS: Another interesting thing is on Hour of Power, I'm surprised how many sex workers we have that are watching the program, contributing to the program even, and yet they're still sex workers and they see themselves as Christians. They feel stuck. What word would you say to someone like that? Like they want to get out but they're worried about their kids and things like that. What kind of encouragement could you give to someone like that?

NC: Well, I think that my message is first off to the church at large. When you come in contact with people who are being trafficked, or how can you offer them love, how can you walk with them, how can you be a resource to them? How can you be a part of their journey to transition out of that life to a place where their family is safe and where they are cared for?

Son of Eve

It's easy to get overwhelmed or upset with somebody and say just leave the lifestyle but I think there has to be a love sensitivity for us as believers to not just check something off the box in our faith, maybe even for a vote for or against. You know? It's like no, we're called to journey with people, and so that right there is part of the answer. So anybody who's watching, I would encourage that woman or even that man to get into a community that will walk with them, and really bring out their faith into a place where they can grow.

BS: What I hear you saying is it's a lot like the culture of a church needs to change where a lot of churches would feel uncomfortable if someone came and they were dressed or acting a certain way that didn't fit the cultural norms of your particular church. And what you're saying is like get rid of that lens and just almost have an eye for that person and make sure they feel extra welcomed when they come in. If they're hiding in the corner or seem a little uncomfortable or like to make sure that they get a little extra attention, maybe.

NC: I think that kind of love is basically saying I'm not afraid to be near you. I mean here's the thing is that we all have struggled with sin and so there are people who are going to walk into the doors of our church who maybe look and dress differently than we do, and it makes us uncomfortable, but then there are those of us who know how to dress really nice but hide the issues that are still offensive to God and so if we can look past that, we can look past that signature sin in their lives then God is willing to deal with the ones in our life, as well.

BS: Those who have ears to hear, let them hear. Well, you can find out more about this ministry by going to braveglobal.org. Noemi Chavez, thank you so much for the work you're doing.

NC: Thank you, pastor.

BS: You and your husband and your ministry. We appreciate you.

NC: Thank you, thank you, thank you for having me.

BS: God bless you.

Welcome / Come visit – Bobby Schuller

Hello. I'm so glad you're here. So glad you're joining us, wherever you are, here in the sanctuary, out in the courtyard or at home. I feel like I say this every Sunday, a couple times. But I say it because I mean it. I'm glad you're here and I believe God has a word for you today and I'm hoping that this word strikes right where it needs to.

Declaration – Bobby Schuller

Whoever you are, would you stand with us? Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving from the Lord, we're going to say this creed 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 "Son of Eve"

Today's message might seem a little I guess weird, in a way, but it's in response to an experience I've had as a pastor of many people in church or around church that are either afraid of Satan himself, or afraid of something like I'm not sure I'm going to go to heaven. And today I want to address that, that although there's heaven and hell and they are real consequences for life, and there is a Satan, and there's God and there's good and evil, so much of the testimony of scripture is really just that you don't have to be afraid of those things. That if you've entrusted your life to Jesus Christ, at that point it's not about your behavior as much as it is the posture of your heart. If you're friends with God, you don't have to worry about any of those things, and you don't have to worry about Satan over whom you have been given authority. And that's what I want to talk about today. I got a text from my dad a few days ago who was writing his own sermon for today, for Sunday, and he asked if I had a copy of Screw Tape Letters and it stung because I used to. Screw Tape Letters is a book written by C.S. Lewis and I used to have a first edition copy, it was from 1942, I got from my grandpa's cabin and I read it several times; I had it around and I lost it sometime in college. To be honest, I think my roommate might have borrowed it and forgot to bring it back, as happens with so many of your favorite books. Screw Tape Letters was a book written by C.S. Lewis to J.R. Tolkien. It's not one of his more famous works, but I love that it was dedicated to Tolkien because I love Lord of the Rings. But the book is a novel about a senior demon named Screw Tape who is writing to a junior demon, I believe it's his nephew, named Wormwood.

