

Hour of Power Deutschland
Steinerne Furt 78
86167 Augsburg

Telefon: 08 21 / 420 96 96
Telefax: 08 21 / 420 96 97

E-Mail: info@hourofpower.de
www.hourofpower.de

Baden-Württembergische Bank
BLZ: 600 501 01
Konto: 28 94 829

IBAN:
DE43600501010002894829

BIC:
SOLADEST600

Büro Schweiz:

Hour of Power Schweiz
Seestr. 8
8594 Güttingen
Tel.: 071 690 07 81
info@hourofpower-schweiz.ch
www.hourofpower-schweiz.ch

Spendenkonto:

PostFinance AG, 3030 Bern
Konto: 61-18359-6
IBAN:
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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 and church family. It is always special to be with you. You know, I think it's so important for us to know that God is not just able to heal, He is also more than willing to heal all, that includes you, who believe on Him. You are so loved.

BS: We're glad that you're joining us today. Thank you for being with us. Let's begin with a word of prayer: Father, we thank you so much for everything you've done for us, and everything you've given us, and we come with just gratitude in our hearts. We ask in Jesus' name that you'd continue to form us into the likeness of your son. We're grateful for you, Lord, and we love you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HS: Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – 2. Samuel 6, 18-22 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, 2nd Samuel 6:18:

After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty. Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes. When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!" David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD's people Israel. I will celebrate before the LORD. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor." Church, may our hearts always esteem God's opinion over the world's opinion. Amen.

INTERVIEW – Terrica Joy Smith (TS) with Bobby Schuller (BS)

Terrica Joy Smith is a writer who boldly stepped out in 2019 to create the faith-based magazine, Eden & Vine. Wanting a space to combine her love of gardening, photography, and her deep desire to help women grow in their relationship with God, this groundbreaking publication was born. By cultivating beauty and truth for everyday life, Eden & Vine not only gives home inspiration, but offers practical guidance on how to embrace abundant blessings in every season.

BS: Terrica, hi! Welcome, thank you for joining us.

TS: Hello.

BS: I'm looking at your magazine..

TS: So good to be with you.

BS: ..it's beautiful. This is a wonderful thing that you're doing. But for those who don't know much about your work, tell us a little bit about your story.

TS: I'm a mom, and wife, I homeschool my kids. I live in the hills in Tennessee and a few years ago God called us to this truly life-giving and beautiful work, and it's just our greatest joy. We do it right here from the hills, not a lot of pomp and circumstance goes into it, and we have a very small team and it is truly just an act of worship and obedience, really and truly.

BS: That's awesome. So tell me, I'm trying to understand, you have like a farm at your house?

TS: We do.

BS: It used to be like 90% of Americans, like my grandparents would be mortified by that statement, but you have a farm at your house?

David and the Ark

TS: We have a hobby farm, and so we have chickens and peacocks and we've had goats and horses, and so it goes right along with our homeschool vibe. The kids love it. They do chores and we count that as part of what they learn week to week, so it is a hobby farm. We don't have like large crops or anything of that nature, but we have a lot of fun for sure.

BS: How does that work into sort of your magazine and being a mom and all of that sort of go together?

TS: It works hand in hand, believe it or not, because it's our backdrop for everything that we do, and in growing gardens and tending animals and all of those types of things, that's where we pull a lot of our photography from. And it's also what we use a lot of our content for because we are a faith-based but garden themed publication, and so so many lessons we learn are right from the garden. And there's no better way to teach those lessons than to learn them as you have your hands in the soil, so it works together beautifully. It's a beautiful partnership.

BS: How does like farming or not even farming, as you say gardening and faith-based, like how do those two intersect?

