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Hour of Power - 17.10.2021

## 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: Happy Sunday visitors and church family. We are so happy that you're here. God is the same yesterday, today and forever, and you can rely on His faithfulness.

BS: We're so glad that you're watching or that you're with us, wherever it is you are, whether you're online or at home or watching on television, today we have a special guest – Christine Caine is going to be sharing the sermon with us today, we we'll look forward to that.

But let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much that you love us right where we are, just as we are. We thank you that you're doing a good work in our lives. We thank you that our sins are forgiven because of Jesus, and we pray that you continue to shape us into His image. Lord, we love you so much, its in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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

## SCRIPTURE – Acts 28:1-10 – Chad Blake

In preparation for the message today, hear these words found in Acts chapter 28: After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold. When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god. Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days. It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him, healed him. And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. They also honored us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed. This is the word of our Lord

## DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Wherever you are, would you stand with us? We're going to say this creed together as we do every single 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!

## INTRO TO CHRISTINE CAINE – Bobby Schuller

Today I am so excited to have our friend Christine Caine in the house, preaching the message this morning. If you don't know Christine, she has been a huge advocate for women who are being trafficked and her ministry is doing amazing things around the world. She speaks to women in major conferences, and just has a huge influence, an amazing story. Would you please welcome with me, the great and powerful, Christine Caine?

## Shake it Off

### MESSAGE – Christine Caine "Shake it Off"

Hello, church! I am so fired up to be here with you all and let me just say and qualify right up front and for our online church that we don't run a human trafficking organization, we run an anti-human trafficking organization. I just thought I better clarify in that word, but it is my privilege to be with you all. I've been here before so the first time you come, you're a guest but by now I'm just like part of the family, so I just want you to know that I am your cra-cra Aussie Greek aunt, and so this is an Australian accent, in case you're wondering. My family is from a Greek heritage, and so everyone needs a cra-cra Aussie aunt, so I'm going to be yours. It has been a year, hasn't it? I couldn't tell you how thrilled I am to be here. I believe that the Holy Spirit's going to speak to every one of us. I don't believe that it's an accident that you're watching either online or TV today, and that the Lord's got a word for you. Let me introduce you first to my family. I am here with the most ravishing piece of masculine flesh on planet earth and that would be my husband of 25 years last week, and so we celebrated 25 years. And it just gets better and better. And I think I've got a photo of my family. I have my 19-year-old Catherine Bobby and Sophie Joyce is 15, and so I have two daughters. My husband is number 14 of 15 children.. yes. Ya'll, I know, everyone just freaked out in the room. And so as you can tell, there was no television in that part of Australia. My mother-in-law, she never thought you were like a woman until you popped out at least 10, so I would take my two daughters to my mother-in-law and I'd say 'this here is Catherine Bobby, and she is my alpha. And this is Sophie Joyce and she is my omega. And this is the beginning and the end of my childbearing years.' That's kind of what happens, and so I love my girls, we love the Lord, we love life. We're going to dive right into the scripture, and I know I love this house because you love the word of God, and Nick and I so love Pastor Bobby and Hannah, and it's just such an honor to be here bringing the word to you. Now get ready, we're going to do a lot of Bible today, as only a Greek woman can, so strap yourself in, I only speak three ways: hard, fast and continuously, so you will not fall asleep, but if you've fallen behind in your Bible reading plan and you were like thinking I was planning to read the Bible in a year, and I'm falling behind, by April 2021, I'm about to catch you up right now. You are going to be caught up, and you would have finished 2022 by the time that I'm finished. We read the text from Acts chapter 28. I'm going to go first into Acts 27. And I think, I pray, that we're just going to bring some clarity and context around perhaps something that we've all experienced over the last 12 months. So the Bible says in Acts 27, "when it was decided that we should sail for Italy," now I get excited when I read this now. You know, we have A-21 in 18 countries all over the world, and even during a global pandemic, we have got more survivors in our care now than ever before in the history of A-21. We've put more traffickers in jail and rescued more people during a global pandemic than ever before, because our God is able to do things that are not able to be done naturally speaking. What is impossible with men is possible with God. With God all things are possible and nothing is impossible. And I'll tell you what didn't stop during a global pandemic and that was injustice and pain and suffering, but you know what? Our God is still in the business of rescuing people, delivering people, healing people, and redeeming people, and so I am so grateful that over this last year, the work of A-21 has continued to go forward. But when I read "it was decided that we should sail for Italy," I'm Greek but I'm thinking Italy; I'm thinking the Amalfi coast, I'm thinking Positano, I'm thinking Raveloe, I'm thinking a Mediterranean cruise, I'm getting so excited when I read this because I really miss Italy, and I love Italy, and I love pizza and I love pasta, and both of those are carb free. As I was reading this, I want you to know I don't want you to get that kind of picture of Italy. That's not what I'm talking about because it says "they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort name Julius." So we know that Paul in this context is a prisoner. The Jerusalem church had been suffering, Paul had received an offering from all of the surrounding area churches, and he brought it himself to Jerusalem. Everyone warned him don't go to Jerusalem, Paul. Don't go because they want to kill you. But Jerusalem was very dear to Paul. Obviously, and we just celebrated Easter, obviously it was the place where Jesus Christ was crucified, and it was also the place where he had persecuted so many Christians. And so he wanted to be there. He wanted to take the offering himself to Jerusalem and exactly what they said would happen, happened. They tried to kill him. The only way he was rescued was that the Roman soldiers took him and made him a prisoner. Now he was not distressed about this because he was a prisoner and he wanted to go to Rome. Paul knew that his purpose was in Rome. Paul knew that his destiny was in Rome. He wanted to stand before the Caesar and he was going to proclaim the name of Jesus, and out of the epicenter of the Roman empire, the gospel would go forth and the gospel would spread.

