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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. You know every time I miss a Sunday, I feel like it's been ages since I've been here. And truly the body of Christ is such a gift. I hope we never take each other for granted. We are stronger together; we are Jesus together. Thank you for being here. We love you.

BS: Yes, and what you mean by that, we are Jesus together is that the Holy Spirit dwells in us. I'm not Jesus and Hannah's not Jesus, but through our skin we experience the life of Christ amongst ourselves and this was so important to Jesus before He left that we would be that to each other, so that's what happens when the church gathers. Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we pray in the name of Jesus who dwells in us, who is here right now, this whole thing is for Him and for Him alone. We pray in His name that we would become greater disciples, that we would grow in our love and faithfulness and endurance and life. Lord, we thank you so much for all you've done for us. We love you. It's in Jesus' name, amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – John 4,10-15 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, John 4:10: Jesus answered her if you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water. Sir, the woman said, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself as did also his sons and his livestock? Jesus answered everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. The woman said to him sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water. As St. Augustine said, our hearts are restless until they rest in Him. Amen.

INTERVIEW – Bobby Schuller (BS) – Jason Brown (BS)

Jason Brown is a former professional football player who spent six years in the NFL. When God placed a new call on his heart, he set aside his sports career to become a farmer. Though he had no previous agricultural experience, he and his family purchased a farm with the intent of helping to end hunger in their communities. Since 2014, First Fruits Farm has donated over 100,000 pounds of fresh produce to local people needing help. Also an author, his newest book, *Centered: Trading Your Plans for a Life That Matters*, tells his story of walking away from it all to follow the Lord's path of greater abundance.

BS: Jason hi! Welcome. It's so cool. Looks like you've gone from a former green field to a new green field. What a cool setting you're in.

JB: Yes, yes. Out here on First Fruits Farm in North Carolina.

BS: That's awesome! Welcome. For those who don't know you, Jason, tell us a little bit about your story and sort of how you came to faith.

JB: I grew up here in North Carolina in the Bible belt and for many of you that don't know, you got to go to church on Sunday and if you don't then you're going to get the belt. But the thing is, I played church for so many years all throughout my youth, but yet God continued to bless me even to the highest heights of my career, playing seven years professionally in the NFL. And Jesus stopped me dead in my tracks one night as I was walking through my 12,000 square foot mansion. I had reached the highest heights of my career in fortune and fame, but of course you all know what doth it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul. Jesus loved me so much that he was not going to allow me to continue to head down that dark path.

Living Water

He said Jason, how long are you going to continue to deny me? How long are you going to continue to turn away from me and say no. And again, I said Jesus, tomorrow. I knew exactly what that was. I had told Him that about a thousand times. I denied Him a thousand times. I'll give my life tomorrow. I'll humbly submit myself to you tomorrow. And you know what Jesus said? Today. There's no more running. Today, Jason. And again, I said no, Jesus. I'm having too much fun all right, and my selfishness, and in my flesh, and Jesus again, He said today. He loved me so much, He showed me a vision that was so crystal clear in high definition, it was of my future. And He showed me the brokenness. He showed me the divorce, the bankruptcy, He showed me that I wasn't even living in the same state as my wife and children. I wasn't able to hug them and hold them whenever I wanted to. And I said no, not me. And Jesus said yes, that is your future unless you humble and repent right now. And I said no, not me Jesus. And at the end, I saw myself all alone on my knees, crying and weeping; the weeping and the gnashing of teeth. And it was so real. I said Jesus whatever you want me to do, I'll do it. Just say the words – whatever you want me to do, I'll do it. I wished that my coming to Christ had come from a place of inspiration. Maybe I'd hear an awesome word at a church service one day, but guess what – it came from a place of desperation, even though from looking in, everyone thought that I was at the top of the world. Well spiritually I was broken. Spiritually I was bankrupt and the only one that could fix this broken heart was Jesus. Guess what, He did it. He redeemed and He restored not only me, my marriage, my entire family. We have eight beautiful children right now, an awesome ministry, a food ministry right here in North Carolina called First Fruits Farm where we have grown, harvested and donated more than a million pounds of food to help feed our neighbors. That Jesus has called us to love. And look like -- it's very simple, okay? Just love your neighbor as you would yourself. We see so much need all around us, so much human suffering all around us, and in Matthew 25 Jesus said whatever you have done for the least of these, you have also done for me. And so if you want to give Jesus some love, if you want to give Him an awesome gift, love on your neighbors.