TS: You know, it's one of the things that over the past few years God has really opened my eyes to understand that if we pay attention, the garden, or the Bible rather, from start to finish is full of botanical language and garden language. Life itself began in a garden, and then we also see throughout scripture Jesus was laid to rest in a garden, in the garden tomb, of course. We hear about the garden in paradise and the garden in Gethsemane where He often prayed. So I always kind of joke with people, I'm like I think gardens are pretty spectacularly important to God because He used them in some of the most beautiful and important backdrops from Genesis to Revelation.

BS: Yes, I think that's exactly right. I mean when you think about how many of Jesus' metaphors and parables, in those days everybody sort of had a farm. You could have a little garden in your backyard where you're growing vegetables or spices or things like that for cooking, a lot of countries still do that, and so Jesus really was speaking a language of everyday people.

It feels like so many people link a sense of spiritual loss, like if you've lived in a city or you live in a densely populated area like we're in Orange County, three point six million people here, just outside of Los Angeles, millions of people all crammed into one area. There are more people in the greater Los Angeles area than there are in Sweden. So it's like interesting to think about how.. and real estate becomes an issue.

So like you talk about gardening and stuff, do you have a lot of people in places like New York and L.A. that like your magazine, that are like trying to figure out how can I with my six by three brick backyard have a garden?

TS: Yes. We do, that's actually one of the things we focus a fair amount of attention on is how to help everyone, no matter where they're at, cultivate their own Eden, as we call it, hand in hand with the one true vine. And so we do, we'll talk about things as simple as creating what we call indoor gardens, just with home décor, or could it be just a little herb garden on a bright window sill. So there are lots of ways to do that, we just get really creative, and trying to equipping women, especially for how they can do that themselves, but you can do it on any scale. You certainly do not have to have acres and acres of land; you can do it with a window sill. You can do it with no light at all, like I mentioned. But there are a lot of ways to do it, it's just a matter of getting creative.

BS: Awesome. One thing I love that you talk about is intentionally cultivating your faith. Tell us a little bit about that, as well, and how can you encourage people today who kind of feel like they're not cultivating their faith well.

TS: Cultivating our faith is no different than cultivating a garden. It requires sowing, it requires tending, it requires harvesting, it requires periods of rest, and so again, we see throughout scripture how Jesus used that very terminology to encourage us – what does it look like to sow in terms of faith? What does it look like to sow love to our neighbors? What does it look like to sow time and intention into our families? And so throughout, like we see that our faith is no different. It's no different than growing a garden. I think that's what's so amazing about gardening and why we have a garden themed publication it's because there's so many similarities and parallels between the two. They both require lots of work, but there's so much beauty to be found when we do it.

BS: Yes, a lot of people don't think of their faith as work the way you would for training for a sport or tending a garden, but these are the types of analogies we see in the Bible, its real work and it takes effort and consistency. You forget to water your plants they're going to die. You forget to tend your spiritual life you can die spiritually.

David and the Ark

TS: That's exactly right. It is a lot of work, but the best things in life are the things that we put our hands to that we really invested in. That's when we really appreciate them. And so with our faith, I grow roses a lot and I kind of joke with people, I have them all around my porch and I'm like they're the most time consuming, all the deadheading, all the pruning, all the feeding, all the fighting disease, but they're the most beautiful, most beautiful thing that I grow. So the things that we put the most work in, are probably always going to be the things that are most beautiful at the end of the day.

BS: Speaking of beautiful, Eden and Vine is a beautiful magazine, and so grateful that I get my own copy here today. Terrica Joy Smith, thank you so much. Check out this new magazine – Eden and Vine. I know you'll love it, and we appreciate all the things that you're helping us do in learning to tend our gardens and tend our faith.