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And the exchange is a series of very British sounding letters. C.S. Lewis was a professor at Oxford. And the whole thing going back and forth was about how to entrap this everyday British bloke. How to make this guy fall for the trappings of darkness. And it's very, very interesting because what C.S. Lewis does is shows you how Satan works in the lives of people through deception. That so much of it is about playing to our thoughts. And as a kid, reading this book, I think it was useful for me when I became a Christian because it helped me to see that what he said is actually, in a way, very true. May not be the way he did it in a funny way, but that in life, there is a battle over you. It's easy to think that there's an epic end of the world battle over history and over the world, but at the end of the day, remember Jesus says that there will be more rejoicing over one than over the 99. That when one person comes to know the Lord, all of heaven breaks out in rejoicing and celebration when just one sinner comes back to the Lord. Isn't that amazing? And what I want you to understand today, if you hear anything I say, is that the battle has already been won. See you've already attained the victory. To wonder or worry about whether or not the outcome will be good is to not understand the scripture. That on the cross, the victory has already been won for you, and so you don't have to be afraid. You're going to make mistakes, you're going to have blunders in life, especially from people that wrestle with alcohol or substance abuse. I know it can be so hard when you fall off the wagon, but trust me, my friend, God's not cursing you. He's rooting you on, whatever it is you're going through, I want you to know that your mistake will not become your master. That God has already had the victory in your life, and what we have to do is have faith, which means we just trust that through the process, God will hold our hand and carry us through. He's going to carry you through. Keep hope alive. God will not let your mistake become your master because whatever it is that has hold on your life, has already been defeated two thousand years ago. That's good news. That's the gospel. Today, I'm actually going to talk about Satan and how little power he has over you, actually, and how you don't need to be afraid of it, and I'm not even going to ask you to look to him at all. I want you to look to the Lord. In Genesis, at the creation, the world is chaos and into the chaos God places a garden, which is order. And in this garden, everything is alive and vibrant. Adam and Eve have no shame. They're totally naked. They love one another. They have absolute friendship and intimacy between each other and with God. And they have no need at all. They're not afraid of anything. Life is great, its heaven. And so they're in communion with each other and with the Lord, but like everything, God gives them the ability to choose to be away from Him. You can't really love someone if they force you to love them. If you get love from a robot, it's not real love. If I asked Hannah to kiss me and she kissed me, well that would be real love. But if I pointed a gun at her head and said kiss me, well that wouldn't count, would it. That's cheating. And so in the same way, the reason the Lord places the tree in the garden is so that Adam and Eve can choose to reject God if they want to. Well in the garden, a serpent arrives and says to Eve, why don't you eat of that fruit over there? And she says well, the Lord said we couldn't. He's given us all this other stuff, so I can't eat that fruit. And the famous line: "did God really say that?" And of course Eve's response, proud of Eve, she said yes, He did. He did say that. So then Satan's second attack is well, you know why, it's because He doesn't want you to be like Him. He doesn't want you to know what He has. And the Bible actually does say that the fruit looked appealing and pleasurable to her, and then it also says and so did the wisdom, like there was a wisdom within it. And that's what lured her. And so we know this story: she takes the bite of the fruit and she convinces Adam to take it, and at that moment, everything changed as they've rejected God, they've invited sin into God's creation, and that's the beginning of all the madness. And very similar to the story of Pandora's jar, all this horrible stuff enters into the world. And so in that story, they've realized they're naked and they try and cover their nakedness, and they see God coming, and they have this whole exchange with God where they all deceive each other, and they're blaming everybody. And then finally God just is like enough. And this is where He places a curse on Satan, and you will see throughout the whole Bible this becomes a theme. It says in Genesis 3, "So the Lord God said to the serpent because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals. You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman" okay, and not just the woman and the serpent, but what? "And between your offspring" that is the serpent's offspring, "and hers." In other words, the two of you are going to fight forever, but then he, the serpent is going to have offspring, a seed, and she's going to have offspring, a seed, and they're always going to be fighting one another. And the way this is interpreted is the legions of evil versus Israel, and that the two will always be in conflict.