BS: Amen to that. Wow, what a powerful word. It's so true. What the world says will give you joy and happiness or a meaningful life, so misleading and you're living proof of that. I mean you weren't just some random guy, a benchwarmer, you were a center for the Baltimore Ravens making I think \$37 million dollars, or something crazy. I think that's amazing that you really did hear from God and you took those changes in your life. I feel so sad that so many men in the NFL give their lives to this program and they love it and they have a great experience, but the end of their lives is not.. I think it was Junior Seau we talked about who I think he was a linebacker for the Charges, an amazing football player. I remember watching him and he died by suicide in retirement in his 40's, broke, and I just feel so bad for people like him because a lot of times they don't see as you did where ultimately those roads can lead if someone doesn't find something more meaningful, and you did. You heard from the Lord and just looking at you, your backgrounds like a screensaver! That's amazing!

JB: God truly has blessed us with a beautiful farm. The ministry within and of itself, of course He calls us to share the gospel, to share the love of Jesus Christ, but also to be fishers of men. And the thing is is that it's hard to catch fish on an empty hook. And so the food that we grow in our ministry and give back to those families in need, that's an awesome ministry tool to share the gospel.

When I was transitioning from football, God shared with me that He had something far greater in store for me than my NFL football career, and I'm like really God? What can compare to all of this? And that was still in my own worldly thinking; thinking in my flesh. But now hindsight, looking back, hindsight being 20/20, I've experienced many Super Bowl moments, many Hall of Fame moments right here in the ministry, and I don't work for the world anymore, I don't work for chasing after the almighty dollar, I work for our almighty God, and that is the most awesome job that you could ever have.

BS: Jason, you walked away from a ton of money to pursue what God called you to do. What encouragement would you give to someone right now who really feels like God is calling them to do something different, but they feel afraid. What advice would you give them in a discerning time?

JB: The leap of faith is not easy. It's the most epic trust ball that you could ever possibly imagine. But the thing is with Jesus, you have to look at not what you're giving up, but exactly what you are getting in a much closer, a much more in-depth covenant relationship with Jesus. We can walk as close with Jesus as we want to, all right? Just like the disciples, many times that while I'm working out here on the farm by myself, I have some awesome intimate conversations with our Lord and Savior, okay? And I would not trade that for anything in the world. Just trust in Him and walk by faith.

Living Water

All right? Let your light shine that our Father in heaven will be glorified, amen? And not your will be done, not mine, but our Father's in heaven.

BS: That's an amazing word. Jason, thank you so much for the work that you're doing. And your book is called *Centered: Trading your plans for a life that matters*. If you're trying to make a decision in your life about where to go, let Jason Brown help be your guide on that path. Thank you, Jason. We appreciate all you done and we really appreciate your testimony.

JB: God bless.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Would you stand with us? Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving from the Lord, and 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. It's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with the world. Amen!

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "Living Water"

After all we've gone through these last couple of years, it's amazing to me that we're in an unbelievable economic boom. It blows my mind. This may not be true in the country that you're watching in as we have millions of people watching in different parts of the world, but I know here in the United States, even though the economy is fragile, it's booming. And there is a lot of talk by people online and by journalists and by others that is reasonable talk, which goes a little something like this: doesn't it seem that when a nation does well financially for a long period of time, something internally within that nation becomes fragile, and that's an alarm. In other words, people are asking right now: are we going to be like so many other countries that in times of prosperity, values and culture and morals and all of these different things that hold a society together, become more elastic and different and all these things. In other words, are we on the brink of falling as a nation. Isn't that interesting? That when you become more prosperous, there can also be a season where there's more tension between political ideas, religious ideas, morals and values, and so a lot of people are asking this question. It's not a new question. One thing I love about reading old histories is the old histories say like pre 1960's, especially, weren't as much scientific like archeological documents, as much as here's what's happened, what can we as a people learn from what happened in the past? See history doesn't do that as much, but one of the most common arcs and themes that you'll find in history is something that goes like this. There's an old Arabic saying that goes something like 'hard times create strong people, strong people create good times, good times create weak people, weak people create hard times, and hard times create strong people.' That's a common theme that you see, and this is a desert way of looking at it. Voltaire said something really similar. He said when you look at the history of nations, you see people walking up the stairs in wooden shoes, or today we might say in muddy boots or something like that. So walking up the stairs in cheap footwear that's for working people, and walking down the stairs in silken slippers and the two just sort of pass each other by. Many are asking the question: are we in like a silken slippers phase? Are we walking down the stairs, are we the weak people that are creating the hard times. Are we waving to our neighbors going up the stairs in wooden shoes while we gladly walk down the stairs in our silken slippers, and the answer is absolutely yes. We are for sure! But, give you some hope, many societies that have walked down the stairs in silken slippers, have not walked all the way down the stairs. And as a nation, as a people, wherever you are, if you're experiencing this, a people can and has decided even though they're prosperous and doing well, and there's challenges, has decided intentionally to forgo the silken slippers and put the wooden shoes back on. And my encouragement today is that's exactly what our nation needs. My point is that if we can see in the midst of our prosperity, if we can recognize the sense of meaning that we lose by changing our values, the sense of disconnectivity, the sense of addiction to fun, and I'm going to get to that in a little bit. I'm a fun guy, by the way. There's nothing wrong with fun, but we will recognize the importance of pursuing overall in life what is meaningful, even though very often what's most meaningful means a lot of responsibility and a lot of pain. All right. Of course we learn the best things from the people of the desert. That's where this book is from. Life in the desert, if you're an archaeologist, is all about water. If you're looking for a nice archeological place, and you find a spring somewhere, if you start digging, you're probably going to find a city. This is a picture of Ein Gedi, which is an oasis in the desert near the Black Sea. The Bible calls it the wilderness but don't picture like what you think.. don't think Jungle Book. Think desert: sand and salt and hot, and in the middle of that, there is this, this waterfall spring thing.