TS: Thank you.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Would you stand with us? We're going to say this creed together, as we do every week. Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving from the Lord. 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. 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 "David and the Ark"

I don't know about you, but when I was in high school, popularity was an important thing. I think it's been that way for a while. I'd be interested to talk to my grandparents and see if there was the popularity complex as well in their day. But I remember, as a kid in the 80's and 90's, popularity, I mean, was like an important thing. And so much of my life and so many kids lives revolved around not being at the very bottom and hoping someday you can be at the very top. This idea that you'd be this popular kid. I went to a small school in L.A. called Village, and I had a mixed experience, and I think part of that was because it was such a small school, you knew everyone's name, and because of that, you knew everyone's status in the school. And I was grateful that in my 11th grade year, we moved to Tulsa Oklahoma, and I went to a school that had 2,000 kids, and that was just juniors and seniors, and I think because of the size of the school, the popularity thing seemed to evaporate and I recognized how much of an unconscious burden it was for me as an insecure kid going into high school. And it was interesting because, Haven and I, we get breakfast every Wednesday and we talk about things, and one thing I started to warn her about as she's going to be in middle school next year, is I was warning her about this window that I think for most kids is around between 8th grade and 10th grade where you're transitioning really from being a kid to being kind of a grownup. You're going from playing a lot of games and toys and things, into things like having to worry about fashion, and worry about boys or girls, and all these different things. And so just kind of warning her that that can be a tough time emotionally because well everybody goes crazy when they're a teenager, don't they. I remember I had a guy and he said you know what happens when your child reaches about 9th grade, aliens come and they take their brain and they abduct it, and then right around 18, they come back and they put the brain back in your kids head and you get your kid back. I said okay, I've never had teenagers, but for those of you who have teenagers, you can affirm to me later on whether or not that's true. But this begged the question about popularity and I wondered do I want my kids to be popular when they get to high school. There's lots of reasons why you wouldn't want your kids to be popular in high school. Probably the number one reason is that they end up working later in life for the nerdiest kids in high school: Bill Gates, Elon Musk. But for me, I don't know about you, the answer is no. I don't want Haven to be popular, actually. It's not that I would be upset if she were, but that's not like a goal, you know what I mean? Like Haven, if you're popular, that's great. No problem. But at no point would I want for her what I actually wanted when I was there. Does that make sense? If you asked a 10th grade Bobby Schuller – do you want to be popular? I'd be like yes, please! God, I'd do anything. What I really want for my kids is for them to have a positive experience. And I began to beg the question, and this is a question I've asked a lot, why is it that we don't want for ourselves what we want for our kids? Now maybe you don't have kids. You probably get the question, but you might say.. you'd even say why don't I want for myself what I want for my pets. There have been studies that show that when people have a sick pet, they'll do everything to take care of their pet.