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That the children of Satan will always destroy or try to destroy the children of God, but it will be like this: you will crush, talking to Eve, you will crush his head and he will strike your heel. Now when we read that in English, you miss out on the beauty, and I don't have time to get into it, but it's a very poetic and beautiful closer to this curse that God places on Satan, on the serpent. And it reads like this: it's like as the serpent bites his heel, that is the seed of Eve, the heel will come down on the head of the serpent. Does that make sense? So it's like SWISH crush, right? Like it will look like at first that you've been bit, but the biting itself is the very thing that will kill the serpent. And you see that throughout all of scripture this way in which the enemy tries to attack God's people and strikes first, but in the end, the striking itself leads to the destruction, not of the child of Eve, but of the child of Satan. And most of all, we see this on the cross where Satan believed that he had killed the Son of God, and that it was this great victory, but in killing the Son of God, he destroyed his own authority on earth. He gave up the keys. He himself was made impotent. He himself was destroyed. And so what we learn from this is that God makes not only a curse to Satan, but a promise to us. That when we are attacked by Satan, it actually leads to the enemy's destruction if we leave the victory in the hands of the Lord. It's interesting when I talk about this, very often on Fridays for years, I believe that as a pastor, one of the most important things I can do is actually pray. And to the world, that seems like a waste of time, but for me, I have to build in a rhythm where on Friday's I go and pray. And so part of that is like very often for years, I've gone to Rancho Capistrano. I don't always go there, but it's my dad's old church grounds; it's now owned by Saddleback and its open to the public, anybody can go, and nobody does, which is great. Hopefully it stays that way. I like to keep all three hundred acres to myself. But anyway I wander around and I do crazy things, and I'm always praying and I'm by myself. Nobody can see me except the Lord, and so I get to be a little bit of a nut. And actually its funny, I've taken Russ and Chad there multiple times and there have been times where Russ needed to get ahold of me, and I have my phone on silent or something. And there's this thing on Apple called Find my Friends where you can see where your friends cell phones is, and I'll be walking through like the orange groves and it'll be like a hundred degrees outside and it'll be like heatwaves and dust and I can see a shadowy figure and its Russ in a polo and khakis and dress shirts waving a sheet of paper saying 'I need you to sign this today or we'll lose our tax-exempt status in Canada!' That is a true story, by the way. It wasn't that exact thing, but something like that. Anyway. So there's this one area I love, and it's at the top of the mountain behind.. mountain.. it's a Rancho Capistrano type hill, but I call it a mountain, behind the church, the sanctuary, and its a little bit of a hike and you wind up, and then at the very end of the hike, there's this beautiful pepper tree, big, and pepper trees drape kind of like a weeping willow, and where the path goes through, somebody cut it out so that it almost forms like a doorway. And right when you cross through this, you go out onto like a peninsula, I call it a peninsula but it's like a peninsula in the sky. It's like you go out and it's this long skinny thing and all around you is air so it's very windy and warm, and just something about it, it makes me feel close to the Lord and it's a great place to be alone and to pray. And so anytime I go there, it feels sacred to me, so like in Exodus, anytime I get to that pepper tree, I take my shoes and socks off and I walk barefoot to the end because I'm on holy ground; I feel like its holy ground. So one day as I was walking, and I almost got to the end, there's grass sometimes and shrubbery on the ground, we have snake problems at the Ranch, rattlesnakes; they're everywhere. And I actually stepped, unbeknownst on a rattlesnake under the grass. And so I stepped on it, I felt this.. like felt like a fish, move under my foot and it goes (MAKES SHUDDERING NOISES) and runs away like this, and I thought WOO! That was close! That was a close one. And I really felt like the Lord speak to me, that it was an image, actually, that even though it seemed silly to walk barefoot and maybe it was, that it was an image of what happens spiritually in our lives. That when we become weak, we take off sometimes the things that we think are protecting us in order to honor God, that Satan becomes powerless in that moment. So as the serpent was running away from me, it was like a symbol of what's happening spiritually in life when we're obeying our lives to God, when we're putting God first, that Satan really has no power, and he has no power in your life. Glad he didn't bite me because I wouldn't be able to tell such a cool story, if I talked about how my hospital experience was. No, we trust our lives to the Lord. You have nothing to be afraid of. Satan has no power over your life, and the word of God cannot fail in your life. Okay, so we see this example of heads being crushed and snakes all throughout the Bible. There's a famous story of the evil general Sisera who's running away from Deborah's army in the book of Judges, and when he thinks he's safe, he goes to lay down and Jael the wife of Heber drives a stake through his head and kills him. Have you never read the Bible? It's in there. It's in Judges 4. This is a renaissance painting.

