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WELCOME – Bobby & Hannah Schuller

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

HS: Welcome first timers and church family. We are so happy to be with you. It is not a mistake that you are here today. God has a word for you. You are loved.

BS: Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much that you've called us here. Thank you that you love every single person in this building and watching online or on television. You love us just as we are, not as we should be.

We thank you, God, that every day you're calling to greater purpose and calling. We pray most of all that you'd help us be more and more like your Son Jesus. Help us to love our enemies, help us to pray for those who hate us, help us to be kind to our neighbor, especially when we feel stressed and angry and hurried. We love you, God, and we thank you that your Holy Spirit is here filling our hearts and minds. We love you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HS: Amen.

REMARKS: In Memory of Zeljko – Bobby, Hannah, Marc, Irene

BS: Our dear friend and organist Zeljko had passed away. It was a crazy time because Zeljko told us maybe two weeks before he passed that he had this cancer in his colon and liver, and it was stage four, and he was going to need to take a break from playing because he wanted to focus on getting better. I talked to him on the phone for maybe about thirty minutes or so; maybe not that long, but we just talked. I had no idea it was going to be the last time we would speak. And it's been very hard, not just for me but for our whole team because Zeljko was such a good guy. It's even weird seeing a picture of him to think he's not here anymore. It's just bizarre. And I think last week was really hard for a lot of us in leadership and on the music department. For sure it's been hard on Zeljko's family, who's here with us. We just want to welcome you. Thank you for coming today, and we're going to do our best to honor Zeljko today. I can't imagine how it is for his family. It's been hard for us, his friends. I had the joy of working with Zeljko for eight years seeing him every week, being around him. He was always downstairs in the green room with his like I-pad showing us jokes and we would talk about music and different things. And when I told Haven, she must have cried for 30-minutes because Zeljko played piano for Voices of Hope, for the children's choir every week. She said 'this is the first person I knew that passed away.' All of us here are very brokenhearted. Its going to take us a long time, really, to get over this, just because he was such a wonderful man. And so today we're going to do a couple of things to honor him in our worship service, but we just wanted to say how much we appreciate and love. Everybody wants to go on forever but he was such a gifted musician and so many amazing musicians usually have that prima donna thing with them, but he was never that way. Just always a friend to everybody, and we just miss him terribly.

HS: Yes, and I love the family communicated with us that the morning that he passed away, that in the silent hospital room that he said 'do you hear that? That beautiful music.' And I thought you know that's just Jesus welcoming him in with this beautiful music, probably written just for him. And I'm just so grateful for Jesus and the work of the cross that Zeljko can be in that place today. And I know, I know we will hear Zeljko play the organ again one day. And so I just wanted also to say please pray for the family. I know that its hard no matter anytime that you lose somebody, that somebody so suddenly. If you can just pray for the family. It's hard on the whole church family, such a beloved brother in Christ. Thank you.

Jesus Loves Teenager

MR: Zeljko Marasovich was our friend and I know that it's not going to bring any more solace to the family that he bragged on every Sunday. He brought pictures of his daughters and his grandchild, and we all just loved every moment of his sharing with us. He was our friend. He was a friend to everybody in the room, a friend to the pastors, a friend to the choir, a friend to the orchestra. I consider him a personal friend and we worked so hard together throughout the years. When we first started working with Don, Don and I working together, he'd show up very, very early in the morning, along with the orchestra, and it would be like maybe six in the morning he'd be rehearsing the hymns and the anthems, just to make sure the registration was right, just to make sure that everything was reflected what went on on Thursday rehearsals. He was a real incredible musician. I would call him a mensch. That just means the highest standard for a human being. Zeljko was just an incredible person who could do everything. He was a film composer, a composer of television of music, he was an incredible inventive and creative arranger, a wonderful organist, a wonderful pianist, and so many people worked with Zeljko from lately with Irene and then with Sarah with the Children's Choir, the Voices of Hope, and with Michael Skidgel, working with Don and just so many people. And he just loved every moment of it. And we loved him because we just knew that.. it was completely like Bobby said, if you picture like the dime a dozen narcissistic musician. That's not who he was. He was just the antithesis of that. He was the most giving soul you can imagine. I wanted to share that with you, and also just say that he came to us at a time that we needed him, when we needed an organist after 25 or 30 substitute organists, came in and they're all wonderful people but Zeljko was immediately family. And it felt just really, really nice. I'm going to just say that last year when we had a really hard time like what are we going to do, how are we going to make this through, and we had a choir that it was a wonderful trained choir, but we had a pandemic, we needed to have someone who can make things stay together, even though that we are all apart. We were apart in our own homes, but we needed to create music for the Hour of Power. Zeljko created a universal click so all the choir people can sing together; so that all of these elements could be unified under his click, Zeljko's click so that Irene and I would conduct with his click, so the musicians on Sunday morning's, we'd have something that would keep us all together, and that was Zeljko. He's still with us, he's going to always be with us, and I hope we can always remember that name. I want you to Google because he's done some really amazing things. Zeljko Marasovich. Thank you.