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They'll give them their medicine at the right time, they'll give them healthy food, but when they're sick and the doctor gives them medicine, they themselves don't take the medicine, or they don't feed themselves well; they don't take care of themselves. Some people have thought that maybe there's this worthiness thing that you value your pet and you love your pet so you want your pet to be healthy and happy, but maybe there's something about yourself that you don't think maybe I'm worth taking care of. It's not worth bothering, at least. I just want to say that you are worth taking care of. You are precious in God's sight. And that maybe it would be a good exercise to think what I would want for my children, or maybe my nieces and nephews or my pet, or someone that I love or care for, well maybe I should want those things for me. And yet I find that even though high school is over, the popularity contest is still kind of around, even in churches, believe it or not. Even in ministries. That although its more subtle and sophisticated, it's not any less obvious who's popular and unpopular, who's cool and uncool, where the clicks are, how you belong, how you're in and how you're out. Our world is full of all manners of status symbols, cars and the way you dress, the friends you have. Semi-famous people love to name drop super famous people. Maybe you have a friend in your life and they always talk about how they're friends with Val Kilmer. I did that once but it was a lie. I just met him once. He signed a DVD for me, and I started saying he was my friend. And there's different classes, too. This happens in academia. We talk about the papers you publish, you put the diplomas on your wall. And this happens with blue checkmarks and the amount of followers that you have on your social media, things like this. I remember when I was in college, I had no money, I was in business school, and I was in business school because I had no money, I had to figure out how to make some money. But one thing I could do is play piano. And so I used that to sort of barter. So what I would do is if I needed something, I would barter with other students, and I would teach them piano. So for example one girl would cut my hair every other week and I would give her piano lesson. I had another friend, Heidi, who taught me how to play golf and I'd give her a piano lesson. I had a guy who taught me how to play drums, and I never got good at it, but I was doing piano lessons. And I had an accounting tutor and piano lessons. And so I was giving piano lessons constantly to all sorts of people, and one thing that's began to trouble me after doing that for years is I started to realize I'm pretty sure the vast majority of my piano students didn't really like piano, or they didn't like me. Mr. Miyagi said there's no such thing as a bad student, only a bad teacher, so it's probably my fault. But I came to this conclusion: it seemed like a lot of, if not most of my students, didn't want to play piano because they liked piano or they liked music, rather they wanted to be a guy who played piano. Does that make sense? It's not that I really want to play piano, I want to be a guy who can play piano. So for example, I overheard one of my students saying that he's classically trained in piano. I was just behind him, it was in the cafeteria, he was with a group of friends, he was a friend of mine, too. And of course being a wingman, I said yeah, he's getting really good. But in my head, I was thinking you still haven't learned hot cross buns and here you are telling everybody you're classically trained in piano. It's interesting because with social media, this has all gotten.. you always hear about it, right. I mean it's gotten even heightened. People will only show the best things about their life. And there's nothing wrong with that, except that there's a heart behind some of it. Like definitely with signaling, you get on Twitter and Facebook and someone will talk about.. the most recent one that I've seen that's totally stupid is the Snow White. People are criticizing the Snow-White ride because it's an unconsented kiss. I guess she's just supposed to stay dead. I don't know. People talking something about a Starbucks cup and how it doesn't say the right thing. And what I think people are doing, in most cases, they're trying to project an image – I'm a leader. I'm a moral person. I'm a thinker. I'm educated. I'm not ignorant like you. When you get onto Instagram, you also see the same thing; people always wearing the finest, nicest clothes. You see the problem with this is there's nothing wrong with any of this, that's why it works. There's a lot of people who just like fashion. And then there's other people who are fashionable because they want you to think they're fashionable. Just like there's some people who want to play piano and learn it, and then there's other people who just want to be a guy who plays piano. To which I always said if you wanted to impress people, why didn't you learn guitar? Girls like guitar players way more than piano players. I'm speaking from experience. I remember once I asked Robert, our executive producer, I found this guy who was a pastor, also, and he had like a million followers on Instagram, but he would have like 18 comments on his pictures or videos. And I asked Robert, I was like 'this is so weird.' This was like three years ago. I didn't understand yet. 'Like this is so weird, this guy has like millions of followers, but almost no engagement comparatively.' I mean you look at Joel Osteen, he's got like thousands of comments and the same amount of followers, and this guys got like 8. And I was like 'what is that?'