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This lady does not look like someone who lives in the desert in the Middle East in 1000 B.C., but anyway, this is a renaissance painting from Vermeil. It's a famous painting, I think it's at the Hermitage or something. But anyway, a famous story and what you would read as a Jew studying this passage is a woman crushing the head of evil, right? A very clear symbol. So it's Eve, Eve crushing Satan. Another image we get in the Old Testament famously is David. When David kills Goliath, Goliath in the Bible, and I've preached on this before, is for sure a symbol of Satan. You see 666 in the text based on his armor and so on, and what happens when David strikes him down? That the stone embeds itself into the head of Satan, of Goliath, and then of course when we see it here, to add insult to injury, David will chop his head off. This is, by the way, the image that Michelangelo did in the Sistine Chapel in the corner, if you ever make your way to the Vatican, you'll have a chance to see this. Very beautiful painting. And it's all through the prophets, through Jeremiah, Isaiah and Psalms, this image of the head of Satan being crushed. That the hope, the hope that someday that not only.. it's like in the Old Testament God is currently working on it, like there's all these stories of Satan's head being crushed, but someday it'll be like ultimately crushed. And then snakes, snakes are in the Bible. Of course we think of.. there are two very weird and un-Jewish passages in Exodus where when Moses comes to the burning bush, there's all sorts of things that he gives Moses to do, but one of the things is He says take your staff and lay it on the ground. And what happens? It becomes a snake, right? A very scary thing. A snake, remember, is not only a symbol for Satan, but it's one of the symbols of worship for the Egyptians, right? It's a cobra. If you go into like the pyramids today, you can see hieroglyphs about the cobra and if you translate it correctly, it'll say strike first, strike hard, no mercy. One guy gets it. So anyway, that's a pop culture joke. No but they do worship the cobra, that there's this cobra worship and there's these images all over. And so when Moses and Aaron go before Pharaoh and they lay their staves down, and yes staff plural is staves, when they lay their staves down, so when Aaron puts the staff down, it turns into a snake and what's Pharaoh's response? So what. So what. Our guys can do that. So he brings out his soothsayers and magicians, they lay down their staves, and they turn into a bunch of snakes, but then Aaron's staff snake eats all the other snakes, and that's when Pharaoh freaks out. He's like oh no, what does that mean? So because it's an ancient text, it's like kind of hard for us to understand, even through Jewish eyes, but the way Pharaoh would have seen that is Aaron or Moses has authority over my god, who is the serpent, does that make sense? Moses and Aaron have authority over the cobra. What is this? So the first thing you see as a Jew reading the Jewish Bible, the Old Testament, is that God had given Moses authority over the serpent, over Satan. And by the way, Jesus will give that to you. And then there's this other bizarre story where the Hebrew people when they're wandering through the wilderness, after they've been freed, they're like complaining about their food, and they're hungry, and they begin to curse God and complain and do all this stuff, and the way I read this, it says that God sent fiery snakes to attack them. The word for fiery is also the word for poisonous, so I don't know why translators always choose fiery. It makes you picture snakes that are on fire. Its poisonous snakes. And this is what a snake often looks like in a desert. And the way I picture it is that there is like so many snakes hiding in the sand, and they didn't even see them, that with all the complaining, it's not as much that God sent the snakes as much as He withdrew His protection. I don't know. Take it or leave it. The Bible says He sent the snakes, but that's how I understand it. But this is the weird part. So God prays to Moses for forgiveness, and God instructs Moses to put a bronze snake on a pole and hold it up and then if those who were bitten or who are afraid look to the bronze snake, then their poison will be cleansed and they won't be attacked. So it's this very bizarre passage that leaves people with all the idolatry commands in a very uncomfortable place. But keep in mind, the Bible does not say to worship it. It says merely to look at it. And so there's a difference. Worship means you bow down, but to look at it means to observe, to take in a message. So what's the message? That God is sending those who look at it. Well a Jew would not interpret it this way, but as a Christian, Christians have interpreted it this way forever. The famous artist James Tissot spells it out for us clearly. He likes to make it look like this. Do we have that picture? It's the cross. Many great Bible commentators have said this is a messianic prophecy that basically says that Satan, the serpent, or in other words that which harms you is going to die. That which harms you, you have authority over. That which harms you is dead. It's under God's authority and crown. And to say even more, Jesus then on the cross accomplishes this very thing. When the serpent attacks Christ to crucify Him, it strikes His heel, but BAM, He crushes his head and all of Satan's authority in your life is destroyed. You don't have to worry about anything. Satan hates you, of course he hates you. Satan hates you so much because of how much God loves you.