Living Water

Ein Gedi means, I think it means like the spring of the goat, or something like that. But anyway, this three thousand years ago is where King David was going to refresh himself as he was hiding from Saul in the desert. It looks a little different now, I'm sure, but isn't that amazing that you can go to that same spot right there in the middle of it all and find this place where David was refreshed. There's lots of Psalms where he's talking about as a deer pants for the water, etc., I just picture David on his way to Ein Gedi so, so thirsty, needing to refresh himself while he continues to hide from Saul. In the desert, you rely on oasis. Here's a famous oasis in the Sahara. This is called the Ubari Oasis. And many of these oasis were controlled militarily because if you control the oasis, you control the trade because the Sahara is the size of an ocean, and in a way is like an ocean because it's so dangerous and so, like you can see not even animals or plants or anything grows there, it's so hot. So to cross it, you have to have these places that you reach. Desert writers, thinkers, philosophers and theologians think in terms of desert and water, and what they think in terms of when they think of the spiritual life, is that life is very much like crossing the desert. And God is to us the water. That a man who wants to cross the Sahara without an oasis is like a man who wants to go through life without the Lord. And as I look at our world, I see many people that think they have water but they don't, and they're just thirsty and starving and they keep getting almost like when sailors drink sea water, they just keep drinking it, but its only making them thirstier and making them crazier. Maybe you're there, maybe you feel that way today, and I want to encourage you that there is a deeper well that we can dig through, but there are many things in the way that are keeping us from a true meaningful life, and its many of the fun distractions when we sort of overdo it. In the Bible, you might have seen a phrase called "living water." In Jesus' day and in the days of the Old Testament, living water and dead water were almost like scientific terms. It was the way of describing a type of potable or drinkable water. Dead water, which was still drinkable, was water that you would store in something like a cistern or a well. Of course dead water is an appropriate term, right? When you're looking at the water that's in a cistern. If you ever looked inside an old clay cistern, you're going to see very often, especially in the desert, that hot climate, that the water is sometime going to be a little bit salty or brown, or you might have algae growing in it, for sure is going to have a bad taste. Anytime you drink water out of the cistern in the ancient world, it's wise to boil it first just in case there's something in it so you don't get sick. And of course there could be something in it: a frog, a dead bird, a deer that fell in there. And one of the big killers of the preindustrial world was dysentery. People would just drink water and get sick and keep going to the bathroom and die. And of course the ancient people knew this. But of course the greatest danger with a cistern is that with heat and cold, it's so easy for that clay thing that holds this precious water to get one tiny crack in it, and you wake up the next day and your cistern that had thousands of gallons of potable water for your people, is completely empty. It's not dependable. But, if you can find living water, well that's different. Living water is not cistern water. That is water that is either rain from the sky, fresh rain, or especially water from a spring. It comes out of the earth. This is living water behind me. It's the kind of water that always flows. Its fresh, its alive, it sustains all the life around it. And of course the word living is perfect! I mean look at it. It looks like it's alive. Its moving and splashing and holding living things, not dead things like fish and frogs inside it, and it maintains everything that it goes to, and it's even cold. I remember drinking from the Merced on a hundred-degree weather day, and I drank out of it and the water was ice, ice cold. And this refreshes the body and the mind and can sustain a whole town and city. It's alive. In the ancient days, living water or flowing water that came from a spring or a river, had to be used for what's called a Mikvah. Anytime you entered the temple or went into the synagogue, you were supposed to ritualistically purify yourself with living water. You'd wash your hands - Lord, clean my deeds. You'd wash your chest - Lord, give me a good and pure heart so that I love what is good and hate what is evil. Lord, wash my legs and my feet so that everywhere I go is innocent and pure. Lord, wash my head that I would have a pure mind and would see and think rightly. And so in doing this, the ancient Jews would enter into the synagogue with a sort of loftiness, believing symbolically that living water, which is a symbol for God Himself, washed over them and prepared them to learn from the Torah. This living water, in fact, is a constant image in the Bible. Heaven, the word for heaven is Shamiyah. It means the place of the living water. When we read in Jeremiah 2, for example, God says this prophecy against the people of Israel: "My people have committed two sins. They have forsaken me, the spring of living water." Okay so that's like God is like this river, this flowing, amazing thing that sustains all life around it, and have dug their own cisterns and probably a better translation would be cracked cisterns that cannot hold water. So it's like they turn their back on this amazing thing of Evian coming out of the Alps.