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And he goes, 'oh he's just buying followers.' I said 'I'm sorry, what?' He's like 'he's buying followers.' They have like fake accounts, there's like thousands of fake accounts, and they're limitless and they all have pictures and profiles and everything, and then they follow you and it's all fake. I said 'what are you talking about?' I said 'why are we paying Darshawn! You can do that?! How much is it?! Get me on board!' Just kidding, I didn't do it. Because the same thing, you're like, what Bobby does that? No. In fact, I remember Rashawn, the guy that I worked for when he was giving me a report for our social media followers, he says these are all, and the word he used was hilarious. All of these followers are organic. I was like – like milk? Organic? What does organic mean? It means they're real. I said well I should hope so! No Instagram steroids for Hour of Power. All of these things you see that in life, all of us, we do this, don't we. We find ways whether its what we dress or where, we find subtle ways that we can hope that our life at least looks like it's making an impact. Or we can at least feel like our life has value or feel like in a way we're popular. I guess what I'm really saying is the older I get, the more I realize how sad people are. I mean that literally. That many people who have a smile on their face; I think of like when Robin Williams committed suicide. Hilarious comedian, had everything in the world, just seemed like would be the happiest person in the world, but deep down inside was very sad. I think a lot of this posturing and a lot of this projecting of ego and images, and a lot of this fragility, its coming from a place where people, they just want to belong. They want to have friends; they want to have a family that loves them just as they are. They want to have people who are there for them. They want to be missed when they're gone. They want people to be waiting for them when they get home in the airport, or they want people to invite them over for dinner and want to feel like when they're there, they don't have to pretend to be somebody else. The more transient our world gets, and the more people move across the country and fly everywhere and live all over the place, and they connect digitally, there's this missing bit under the surface where there's this just kind of you want your life to have more meaning. It just seems like its losing meaning. All of that to simply say, well two things, one – that the church needs to be the answer to this, it always has been for 2,000 years, the answer to this question. And that's why I grow troubled, and I even feel sometimes honestly like very hesitant about things like social media or fashion or professionalism – the word professionalism in church. There's something like if you go to a church and everybody is really fashionable and really good looking, there's nothing wrong with that, but at least for someone like me, it feels like I don't know if I really would fit in here. It's one reason I wear a suit, as weird as that sounds. Like our age has changed where I just refuse to wear Yeezys and a leather jacket when I preach. I don't know if that's funny to anybody else, but it's hilarious to me because I kind of get that feeling of like popularity contest where you really.. I'm not here to judge anyone, I'm just here more to say that as churches, as ministry people, we have to be careful that we just love everybody and that we even project that in what we do and who's in front of everybody, and that when you come to a place like Shepherd's Grove, that you really do feel like you belong, and I hope you do feel that way, because you do. We just really love you. But really, the church has to be on guard against things like vanity and vain glory. Vanity meaning it's all about what's on the outside and vain glory being like look at the impact we're having, look at all the great things we're doing. I'm talking to Bobby Schuller. This is something I have to be careful of as a leader, because as believers, whether it's in the church or just when you go back to your job this week, or whatever it is you're doing, that we're supposed to provide an alternative to what the world offers. The world offers vanity and be popular and be perfect and do everything right, but the church is supposed to offer the inverse of that. Even when you're broken and you're hurting and you're messing up, God loves you so much and God is rooting for you and your best days are ahead of you. See, those are two different voices. Okay. All of this to simply say let's live, not for man's approval or for our neighbor's approval, but for God's approval. When we are in deep communion with God and we know Him and we're living for Him, then even when we're completely alone, we're not alone. When you go into a place where you feel completely bored and nobody's around and nobody's calling you, when you're reaching out for God in that time, there is a deeper loneliness that doesn't completely go away, but it's in a way satiated and cared for, and it gets you through. And this is why that personal life with God, the prayer life, the seeking Him, the digging into His word is so key to surviving in a modern world. To not being deceived by Satan or by the world, but that true life comes from the spirit of God living within me. And I couldn't do anything without it. I couldn't survive without it. I couldn't breathe without the Lord inside of me. And when you have that, everything else just seems so stupid and like such a waste of time, and so sad. Because it's a dim reflection of what's really available in God's life and love for you.