## Shake it Off

Paul was on his way to Rome. Paul was a prisoner, but he was on his way to his purpose. Sometimes on our way to our purpose, God takes us there through a method that we might not think is appropriate. We don't often get to where God wants to take us with a well thought out plan of this is how I want to go. I want to go on a Mediterranean cruise, I want to go on a beautiful yacht. Paul's going to his purpose as a prisoner, but it is his purpose and it's where the Lord's taking him. So we go on from here. It says, "and embarking on a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica." The Greeks always turn up, I just want you to know that and our headquarters are in Thessalonica in Greece, and everyone wants to be Greek. Give me a word, any word, anyway, if you've seen my Big Fat Greek Wedding, you know what I'm talking about. So "the next day, we put in at Sidon, and Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for. And putting out to sea from there, we sailed under the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us." So Paul is now on course with purpose. They're traveling under the lee of Cyprus, very close to the shore because the winds were against him. So he's on route to purpose. He's in the will of God, he's going to where God has destined for him to go to stand before Caesar in Rome, but the Bible says that as he embarked on this journey, the winds were against us. When I read that, it reminds me of March 2020. When we started the year and many of us are on course with purpose and destiny went like, Lord, this is the year my business is going to flourish, this is the year I'm going to get that promotion, this is the year I'm going to do something when it comes to my studies. This is the year. I'm on course, this is my plan, this is my purpose, this is where I am going. And we hit March and it was like woah! It seems like the winds are against us. Little did we know where it was all going to go. He goes on and says, "And when we had sailed across the open sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia. There a centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board. We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty." So we began with the winds against us, that was like March. Then it sort of got a little bit difficult when we got to April. It says "we hit difficulty off Cnidus as the wind did not allow us to go further. We sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone, coasting along it with difficulty." Just in case you didn't get it, now we're hitting May and June and July and August. It's been a bit like that for the whole world. The winds seemed to start coming against us. Then it got difficult. Then it was even more difficult. Then people were challenged, whether it was physically or emotionally or spiritually or relationally, environmentally or racially or politically. I mean it just seemed to keep going. It just seemed like it would not ever stop last year, and starting into this year. It goes on and says "since much time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous." Does this feel like this is where we're hitting.. "much time had passed." Everyone was thinking this thing will just pass in a few days, or maybe a few months, or maybe a year, and then it seemed to get even more dangerous, and it seemed to be getting worse, wherever you're watching, all around the world, there's not a country in the world that has not been impacted this year. We have offices in 18 nations and even to this day as I'm sitting here speaking this morning, we have different countries in different stages of lockdown, and different stages of being able to go out, different countries experiencing different economic trials, social trials, political trials, environmental trials. In every realm of life, it seems like it has been relentless. It seems like the winds were against us. It's been difficult. It got even more difficult, and then it got even dangerous! Seems like the Apostle Paul knew something about the storms of life. And the metaphor we can draw from this very physical storm is a lot of what we've all encountered over this last year. It says, "but the centurion paid".. it goes on he says, "saying, since much time had passed, the voyage was now dangerous because even the fast was already over." So now this is after the day of atonement. I don't know if you've ever been to Europe during this season at the end of the year coming into winter. We had some women rescued off Turkey and the people that went into rescue them and to bring them by boat into Greece into one of our refuges, into one of our shelters and our transition homes, it was so dangerous. The waves and the wind and the storms, I mean I don't want you to think that it was just a little breeze. I mean the boat was rocked to and fro. The boat was rocked.. it was like it was going to capsize. I mean we're thinking blackout. A category four hurricane storm. This is now after the day of atonement. That part of the Mediterranean at that part of the year, it wasn't just a little breeze. Paul was in the midst of the storm of his life. It was a huge storm. Goes on and says, "it was dangerous because the fast was already over. Paul advised them, saying 'sir, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.'