IM: As a musician, we come together each week to create something beautiful, expressive, and part of that means you're giving something of yourself in that process. It's a very personal experience that you give and you exchange and you hope that you inspire your listeners through that. And that is what Zeljko did each week. Every time he played, he was a beautiful and talented organist, and a wonderful composer, and could play the Widor Toccata like none other. I mean we were blessed with his postludes every week. But I want to just share about my friend Zeljko. He, whether it was through our touring or recording projects, our retreats, he was always the most willing, kind-hearted man. He would give so much of himself without asking for anything back. He was funny. He would share with us his jokes, and he was so passionate about what we do here and the greater mission, the purpose of our ministry every Sunday. He was so passionate about what we do each week. And he loved his family. He loved you so much. He was so proud of his children, and it was a beautiful thing to see, to know you through him, through his stories. I don't know why he was taken from us so suddenly, and it breaks my heart. But I will tell you that I am honored and I feel blessed to have been able to collaborate with this beautiful, kind, loving, compassionate, gifted man. Today, we'd like to sing a movement of Brahms Requiem, "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place." And we performed this piece on tour in the Netherlands just a few years back. Brahms wrote this piece to give his audience, to give his listeners some sort of feeling of condolence and just sympathy. So please, when you listen to it, think of that. We hope that it gives you comfort, we hope that it brings some peace.

SCRIPTURE – Matthew 28:16-20 - Hannah

Thank you, choir and orchestra. That was beautiful. Thank you. In preparation for the message, Matthew 28:16: Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age. Amen.

Jesus Loves Teenager

INTERVIEW – TEHILLAH ALPHONSO (TA) with Bobby Schuller (BS)

Tehillah Alphonso is an L.A.-based singer-songwriter who is originally from Omaha, Nebraska. After attending an intensive training program called the A Capella Academy in 2004, her desire to pursue a career in music was solidified. Since then, she has performed in venues all around the globe, teamed up with world-renowned artists, and lent her voice to numerous movies and television shows. She also serves as a worship leader at her home church.

TA: Good to see you.

BS: Tehillah, hi! Welcome! Thank you so much.

TA: Thank you.

BS: I kind of want to hear what that looked like a YouTube video split screen was. Was that an A Capella thing?

TA: That was me being quarantined in a hotel room for two weeks and having too much free time.

BS: Yes, I bet. This has been a tough time for singers, in particular, I'm sure.

TA: Definitely.

BS: For those who don't about you, tell us about your music career and what you've been doing.

TA: Absolutely, yes. I'm from Omaha, Nebraska, originally, and I came out to LA to study music at USC, and that was back in 2016. I graduated just last year and since then I work as a teacher, and arranger, composer and session musician, basically anything I can get my hands on these days.

BS: And you're a worship leader at your church, too, right?

TA: I am, yes.

BS: That's awesome.

TA: Yes.

BS: Must have been a huge culture shift to go from Omaha Nebraska to downtown LA.

TA: Definitely.

BS: I bet. What was that like for you?

TA: I don't even know how to put it into words. It was more just coming from a very homogenous city to coming to a city with like all these different cultures and backgrounds and diverse people in every single way, including in the music industry, as well.

BS: You're pretty young, too, aren't you?

TA: Yes, just turned twenty.. three.. oh I almost said twenty-two. Just turned twenty-three on Friday, actually.

BS: Oh, Happy Birthday!

TA: Yes, thank you.

BS: Hey, great, wow! Well we appreciate that story and I know that you're going to sing for us here in just a bit, but for those who are sort of struggling with taking a leap in life, there's been a lot of shakeups during this time where people are thinking about trying something new. What encouragement would you give to those who are given that thought?

TA: That's a good question. I would say I think just trust in the process. Obviously nothing happens overnight, and just as long as you're willing to put in the work and willing to put in the time to make whatever it is happen, as well obviously as faith in Jesus and believing spiritually in things that are going to happen, just believing that you're going to put in enough of the work and the time to see that come through.