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Okay. When I think about someone who just doesn't seem to care about what other people think, most of the time, someone I want to be more like, it's King David. It's interesting, one question I ask a lot is why did God favor King David so much. He wasn't that great of a guy, to be honest with you. There's a lot of things, like if you're making a report card, there's a lot of things that David would be on the sort of poop list, the black list, like this guy. And yet, God loves David. And people love David, like he's one of the most famous characters in the Bible, and people just really like his personality, and I'm like what is it about David that makes him so favorable in the eyes of the Lord? And I think it's that he's all heart. And that at the end of the day when he makes a mistake, he's not prideful and arrogant, but he's in sackcloth and ashes. And that most of the time all he seems to care about is that the Lord knows that he loves him, that David loves the Lord! And he does anything he can to show God how much his love is for the Lord. Second Samuel begins with David's meteoric rise as a king. King Saul has died, and David is just completely broken-hearted about it, which seems so silly. I mean this guy Saul was demon possessed and constantly trying to trap David and kill him, and yet when he dies, David is broken-hearted about it, like there's this loyalty. David, who before Saul died was already a great general, very keen leader, people seemed to love him, and right when Saul dies, all of the tribes of Israel come before David and they rally because they are thrilled that David will be their king now. They want to follow him. This doesn't typically happen in the ancient world. Usually there's a lot of fighting and arguing, diplomatic ploys and bribes. But at least in this case, they all come to David and they want to follow him and serve him. He has a number of victories, the most notable of which is that he takes the city of Jerusalem, which at that point has been occupied by the Jebusites forever. The Jebusites, when they see David coming, they're mocking him and they're saying like anybody can man these walls, there's no way you can get it, and David being a great general, in the middle of the night finds a water-way, which being an experienced general, he would have known that many cities, in order to get through sieges, would have these water-ways, and so he just probably found one. He'd probably exploited it in lots of other cities before, and they took the city, no problem. And now that Jerusalem had become the capital of Judah and is really well placed between Israel and Judah, he decides this thing, the throne of God, the ark of the covenant, which has been mobile now for a long time, in a tabernacle, going to different places like Shiloh and it'd be in a certain place for this period, then it would move here and there. At one point, the Philistines take it. It's just constantly going. He decides, we're going to make a house for God and we're going to have God's throne in Jerusalem, and Jerusalem is going to be the city of God and the city of David. He goes and he gets the ark of the covenant. You know what that is right? I always make this joke. Raiders of the Lost Ark. Big golden killing box. The truth is, the ark of the covenant held the original Ten Commandments that God wrote with His finger. I mean it's like this amazing thing. And it's the throne of God. And there's a way you're supposed to move this box, but as I read this story, I think that David has a celebration going on, everybody's excited, Jerusalem's been taken, there's a party going on, he just wants to get the ark to Jerusalem. And so instead of carrying it the way that the law says, on poles with some ceremony, he just like basically just puts it on a cart with an ox, and just starts carting it to Jerusalem as quick as he can. And something happens and it hits a snag, and now a lot of people, there's two ways to interpret this text. Most people think that the text says the ox stumbled and Uzza, to keep the ark from falling, put his hand against the ark and then died, which might be true. But there's another way to read the text, and that is that the cart got stuck, so it was already bad because it would be like imagine the queen of England is coming to the White House, and you're in North Carolina, and so you're like throw her in the back of the pickup, let's go! This is how it is. You're supposed to carry it on poles with priests and stuff. They just threw it in a cart. And so the last straw is when, I think it's better to read it as the ox stumbles, meaning it got stuck, and so Uzza, who's leading the thing, puts his shoulder into it, and he's like let's get this thing out of here! And so he kind of like tries to like you would if you were pushing a pickup truck, and that was like the last straw. Uzza dies, David gets super angry with God, which again is why I think God loves David, it's just like completely honest, just like really angry with God, like we're just trying to get the ark to Jerusalem! And so they kind of leave it there at a guy's house named Obed-Edom, and he's kind of like their guinea pig, because they're like well let's just leave it here for a while and see what happens. And because he's not a Nazi, not only he doesn't die, but there's just this outpouring of blessing on his house. And this causes David to think about everything, and he goes you know what? This is my interpretation; I think the spirit at the beginning was just, it was just expedience. It was like let's hurry up, let's hurry up and get this done, and instead of that, he was like let's take our time.