## Shake it Off

But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than what Paul said." Well so would I because Paul was not a ship owner, so I would listen to the guy that knew what it was like to drive a ship. "And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there." It's interesting what the majority will make you do. We live in a world that it's like you know what, everybody's doing this, let's all jump on board with the majority. "Well the majority made this decision to go out in the midst of this storm, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there." "Now when the south wind blew gently supposing that that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore. But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from land." I mean we have had the wind against us, it's been difficult, it got even more difficult, it got dangerous. Now the northeaster is hitting. Does this not remind you of our last year? It's like I couldn't even come up for breath. You're like where did this northeaster come from? In the midst of everything else that we've gone through. "And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to" what the scripture says, "and were driven along." I wonder today how many of you have just felt driven along. Just driven along by this year. Just like I don't even know how I've gotten here. I've just been driven along by the changing winds and the ships. I mean I didn't plan for this. I started 2020, then we kind of got to March, and it seems like every realm of my life has been impacted in some way, shape or form, and I've just put up my hands and just been driven along. He says, "running under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we managed with difficulty" just in case you haven't got it yet this morning, I just want to remind you "to secure the ship's boat. After hoisting it up, they used supports to undergird the ship, then fearing they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear, and thus they were driven along since we were violently storm-tossed." I wonder if that describes some of our lives, particularly all of our lives over the last year. Violently storm-tossed. "They began the next day to jettison the cargo, and on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands." Now of course this is a cargo ship. So they're throwing the cargo overboard, and this is their economic means. This is how the owners of the ship were going to make their money. There wasn't cruise ships in these days, they weren't going on a Mediterranean cruise, they were making their money through cargo. And it's felt like that for many people this year. It's like Chris, I've just had to throw everything overboard, all my dreams, my 401-K, my profit margin here, that new job, that entrepreneurial exercise, that business promotion. It just seems like everything's been flattened. I wonder if some of us have felt like that. It's been a really difficult year, it's been a really dangerous year, it's been a challenging year, it feels like the winds have come against us and it feels like we've lost everything. Paul goes on and he says "and on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard. When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of us being saved was at last abandoned." And I wonder if that's where so much of the world is and certainly some of us that have been following Jesus. The Bible says that we couldn't see the sun and we couldn't see the moon and we couldn't see the stars. And that might not seem like a big deal to us, but this was pre-GPS'. This was their GPS. The sun and the moon and the stars, that was the GPS system, but it was pitch black, they were violently storm-tossed, they were just being tossed to and fro, they felt nauseous, they felt sick, the whole thing was against them, and they couldn't even see. I wonder if anyone else this year has thought God, where are you?! Where'd you go, God?! Where did you go? Where is my GPS? I can't see you; I can't feel you; I can't hear you! God, where are you?! Anyone? I wonder. Because that's exactly how the Apostle Paul. He's in the midst of all of this. He says our hope, our thought that we might be saved, man, we just gave up hope. And there are some of you watching right now, and you feel like Lord, where'd you go? What's happened? I'm off track. I lost it.. this year, I don't even know how to put language around it. God, I'm so confused, I can't see you, I want you to hold on because there is hope. There is hope. I wonder if you could dare to trust God even when you can't trace Him. I wonder if you would dare to believe that sometimes God allows us to get off course so we could get into His plan and His purpose. I wonder if we were to believe that our God has never left us, nor forsaken us, even in the midst of a global pandemic, even in the midst of the economic challenges, the political challenges, the environmental challenges, the relational challenges that we've all undergone, especially at a heightened pace this year. I wonder whether we've continued to trust Him, even when at times we go God, I cannot trace you in the midst of all of this. I wonder if we believe that. I say to everyone, I've become a Hallmark Christian in 2020/2021. Christine, what do you mean by that? You know, I used to kind of roll my eyes at those cute little Christian sayings.