Living Water

And they went to mucky, dirty water and even when they went to drink from it, they found it was empty. Isn't that a symbol for how so many people are today, even believers? Who they, in their salvation, they found the Lord and they found this life and this new thing, but for whatever reason, they turn their back on God or on their community, and they went to this cistern of whatever it was, thinking that this would sustain them, only to find that it made them sick or it was empty or it came with diminished returns. Maybe you're there in your life right now. I just want to say come back. God never fails. He never stops flowing. He never closes His arms to you. He's always looking at you with compassion. Why not just return to God today? Why even wait? If you even feel your heart being heavy as I'm saying these words, just come back to God. It's not even the decision, it's the biggest no brainer ever. Come back to the Lord and drink from the fountain of living water, and watch how your life becomes yes, full of responsibilities and some painful, difficult moments, and some sacrifice, but at the same time, joy, meaning, a life that matters. God says this is what idols are like. Idols are like this cistern, and boy do we have our idols today. Many of them you have it, your cell phone in your pocket can be like an idol. I know it can be for me. And that leads us to John chapter 4, this famous passage where Jesus is talking to a Samaritan woman about living water. Now one scholastic interpretation of this, and keep in mind this is just an interpretation. We don't know for sure, okay, so take it with a grain of salt, but I'm choosing it because it's the most interesting one. Jacob's well where the story is going to take place, is known for one of two things: either it's just the land that Jacob purchased, because Jacob's well is not mentioned in the Old Testament, or, and I'm hoping this is what's true – its where Jacob met Rachel, his wife. Either way, we know that Jacob's well in Jesus' day in Samaria was a place where single men and single women would go to meet each other. And in fact that was very common at wells, in general, when young men and young women; of course marriage was arranged, but the young people had to approve. If the girl was like dad, he's got too much back hair, I just can't have that the rest of my life. And they didn't have the electric razors back then. No, but the parents would usually listen. The story goes like this, John chapter 4, now he had to go to Samaria. Keep in mind Samaria used to be the northern kingdom of Israel, which had been conquered by Assyria and I mean the Assyrians married the Israelites, they became Samaritans which was a mix between Jewish and Assyrian, and that caused the Jews in the south to look at them with contempt. He said, "now he had to go through Samaria, so he came to a town in Samaria called Sachar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well." By the way, is a well living water or dead water? What is it, living water or dead water? Its dead water, right? Its dead. All right. "And it was about noon." In the desert, is it hot or cold at noon? Just kidding, you already know. It's hot. It's hot. Sweating, He's been walking a long time, the sun, "when a Samaritan woman." Two things: Samaritan, okay? This is like a huge deal. Samaritans and Jews, they hate each other. A hundred years before this, John Hyrcanus, the Jewish king, destroyed the Samaritan temple where all Jewish sacrifice and life was held. And it stayed destroyed. And in this day they were really kind of being, in many ways, bullied. They kind of bullied each other. They hated each other. They murdered one another, robbed one another, so Samaritans were considered lowest. They were below the worst sinner you could think of, you just do not associate, and Samaritans felt the same way about Jews. 'Woman' is the second thing. She's there by herself, which means normally women would go to the well to collect water together. Because she's there by herself means that maybe she's an outcast. Or maybe she's looking for a guy. It's one or the other. Either way you slice it, its awkward. And men in those days especially, alone, are not typically supposed to talk to women alone unless there's maybe a little (CLICK, CLICK) you know? Okay! "So when the Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her," keep in mind Jesus is 33 or 30, all right. That's ten years younger than I am. "Will you give me a drink?" His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'you are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How come you're asking me for a drink.'" I think she's saying, not only we're not supposed to mingle as people, but there's no way this forbidden love is going to work. Maybe you don't see it in the text. I do. It may not be there. I may be totally inventing this, but "Jesus answered her, 'if you knew the gift of God and who it is that was asking you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you'" what? Living water. She's not hearing anything spiritual at this point. That's a very plain.. if you would have asked me, I would have told you where a really fresh spring is instead of this well. That's what she's hearing. "'Sir,' this woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and this well is deep. Where can you get this living water?'" So she's not into it. "'Are you greater than our'" look at the word, our father Jacob. You can even hear the pain of a people separated.