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And so they take the ark, and they carry it on poles, and every.. and David, by the way, David never ever dances naked before the Lord. Write that down in your Bible. He doesn't dance naked; he doesn't dance half-naked. David dresses in an ephod and linens, so he would have dressed like that. That doesn't look naked to me. He's dressing like a priest or a high priest to show God.. so he gets out of his royal robes, which would have been the finest jewelry, and maybe silks or special stuff, it would have been like his Armani special design suit, and he puts on this thing, this burlap deal, to show God before I am a king, I am a priest. I'm here to serve you. This is your kingdom, God. And before the ark of the covenant, he dances like crazy everywhere he goes. And every six feet, they make a sacrifice to God. So they go from super-fast to like let's carry it on our shoulders, let's make a sacrifice to God. And it's like a snail's pace. And then when they get to Jerusalem, this huge celebration breaks out and David's just like.. I don't know how David danced, but just is jumping up and down, and there's trumpets, and there's drums, and to show his lowliness, he goes to all of the servants and all of the lowborn, the lowest people, and he just begins to give out cake. Isn't that great? You take a cake, and you get a cake, and you get some bread, and he just begins to bless everyone, and this huge eruption of praise envelopes the city of Jerusalem, and the ark arrives at Jerusalem. And while this is happening, David's wife Michal is watching from a window, and she wants to throw up. Michal was Saul's daughter. She was a princess her whole life, and she was all about not associating with the lowborn, of always having a level of decorum and propriety, especially for the king. This would have been how Saul would have tried to act, and how he would have taught Michal to live as a princess and now a queen. You carry yourself the way a king would. You carry yourself the way a queen would. And when he comes up to the rim, you can tell that there's already some seething resentment in the marriage, and she looks at him and she goes 'how my husband, the king of Israel dignifies himself dancing naked in front of the servant girls.' This is where we get the idea that he was dancing naked. In her mind, dressing as a priest instead of as a king, you might as well be naked, and David's response is 'if it's for the Lord, I will be even more undignified than this. There is no limit to how much I will show the Lord with all my heart that I love Him.' David effectively saying I do not care what people think. I do not need to be popular. I do not need to be rich. I do not need to be king. I need to be the Lord's child and that alone. All he wants is for God to see that he loves Him and that he's grateful. David says I will become even more undignified than this if that's what the Lord needs to see that I bleed for Him. That I long for Him. That I want Him. There's so much wisdom in this. That's why I think David, in general, was probably a happy person. Ironically, people that tend to care the least about popularity tend to be the most popular. And I think that's why David's so popular to us thousands of years later. He just didn't care. I'll finish with this idea. Jesus says in Luke "Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets." My grandpa Scott, before he passed away, he was a Baptist minister, and when he would drive too fast in his car and he could tell, he'd go woe Nellie. Woe, Nellie! That's a good way to read this passage. When you see woe, don't hear cursed, hear careful. Woe. Be careful. When everybody is talking good about you, when you're the most popular, when you're the most rich, when everything's going your way, everything's perfect and the world thinks everything is great for you, be careful. That's how they treated the false prophets. That's how they treated people who caused the most harm in the kingdom of God. In the inverse is blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Great is your reward in the heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets or before you the true prophets. In life, when everybody loves us, there is probably a part of our life that is deeply veiled or you might say fake. And that causes us to have like an inner emptiness that only goes away when we're honestly ourselves and we have people in our lives that love us, especially the Lord in that way. Does that make sense? Seek after God. Seek after His approval, and the more you do that, a lot of the noise that's made in life and in social circles or in your job or in your church or whatever it is you're doing, it never goes away completely, but it'll lose its sting and you'll be given an incredible strength when you care so much more about what God thinks than what people think. Hey, we're rooting for you, and we love you. Father, we ask in Jesus' name that you'd help us to understand how much you love us. And help us, Lord, to live our lives in honor of you first. We can never get let go of the things we have to do in society, in life and in our jobs, we have things we have to do, but we pray, God, that in our heart, we would live for you. Father, we love you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.