## Shake it Off

You'd look at on Pinterest and it would sort of say, 'God will never leave you nor forsake you,' and you go, oh that's nice. And 'God is your peace,' and I think that's nice. 'Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.' Oh, I've become that Christian. I love all of those sayings now. I've hung onto that for dear life that God, I might not be able to see what's in front of me, but I know that you are with me and you are still guiding me and you are still sovereign, and you are still in control, and you have not fallen off the throne, and you are still good, and you still do good, and you will work all things together for our good and for your glory, Father. There's something about knowing that God's with you in the midst of the storm. He says, "since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, 'men, you should have listened to me.'" I love the humility of the Apostle Paul. He's quite astounding, really. He's like, men you should have listened to me, said no woman to her husband ever, but that's okay. "And not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss, yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong, and whom I worship." I love this! I love this, cause in the midst of a storm, this is not after the storm, this is not when it's all over, this is in the midst of it. While Paul is feeling nauseous like everyone else. I don't even know if he's throwing up overboard, he may be. He may be feeling sick like everyone else. In the midst of the storm, God did not deliver him from the storm. God did not make sure that he was not feeling what everyone else felt like. He went through it with everyone. But in the midst of it, he said let me just tell you about this God that I worship. Let me just testify right now in the midst of a storm, not when it's all over, that our God's faithful and that our God's good. Nobody's going to lose their life. You see, can we worship in the midst of the storm? Even when we don't quite know what's going on in the world around us, will we still testify to the goodness and the faithfulness of our God, in the midst of the storm. We're not just going to wait till this whole pandemic's over, we're going to wait until the world somehow resets. There is no going back to normal. It's a new day, it's a new hour, God's forming a new wineskin, this is the greatest time on the planet for the church of Jesus Christ to rise up and to be salt and to be light and to declare and to decree to a very confused and a broken and a hurting world that this is the God that we worship. This is the God that we love. This is the God that is worthy of our worship! Ya'll, we're having church in here, I'm telling you. We're clapping in our Presbyterian church this morning, okay? We're going on, I love you guys so much. Look at you. Now look at this. He says to them, "yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, only the ship for this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship. And he said, 'do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar.'" I don't know what promise you've got, but the Bible says that all the promises of God are in Christ Jesus. Yes and amen. So despite what we have been going through, church, if God has made a promise and given us a promise that's in His word for our lives, for our families, for our future, then I want you to know you must. Some of you watching today, you've forgotten your 'you must.' You have been so overwhelmed by the storm, so overwhelmed by the heartbreak and the loss and the grief and the pain, which is very real for all of us. As Christians, God has not exempted us from this global storm that we have been in, that has affected every sector of society. But do you have a must? Do you have a promise? Paul had a promise and you know what? What do you hang onto when you can't see? What do you hang onto in the midst of a storm? You hang onto the promise of the word of God. You hang onto the truth of the word of God. Every promise in this word is in Christ Jesus. Yes, and amen. So sometimes when you can't see your purpose, sometimes when you are just bombarded by the storm, you hang onto the promise. I'm here to remind someone today there's a must over your life. Don't forget the 'you must.' He goes on, "so take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told." That's the kind of Christian I want to be in this season, a Christian that stands up in faith. I'm not just going to murmur and grumble and complain. There is so much negativity and so much divisiveness. I want to declare and decree the goodness of God, the faithfulness of God, the love of God and the mercy of God. He goes on, he says, "take heart, I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I've been told, but we must run aground on some island." Do you see two sides of the same coin? He says we're going to make it! But the ship must run aground. Some of us, we're like in shock. What do you mean? If the ship runs aground, that means we're not going to make it. No, now Paul says you are going to make it, and the ship must run aground. Can I just say throughout 2020 and 2021 there are some ships, church, that had to run aground? There were some friend-ships that had to run aground, some relation-ships that had to run aground. What we've discovered over this last 18 months is some of us, we had more faith in the ship than we had in our Savior and our ships have run aground.