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The only way Satan can harm God is by harming God's children, and the only way Satan can harm you is if you believe him. See he's a deceiver. He's a deceiver. And so we reject it. If you want Satan out of your life, just tell him so. He has to do what you tell him to do. You have authority. You're in charge. Jesus says in Luke chapter 10.. if you have your Bible's, you can open with me real quick. See how fast you are at flipping. In Luke chapter 10, verse 18, Jesus said "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I've given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions, and to overcome all the power of the enemy." He doesn't mean literally snakes and scorpions there. That's a clear Jewish reference to Satan. I've given you authority over Satan. And He does just say it plainly. "I've given you all the power over the enemy and nothing will harm you." Look, this is something we can hold in our hearts. You don't have to worry about these things. You can trust that God has already defeated Satan in your life. It's already done and you can trust in that. And so we live in that place. We walk by that. It's funny, years ago, in 2007 at the Crystal Cathedral, my grandpa got a call from Evel Knievel. If you don't know who Evel Knievel is, you're too young. He was this super famous daredevil that did all these amazing things up through the 60's, 70's and 80's, he was a superstar, uber wealthy, uber famous. He has a hilarious story about trying to get life insurance and he couldn't but anyway, after this wild life, towards the end of his life, he called my grandpa to tell him that he'd come to faith and he wanted to share his testimony. And so my grandpa invited him. The interview.. our interviews are supposed to be 6 minutes; it ended up being over 20 minutes long, but it led to an incredible response. After his testimony over 800 people, I believe, were baptized. Many took communion and many were saved. And it was just an incredible testimony. I also want to apologize because there's a little bit of profanity. He calls Satan the duke of Normandy. But check this out: {VIDEO ROLL IN} EVEL: I don't know what in the world happened. I don't know if it was the power of the prayer or God Himself, but it just reached out either while I was driving or walking down the sidewalk or sleeping, and it just.. the power of God and Jesus just grabbed me. It just took ahold of me so strong, I can't tell you how strong it was. And I became a person who was filled, was just filled with Christianity. All of a sudden, I just believed in Jesus Christ. I did, I believed in Him! I don't know what happened to me. I rose up in bed in Daytona the second night I was there. I rose up in bed and I was by myself and I said devil, devil, you bastard you, get away from me. I cast you out of my life. I went to the balcony of my hotel room, I said I will take you and throw you, throw you on the beach. You will be dead; you will be gone. I don't want you around me anymore. I did everything I could. I just got on my knees and prayed that God would put His arms around me and never, ever, ever let me go. I just all of a sudden was just overcome by the spirit of God almighty. And my wife Crystal, she had been trying to help me with things I wanted, even though she didn't believe at the time, and she doesn't believe like I do, she went out and got me a Bible I could read that had passages underneath the verses so you could better understand them. She went and got me a video tape called Jesus of Nazareth, which is a wonderful video tape. She got me a book called The Case for Christ, which is a wonderful book to read. And I've had so much help from my whole family. I know that there is more to life than what I've had. I wrote a book called Evel Ways. I said I've had a life better than any king, any president or any prince. Hogwash. I didn't have Jesus Christ in my life. I was talking about the Rolls Royce' I had, five of them. The Ferrari's I've had, five of them. The Stetson's. The Lamborghini's. The jet airplanes, two of them. I flew one alongside of the other so I could read my name on the side of them. Yes. Evel Knievel. My dad said who you going to impress at 40,000 feet at 600 miles an hour. Why don't you go down and buy a truck, drive along the freeway? The diamonds and the gold and the racehorses and the women and the booze, I want to tell you something. I've been a sinner. You're looking at a real sinner, but not anymore. You're not looking at a sinner anymore. And I've had everybody.. I've had everybody in my family try to help me, my son and my wife came here today from Montana and Las Vegas and friends that came to see me and be with me. I'm so happy. This is the biggest step that I have ever taken in my life, Dr. Schuller is right. I'll tell you the difference between a Christian and an atheist. A Christian wants to believe. They want to believe everything about Christianity and Jesus. An atheist does not believe in God because he doesn't want to. He stays away from it. He gets mad. He doesn't want to hear about it. That's what an atheist is. Do not let us come with any patronizing thoughts in our mind to say oh yes, Jesus was a minister of His time or a Biblical person, a person who believed in God, who taught us.. He was a teacher, a great human being. Jesus did not offer us that. He didn't offer us that. He was the Son of God. He is the Son of God, and if you don't believe that Jesus Christ is what He says He is, you will surely die. You'll die in your sins, believe me. You've got to believe. Oh you've got to believe in Jesus Christ. {END OF VIDEO ROLL IN}