BS: Trust the process, too, I mean I think about trusting and like being okay with randomness, also because whenever you do something new, there's always going to be so much you can't predict, and some of its not always bad, like the role you got in Lion King.

TA: Yes, that's exactly.

BS: That's awesome. Well that's awesome. Thank you so much, Tehillah. We appreciate you being here with us.

TA: Of course, thank you for having me.

BS: Look forward to your song.

TA: Thank you.

BS: Thanks for coming.

Jesus Loves Teenager

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

BS: Would you stand with us? We're going to say this creed together. Hold your hands out as a way of receiving from the Holy Spirit, 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 "Jesus Loves Teenagers"

Today I want to talk about the importance of blessing a younger generation and honoring an older generation. And I want to encourage you that no matter how old you are, you can still honor an older generation, hopefully I'll remember to talk about it at the end of my sermon, but I might forget. Stranger things have happened. And no matter how young you are, you can mentor the next generation. That there is always in a healthy society, a sort of not hand out, but hand up to the ones behind while someone ahead of you is pulling you up. I want to talk about the value that that brings to a family, to a society, to a church and how we probably need that today more than ever. Our next generation needs you. They need your wisdom, they need your experience, but if you're older or on the older side and feel like you have wisdom to give the next generation, that generation will not be able to hear you unless they believe that you care about them, that you love them, and that you're on their side. It has to begin there. I want to come right out of the gate by talking about the Lindy effect. Now the Greeks, the ancient Greeks had this idea in merchants Greek, the word was "teleios," and we often translate that word today as "perfect," but there's not a good English word for it. It means that the thing fits in its essence itself. So like if you have like a weird shaped foot and you had a cobbler design you a perfect shoe, that shoe would be teleios because it fits your unique foot perfectly. And they believed that the essence of everything, or at least a lot of Greeks did, had its own sort of teleios, its own perfect way. This was reflected in many ways, but one of the ways it was reflected was generationally. In their philosophical descriptions of beauty, they believed in their day that one of the ugliest things that you could see in a society was a young person pretending to be old in the way that they dress or look or act, or an old person pretending to be young in the way that they dress or act. Good thing they didn't live in Los Angeles right? I mean that would be like crazy; or Orange County even more. The reason was they believed that there was a type of beauty that the young had, it was a vain beauty, but it was still special and good. It was vain because it was passing, wouldn't last, but it was a kind of beauty that only the young can have. We all agree young people are better looking than old people. We all feel like we looked better looking when we were younger, not all of us, but that there was a better beauty in age, physically that there was a special kind of beauty as a person ages the same way that wine would, that having silver hair was a reflection of luck because you weren't dead. It's a harsher world back then. Among other things, of wisdom, of making good choices, and that you had something beautiful to offer the world, the most beautiful thing in the world in the ancient world, and that was wisdom. There's a wisdom that someone with silver hair can't offer someone who has, I don't know, red hair. I picked a random hair color. Black hair, brown hair. That there's a wisdom that older people have that younger people don't can't have. And that it was ugly when a young person tried to pretend to be old because they didn't really have that experience in wisdom and they were faking it. And it was ugly when an old person pretended to be young because they valued a vain beauty, the beauty of youth over the beauty of wisdom, experience, and being in its proper place, its teleios, a leader in a community. I want to talk about that today, about something that's very antithetical to our culture that's a little bit youth obsessed, that's a lot youth obsessed; that focuses so much on new technology and new developments, and there's many wonderful things that are developed every day in science and medicine, and they're all worthwhile and they're worth studying, but there's an obsession with what's new in a sort of a forgetfulness of history, of our story and where we've come from and what really sustains us as a people. And that's where we get to the Lindy effect. This is a principle that has personally guided much of my life, and has affected much of how I see the world, and it makes me, I think, different than many leaders my age. The Lindy effect basically says that when you take a nonperishable thing, say art or ideas, or technology, that the older it is, the more likely it is to succeed. This idea was developed by Albert Goldman, who's a poly math from the 60's. He wrote in the New Republic the first observation called the Lindy's Law when he noticed in New York City at Lindy's Delicatessen, I think this is the one, the original, there was a lot of stand-up comedians, mostly, but I think there were Broadway actors and different performers who would gather there and they would talk.