## Shake it Off

God has done that through the church. It's not your systems and it's not your structures and it's not your style, and it's not what you thought that was going to get you to your purpose. It's Jesus alone. We've all been stripped back to Jesus alone. We've all been stripped back to realize how much we need one another, one body, many parts. We've all been stripped back to say we've lost some ships. And Jesus says, yes, but you've still got me. I'm here to remind someone today we've got Jesus and Jesus was always the goal and Jesus was always the prize and Jesus was always the source. It always was about Jesus, but you never really know that it was until you lose some ships. And some of us have lost some ships. Paul says you're going to get to your purpose, but the ship must run aground. God's been cleaning house this last year, church. God's been cleaning house. And some ships have had to run aground, and it's for our good because He's a merciful God and He's a good God and He's a loving God. And just like I'm a parent, and there are some times you have to let some ships run aground with your kids, not because you don't love them, but precisely because you do love them. And God's allowed that to happen this year. "When the fourteenth night came, as we were driven across the Adriatic Sea about midnight, the sailors suspected that we're nearing land. So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms. A little further, they took a sounding and found fifteen. And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, 'unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.'" It doesn't make sense. The ship's about to run aground. They want to run off the ship. They want to run and save their lives, but right here, Paul says no, no, the answer is you've got to stay on the ship. I'm here today to tell someone don't jump ship. See what has been happening during this season, it's been so difficult and so painful in so many ways, and people are just jumping ship. Man, I'm jumping ship on that marriage. I'm jumping ship on that church. I'm jumping ship on Jesus, and just walking away. Don't jump off the ship! Stay on the ship. I'm telling a generation, stay on the ship. Don't walk away because it's hard. Stay on the ship because reprieve is coming. "As the day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense without food, having taken nothing. Therefore, I urge you to take some food for it will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you. And when he said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat." I love this. In the presence.. the ship's about to run aground, the storm is running havoc, so they're in this massive storm, they're about to be in a shipwreck, and what does Paul do? Breaks bread in the midst of it. Do you realize what a testimony we the church can be to the world in this hour? That while the whole world's going cra-cra, we just break bread and declare that we are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and declare that we are staying. Our peace is found in Him. Our hope is found in Him. We're not ignoring the pain and the suffering and the tragedy and the division and the chaos and the hurt in the world around us, but we are saying there is a peace in the midst of it. His name is Jesus. There is joy in the midst of it. His name is Jesus. There is hope in the midst of it. His name is Jesus. I think one of our greatest witnesses as the church of Jesus Christ in this hour on the planet is that we would be able to break bread in the midst of the storm and the shipwreck, and our world would just go what is it that they've got? I want what they've got. It goes on and we get right to the end, and eventually, for the sake of time, let me just jump down. They eventually run aground. The Bible says in verse 41, "but striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground." Then this whole chapter, there's a storm and there's a shipwreck. Sounds so much like our last 18 months and if not, all of us throughout our lives have had storms and shipwrecks and we thought it was all over. And this is how Dr. Luke sums it all up in verse 44: "and the rest.." he talks about the fact that they're all going now to the island, and it says, "and the rest on planks or pieces of the ship, and so it was that they were all brought safely to land." I want you to catch this. I'm about to land this plane in the next few minutes. He's just summed up an entire chapter 27 of a storm and a shipwreck and he says this is what we're going to declare over there. "So it was that we were all brought safely to land." You know what I said to my kids about 2020, I said now the banner over our home is not going to be COVID, and it's not going to be division and chaos and pain and suffering. No, no, no. What we are going to declare and decree over our year is that God brought us safely to land. Our God brought us through. This is how Dr. Luke sums it up. I wonder how you framed your last year? Have you framed it around all of the pain and all of the suffering and all of the loss and all of the murmuring and all of the grumbling and all the chaos and all of the division and all of the arguments and all of the opinions and all of the things, or have you framed it with I'm here? You're watching me this morning.