Living Water

“Are you greater than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself as did also his sons and his livestock?” In other words, she’s saying to him this condescending Jewish guy who says he’s got living water somewhere. Is my cistern water not good enough for you? This is pretty good water, it’s not bad. We’ve been drinking here for a long time. This is good stuff, don’t worry about it. “Jesus answered, ‘everyone who drinks this water’” this dead water, “will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” What’s inside, right? Its inside of you. She still doesn’t get it. This woman said to him, “sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” So she’s still hearing it literally. Okay, where is this spring, just tell me. It’s like a secret spring somewhere? “And he told her, ‘go call your husband and come back.’” And her response, she says with a smirk, “I have no husband.” All right, I don’t know. I have no husband. Maybe she’s into Him in a romantic way. I don’t know. Maybe not! I’m sorry if you’re a Bible teacher and you disagree with me or something but there is good scholarship on this. Anyway, okay. “Go call your husband.’ ‘I do not have a husband.’” I think she’s saying here, I’m available. And He says to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband, the fact is you have had five husbands and the man you are now with isn’t even your husband. What you have said is true.” What is He pointing out? She’s maybe doing what all of us do – maybe if I just meet the right guy, I’ll be happy. The first six I didn’t get it right! But seven, that’s a holy number. That’s a good one! And many of us, all of us who don’t have a spring of living water within us, will do this! I just need another good show! I just need another good trip! I just need another good meal! When is Disneyland going to open? When He says that’s she’s had five husbands and the one she’s with now, her boyfriend, isn’t even her husband, then she gets it. She’s like oh you’re a prophet. And keep in mind, for the Samaritans, they said the last prophet was Moses. The only next prophet would be the Messiah. She’s saying when she says to Him ‘oh you’re a prophet,’ she’s saying I believe you’re the Messiah. And she says to Him, but you Jews, you say that we have to worship in Jerusalem, and we Samaritans believe that we have our own mountain here in Samaria that we worship at, and Jesus says to her, yes, Jerusalem is correct, but there’s coming a day and very soon where believers will worship in spirit and in truth. In other words, He’s saying the temples, the places, the locations, it’s all going to be inside your body. That welling up within you will be a spring of living water. You won’t be taking trips to Jerusalem anymore; you’ll be the temple. That within your body itself will be a nourishing, spring of living water, that will never run out. And boy, do we need that today! We need that! In the wealthiest county in the wealthiest state in the wealthiest country in the world, I look around and see people surviving on dead cistern water. We need the living spring of water from within. That’s what we need. Oh, we need it. We need it. I need it. We need the Lord. Maybe you’re here today and you’re like ‘we need the Lord’ is a little bit too abstract for me. I get it, we need the Lord. I don’t get it. And I want you to think about it this way. For those of you, especially.. and this message.. the younger you are, this is, I think, is going to be, in general, truer for you. I think we are frying our brains. There’s been a lot of talk lately about.. I mean not lately, for 30 years now, about how fast food, for example, is cheap carbs and it’s bad for us, or how being sedentary and sitting around the house all day is not good for us. And there’s been a lot of science to talk about how good it is to have extreme cold and hot stressors on your body, and to go long periods without eating – fasting and intermittent fasting. And it’s true. And a lot of the reasoning around that is because our ancestors, that’s, until the industrial revolution, what most people had to go through often. You had ice cold winters and hot summers and you didn’t eat until you killed something on the Savannah. And you got a bunch of food and then you went a long time without food. But you know what else we forgot about those old days? Those days were boring. They didn’t have Xbox, I-phones, TV’s, they didn’t even have a radio or a podcast or music, unless somebody pulled out an instrument and played it, which didn’t happen very often. I still remember my grandma Schuller talking about growing up on a farm in Iowa, and people would talk about the good old days, and she said they were not good old days. I remember this, she goes there was no air conditioning, there was no fridge, and she said and it was just so, so boring. She said half the reason I married your grandfather is I was just so bored on the farm, I had to get out of there! So many of us are out of touch with having days of boredom, let alone hours. If Hannah and I are eating a meal, and we’re in a beautiful restaurant full of amazing people wearing amazing clothes, everyone talking about interesting things, and she gets up and uses the restroom, you know what I’m going to do? I’m not going to take in everything that’s around me, even though it’s incredible. I’m going to reach for my phone. And I have no idea why. You remember the days when telephones were for making phone calls? Boy, those days gone.