Son of Eve

BS: Powerful. One of the things that stands out to me most about that is one, the contempt that he has towards Satan and how he, at the end of his life, saw the work and authority of Satan in his life, and how at the end part of his conversion was just saying get out of my life. And the other part was the regret, that even though he had all that money and all that fun and all those things that we think, and fame and glory, and we think is what life is about, it's like even though he'd been saved and he's excited to be in the joy that he has, and he knows he's going to heaven, incidentally he only died a few months later. I don't know if you knew that, from a pulmonary disease. You can tell he's kind of breathing difficultly, but in spite of all of those things, all he had was regret: I wish I had known Christ my whole life. That's what I heard. And telling people like don't wait, like come to the Lord now! And that would be my message to you. If you're riding the fence, there is a testimony to be heard here. That you don't have to finish your life in regret. That you can know the Lord today. And even more so, that you can know that whatever you're struggling with and all the darkness and stuff, God will not allow your mistake to become your master. God is always rooting for you and He has already won the victory in your life. So much about continuing and moving forward is understanding that the victory has already been won for you. And just trusting in that and knowing that between here and heaven God's going to work with you and get you where you need to be. So I'm so proud of you. You're doing better than you think. Father, we pray in Jesus' name that you would help us to understand in a richer, fuller way what it means to live with authority over darkness in our lives. And to live without fear and worry, that we can trust and know that if we've entrusted our lives to Jesus Christ, heaven is our home. We thank you, God, that you love us and that you've forgiven us, and we thank you that you crushed Satan when he tried to bite your heel. We thank you that the victory is yours, Lord, and we love you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

Thank you all so much for being here today, whether you're here in the sanctuary or out on the courtyard or watching online, we're so glad you joined us. And it's always great when you incorporate church and a church community into the rhythm of your life. It's like going to the gym – the more you do it, the buffer you get, so we're praying that that happens for you. 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.