## Shake it Off

God brought me safely through. God brought me safe.. look, in chapter 28, Dr. Luke starts it exactly the same “and after we were brought safely through,” just in case you didn’t get it, as we’re four months into this year, let’s just stop rehearsing all of the negativity and start declaring the goodness of our God. He brought us safely through. “After He brought us safely through, we learned that the island was called Malta.” We didn’t even know! You see a map of Malta, it’s this tiny island, seventeen miles long, nine miles wide. Nick and I have been. In the Mediterranean. They didn’t even know. It was not Paul’s plan to go to Malta. They didn’t even know this island existed. That’s where some of us have found ourselves in April 2021. We’re like I didn’t even know where I am existed! If someone had told me last year I’d be here, I did not even know this island.. I didn’t know this place that I am, wherever it might be, I didn’t know this even existed. I didn’t even know a person could end up here. And some of us, we have been so angry at God because we’re in Malta. We’re missing what God has for us in Malta because we’re lamenting the fact that we’re not in Rome yet. See Paul was on his way to Rome. But Paul understood that sometimes God takes us off course to get us onto His purpose, and God had a plan for him in Malta. He was still going to go to Rome. Remember, you must stand before Caesar. I don’t know what God’s promises are for your life. You must.. it will happen, but don’t miss the miracle that’s waiting right here in Malta because you’re lamenting that you’re not in Rome. He goes on and says “the native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us because it began to rain and it was cold. When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened it on his hand. When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another ‘no doubt this man is a murderer. Though he’s escaped from the sea.’” It goes on and it says, “he however shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. They were waiting for him to swell.” See some people are waiting for you to swell. “To swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time, they saw no misfortune come to him, and they changed their minds and they said he was a god.” Because that’s what the people will do. One week they say that you’re the devil, the next week they say that you’re god. One week they say hosanna, the next week they say crucify him. That doesn’t change. Don’t get too caught up on what people say on social media because the same people that like your post this week will cancel you next week. And so what you have to do is understand what’s in the heart of man. The people here were just saying what is Paul? Now Paul began to pick up sticks. The storm didn’t take him out. The shipwreck didn’t take him out. He began to build a fire. You’ve got to build a big fire for 276 people. And then because the fire got hot.. now this is the best I could do at short notice, church. The Bible says that a viper jumped out. Now some of you watching don’t freak out, it’s not real, okay? Some of you, you’re going to send Pastor Bobby a letter and go what is she got a snake on stage? Like no, I’m not a snake handler. Okay, so this is not real. A viper came out and attached himself. And Paul had a choice and many of us, this is where we are in April 2021. The storm didn’t take us out, the shipwreck didn’t take us out, and if the enemy can’t take you out externally through a storm in your life or a shipwreck in your life, he’ll make sure that something attaches itself to you to try to bite you and get the venom into your heart. But if he can’t take you out from the outside in, he’ll take you out from the inside out. We’re living in a world where so much offends, so much bitterness, so much