And he'd overhear their conversations, and they were always trying to figure out how long a show or a gig would last so that when it was over, they could get their next gig. And the rule of thumb, the heuristic that they all followed, was basically the longer something has been around, the more likely it's going to be around. If this show's been around for three months, it'll probably last another three months or so. But if it's been around for five years, it'll probably be around for another five years or so. It wasn't a science; it was just a rule of thumb. You know, a way to sort of view that actually what they realized is it wasn't the new shows that were going to last a long time, it was the old shows, and those were the gigs you wanted. This was formalized by one of the greatest thinkers of the 20th century. If you're not familiar with him, I really encourage you, if you like this kind of thing, to check him out – Benoit Mandelbrot. I think he passed away about ten years ago. Also poly math, mathematician, he's known for fractal geometry. I actually found out just this morning that the Mandelbrot set, that's this set behind me, it's a set of mathematical equations, was not discovered by Mandelbrot, but was to honor him because it was based on a lot of his research. This Mandelbrot set, by the way, it's a set of equations that when you plug it into a computer, it creates this bizarre shape and if you have a computer that's fast enough, you can zoom in at any point and it will just go on forever. Check it out on YouTube sometime. It's really interesting. And no matter where you go, there's kind of a unique set of images that emerge. It'll look like a 1960's acid trip, just to shoot straight with you. But it's very cool, all sorts of new images and stuff emerge, and it's all just the computer processing these equations. It's chaos theory, you know? Just new stuff just constantly, and it's fascinating. But anyway, Mandelbrot then made this a formal thing where he was like there is this law, this Lindy Law where it's not 50 to 50, it's probably more like a Prado, but the longer something has been around, the longer you can count on it being around. So for example, it's more than likely that a thousand years from now, shovels will still be here, but speakers probably won't. There will probably be something that'll replace that. Or ten thousand years from now, there will likely still be candles but there probably won't be I-phones. The longer something has been around, the longer it's going to be around because it's had many uses and many values to it. So this is true for ideas and technologies and art. Art that sticks around is art that touches people at every level, at every age, through age. It's going to be around for a long time. I remember hearing a bunch of, I think it was pastors, talking about what kind of social media was going to be next, and how they should focus on that one so they can like get an edge and have like a big audience. This is embarrassing, and I think about this stuff, too. I mean I care about it a lot and I shouldn't but I do because I got my fragile ego like everybody else. But I remember at the time the one that they were saying was huge was going to be Periscope, which I was like oh, it's like a submarine, and that was like a live video thing. It's gone. It was like white hot for like three months, and then it had probably another three months and it was gone. And some of you, you might remember having a MySpace. I did have a MySpace account, which I thought was rad; you go to MySpace and it's got my song on it, and some cool pictures, stuff I've done. Long gone, replaced by Facebook, which almost got replaced by Instagram until Facebook bought Instagram. The point is that all of these things, the new technologies, they get replaced by other technologies. And if you're watching this a hundred years from now, you probably have no idea what MySpace, Facebook or Instagram are. But you probably know what a shovel is. That's the point. That if you want to do something, if you want to write a song that's going to be listened to a hundred years from now, write a song that is similar to something they were listening to a hundred years ago. I Googled it this morning again – Ariana Grande is the biggest pop singer in the world today. I was surprised by that. Didn't she date Justin Bieber? I'm not sure. That was someone else, maybe. I got it all wrong. Don't trust me on pop culture things. I'm an old soul. Anyway, Ariana Grande is a huge deal, but if you were going to apply the Lindy effect to guess who's going to be a big deal say twenty years from now, it is more likely that the Beatles will be a bigger deal twenty years from now than Ariana Grande is. Actually the Beatles already are a bigger deal than Ariana Grande, but that forty years from now, more people will be listening to the Beatles than Ariana Grande. And a hundred years from now, more people will be listening to Brahms than are listening to the Beatles. Does that make sense? And thank you for the Brahms piece again. Just want to thank you for that. That was a great piece. And so there it is. There's something about things that have been around for a long time that are worth retaining. And if they're not worth retaining, eventually they find their way out of the equation. They get evolved out of life. And you can see this, that although the world changes drastically, it doesn't change in the ways that we think. I remember when I was a kid watching Back to the Future II, 1989, I was eight years old. And this vision of 2015 seemed so far away, twenty-five years away was just this radical vision of the future.