Living Water

So many of us cannot handle two minutes of boredom, let alone two days or two hours. And I think we're frying our brains. I think we are doing the fast-food version to our brains that we do to our bodies, and we're doing it constantly. To get to my final point, I think if we want to drink from living water, there is this thing between us and the well sometimes, and that is our intolerance for boredom. It's time to get bored again. It's time to sort of detox our brains a little bit. It's not enough to just get rid of something, but one way to think about it is as a value set. Now I want everybody to hear what I'm about to say that Bobby likes fun. If you know me, I'm a fun guy. I'm like a mushroom. I am as fun as they come. But, I recognize that most of the things that we think of as fun, if we don't have meaning in our lives, that the fun things just continue to have diminished returns. It's not as fun as it used to be. It's not as interesting as it used to be. And that when you have a choice in life, very often you have a choice between what's meaningful and what's fun and it's the meaningful stuff that's going to give you long term joy and life in life. It's what's meaningful. You know what the problem is with meaningful stuff, though? Is very often its boring. Or even worse, the most meaningful things in your lives are usually the things that have to do with taking responsibility for something or someone. Whether its caring for someone, or pursuing a new project that's very difficult, or taking risks, or working with people you don't like to be with. Changing poopy diapers is not fun, but its meaningful. And serving those who are in need is not fun a lot of times, but its meaningful. Leaving the NFL and starting a farm is not always fun, but boy is that guy living a meaningful life. You can just see it in his face. You could see it in his face. It is so easy to pursue after the thing that gives diminished returns rather than what really brings meaning in life. I think if we want to drink from a spring of living water, we have to be willing to press through the pain of boredom and taking responsibility for things that we don't always feel like doing. No matter how you slice it, many of us are drinking from cistern water, and boy are those cisterns cracked. We're getting diminished returns, we're getting hungrier and thirstier every day, and that is not God's plan. And I understand that, by the way. I remember.. it really helped me.. there was a girl who came to faith and she was a heroin addict before she came to faith, and she said heroin saved my life. And I said what does that mean? She said you just don't understand, if I hadn't had heroin I would have taken my life. I'm not judging people. I understand that some of us have been through things couldn't possibly imagine, but that wasn't God's life for her, that is not God's life for you. God has such an amazing life in store for you. And maybe you're here and you're thinking about coming back to Him, just do it! What are you waiting for? Come back to the spring of living water. There's nothing like knowing the Lord and having His Holy Spirit bubbling inside of you. And being with people that know the Lord and encourage you in your faith. I want to encourage you, if you're hungry and thirsty and all the things that the world offers isn't doing it, come to the Lord and seek after His spirit and you'll never thirst again. That's a promise from the word of God, and it is true. Lord, we love you, it's in Jesus' name we ask you, I ask in Jesus' name to break chains right now. There are people under the sound of my voice who are struggling with things, addictions and things, just break those chains. I pray, Father, that they would receive freedom right now, and would seek after you, the source of living water, an oasis in the desert, fresh, crisp, nourishing water to our body and our bones and our mind. I ask it right now, Lord, that your Holy Spirit would blow like a wind through them, even now, that they would even sense physically your presence in their life, and I pray God that as we come to you, that we would never thirst again. We ask it all in the very strong name of Jesus, 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.