gossip and so much slander and so much anger and so much accusation. And lust and greed and envy and guile and jealousy and all of the other things. And the enemy is trying to hang on because he is full on tried to assault the church to stop us from being who God’s called us to be. But the storm didn’t take us out. The shipwreck didn’t take us out. And if we’re not going to let the snake bite take us out, we have to do what the Apostle Paul did. The Bible says that he shook it off into the fire. He didn’t shake it off onto social media, he didn’t shake it off to all of his friends. The Bible says he shook it off into the fire. What have I come to church to tell you all this morning? I’ve come to church to tell you that before Taylor Swift, there was the Apostle Paul. And so we the body of Christ have got to learn to shake it off. That’s what we’ve got to do. We’ve got to learn to shake some things off this morning, and we’ve got to leave it in the fire. Why? Because revival is at stake. I believe the church is on the edge of the greatest revival we’ve ever seen. And what happened in Malta, the head guy on the island, Publius, his father was sick, and God used Paul to heal him and then every person on the island was healed. And there was revival in Malta. If you go, I’ve gone and there are shrines everywhere to the revival that happened in Malta. And then what happened at the end of that story? We had the text read out to us earlier. The Bible says that they gave them a ship and everything they needed on board. What have I come here to tell you today, church?

## Shake it Off

That I know there's been a lot of loss, and I know there's been a lot of grief and I know there's been storms and I know there's been shipwrecks. No one's minimizing that, and I know there's been plenty of snake bites to try to get into our hearts, and just make us give up and make us walk away. But I'm here to tell you, let's shake it off. Let's shake that stuff off and continue to trust God and continue to believe God because there's revival at stake. Wherever you are, don't miss the revival waiting in Malta because you're lamenting that you're not yet in Rome. If God has purposed Rome, you'll get the ship and everything you lost, you'll get everything else you need to get you where you need to go. We are not limited by natural things. We serve a supernatural God and He's able to do exceedingly, abundantly above and beyond anything we could ever hope or think. Let's not miss the revival in Malta on our way to Rome, in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen and amen and amen, church. Amen. Let me pray for you. Let me pray for you all this morning. Father, I thank you for this great house. I thank you for everyone that's watching on television, online Father. And I pray that faith and hope would well up in our hearts again today. That we would remember that you are our sovereign God, that you are a good God, that you are a faithful God, that you will never leave us nor forsake us. Father, you will always provide for us. You are Jehovah Jireh, our provider.

This broadcast is going all over the world. That we would be able to reframe the narrative of where we are right now so we could begin to see that you are with us right now, and that we would serve you faithfully in the midst of the storm, in Jesus' name, amen, amen. God bless you church, thank you.

### BOBBY SCHULLER THANK YOU TO CHRISTINE CAINE

Thank you so much, Christine Caine. What an honor it is to have you give the message today. I know it meant a lot to so many people.

### BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

We're so grateful you joined us today and just believe that God has something great in store for you this week. Would you rise for the benediction?

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.