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And remember 2015 was six years ago, but I was as a kid thinking that there would be something like this when 2015 came: flying cars that run on nuclear reactors, and the hoverboard, which was like a skateboard without wheels. That's the biggest disappointment. That for sure should have happened. Like holograms everywhere, people wearing clothes that just like vacuum suck and they're made of plastic and they fit you no matter what shape you are and shoes that make you jump high and people that hang upside down from hover things, and I can put a little thing in the microwave and I get this giant beautiful pizza. None of that happened! None of that happened, right? Actually, if you took Marty McFly in real life in 1989, you brought him today, even six years after when that was supposed to happen, he'd look around and go everything looks pretty similar. This building was only five years older than that movie. Unless you pull out an I-phone. Just a small little thing. So there are changes that happen but nobody predicts them right because at the end of the day, the stuff that's been around a long time is useful, and the new stuff a lot of times becomes useless or obsolete, you might say, pretty quickly. I remember hearing Hussein Taleb who's the one who I found this Lindy effect from; he gave a speech at Google who kind of worshipped him and he asked this question. He was talking basically about how Google probably won't be around in ten years because of the Lindy effect, or it'll be some new iteration because every new technology is replaced by a newer technology and so on and so forth, and he said so if you wanted to write a book a thousand years from now, what would you write on? And it was just all these bizarre answers, and nobody seemed to get it right, and then finally somebody got it right and he was like that's right. If you want to write a book that people are reading a thousand years from now, write a book that was being read a thousand years ago. Like write on a topic that people would have discussed that would have been relevant a thousand years ago, and you'll see that it'll be a topic that is more than likely to last. That touches on a much bigger issue, not just on how to get your art career or your writing career off the ground, but the fact that for example the best-selling book last year, do you know what it was? It's a two-thousand-year-old book. It's a very good book. It's the Bible. Every year. And old books on average will continue to outsell new books, no matter how good they do. And so our world is always forgetting, I think, sometimes especially. That an older generation really has a lot to offer a younger generation. The younger generation forgets that sometimes. And that older generation, I think, in its success and victories, and there have been many, forgets the value of blessing the younger generation with those gifts, or feels offended when it can't bring those gifts or those wisdom, those experiences to younger generation, and I think there is this disconnect in our society today that's really harmful. It's really harmful. Not that everything that's always been is good. I can think of lots of horrible things that lasted thousands of years that are terrible, but don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. There's a lot of good wisdom that you can get as a young person from older people, no matter how young or how old you are, there's incredible value and meaning in finding an older mentor who can invest in you. Or being that mentor to that next generation, and knowing that you're building a legacy. I remember when I just started leading this church and I had a good friend who was a CEO, he turned a car company around. I don't have his permission to talk about it but he turned a huge publicly traded car company from this horrible company into this amazing thing, and then after that, he went and worked for a non-profit for people with special needs in Los Angeles that was struggling. He turned it around into this amazing, amazing non-profit ministry. And he was retiring, I believe, at like 66. I went to him and I said when you leave, please come work for me. Help me run this thing. I don't know what I'm doing. I looked and I said please come work for me and I know that you can help us turn this around. And he said don't you want someone.. and it was a really sweet thing to say, don't you want someone your age? Someone who can help you? I said NO! Everybody my age, I was 33 at the time, everybody at my age is a faker. They're all idiots that think they're smarter. They're just faking it till they make it. I'm an idiot that's faking it till I make it! Please, I need your help. And he goes man, I'm 66. I said that's the point. You're 66. You've got a legacy of success behind you. At least come and work for me for three years just so I can learn from you. I think it meant a lot to him. It didn't mean enough, though, because he still turned me down. But it was funny, too, even looking at him. Normally he would wear a suit and he looked quite old in a suit, to be honest with you, but this time he was wearing like a polo and his like guns were showing, and he's like kind of buff and young, I was like he's got at least ten to fifteen solid years at Shepherd's Grove. Anyway. But what I really wanted to point out was that his response was what most people would say – don't you want someone your age.. don't you want someone young, someone good looking and interesting, a high energy, youthful. There's a lot of value to those things.

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But I already had those things. Oh that sounded like.. I was already young, and had all this stupidity that came with impassionedness, and that's a good thing if you link it to experience and wisdom. These linkages in our transient society, everybody doing a new thing, everybody starting a new thing, everybody traveling all the time, these links are breaking. Can you see it? Can you feel it? These links between generations and people, a lot of inner generational woundedness. And I believe God wants to heal that and I believe that as society becomes.. in fact those Greeks that we were talking about, we even know this quote, the famous quote that a society becomes great when its elders plant trees under whose shade they know they will never sit. That's what we want to achieve. I want to plant trees like that. I want to sit under trees like that, you know what I mean? All of that to say that no matter how young you are, the next generation needs you. And no matter how old you are, continue to honor your legacy and the generation above you. You'll find that it'll bring you incredible meaning in your life, joy and you'll make a lot fewer stupid decisions. Not that you make stupid decisions. That brings us to the great commission. Hannah read it earlier in the service, the great commission is one of the most famous things that Jesus says. At the end of His ministry, He's standing on.. this is the traditional hill that Jesus was supposed to stand on overlooking the Sea of Galilee with His disciples, and He says to them "go into all the world" which was a shocking thing to say, not just Israel, to the Gentiles or to the pagans, "making them disciples." We often think He says go into all the world and preach the gospel. He says that in the book of Mark, but where we traditionally call the great commission, the most cited one is Matthew, and He doesn't say preach the gospel, He says make disciples, which should be the same thing. Most people think of those as two different things, it's not. And you know what a disciple is in His context? A disciple doesn't mean a Jew or a Christian, a disciple is like saying a seminary student. In those days, a disciple is someone who is in some kind of a mentor relationship, kind of like a Jedi Padawan, for those Star Wars fans. There is a mentoring thing where over a certain period of time, a kid, usually an older teen, young college age student, will be mentored by a rabbi for the purpose of becoming a rabbi. It's like a seminary student. And when he goes and gives them the great commission, at 33, leaving His office, He says now go do for other, effectively anybody, but go do for others what I did for you. Go make disciples. Doesn't mean just preach a message and convert them, it means teach them to walk in the ways and power that I've taught you. The power, give them the power. And a disciple means take 'em in. Take 'em in. For Jesus that was three years of living with Him, so they should look something like that. And it had a cascading effect that's having an impact on even what we're doing today. That's what we're called to do. There's this obvious love that Jesus has and that the whole scriptures have, for folding in from one generation to the next this system of honoring the older and blessing the younger so that those Lindy-type things that need to stay in society are carried on, like your grandmothers' recipe for cinnamon rolls. That must stay. My grandmas here, hi grandma. Our society is full of narcissistic leaders who want a legacy but they want power more. Most leaders are not the kind of leaders that Jesus taught. The only reason they want a legacy is because of their ego. They're not really interested in seeing a next generation create and do a great thing. When Hannah and I started dating, I was a PC guy and she was a MAC guy and she made a disciple out of me. Took me in and I learned that MAC was far better than PC. For those of you who haven't seen the light yet, the light is already dimming. It's too late because Steve Jobs is dead. Steve Jobs, I don't know him but Steve Jobs is a kind of a mixed bag. When he died, people got a lot more honest about him. Clearly a visionary, clearly made an amazing product. I remember hearing a story that when the I-phones came out, that there were like thousands of I-phones that had been made that had already been shipped out, they hadn't been sold yet, and he recalled all of them because when you put the axel or what are those called.. the thing into the aux cable when you put it in, it didn't make a clicking.. didn't like have a click feel to it. It just went in. And that drove him so crazy that he took all of them back because he wanted to have like a pop or like a click when you put it in. I think it's that type of thing that in my experience made Apple products so awesome. And yet it seems that he was a narcissistic person. I don't want to speak ill, but seems like he was obsessive, and had no person to take his place. And so now it's been years since Steve Jobs has died and our experience Apple products continue to get worse and worse, and they keep dropping things, like I just got a new laptop and I put the plug-in in the wall, but the plug-in is so clunky and heavy that it like just fell out of the wall, and I looked at Hannah and I said something that we say to each other all the time – Steve Jobs is dead. And what we're saying is every time something like that happens, it's like this wouldn't have happened on Steve's watch.

Jesus Loves Teenager

And so that is the result, though, likely result perhaps of a narcissistic leader who's unable to empower the next generation to do what he did. They could do some of the stuff, but not what HE did; not what made him special. In the church, there's this saying, and I hear it all the time: "Founding pastors don't retire. Founding pastors die." This is a new saying, by the way. I don't think this existed even ten years ago, but now I hear it all the time. I don't hear it from the pulpit, I don't hear it publicly, I hear it from associate pastors, volunteers, people who just see that there are so many church leaders who have taken on the narcissistic CEO role and they just can't leave, they can't bow out, or when they do, they're not really out. They're the chairman of the board, and that's not how it should be in the kingdom of God. I'll finish with this. In the scripture, there's a great commandment. It's the fifth commandment of the ten. These have been around for 3,000 years, so more than likely they'll be around three thousand years from now. Number five says "honor your father and mother." This is a weird one, isn't it? Like why is this in the great ten commandments. Honor your father and mother. It's the only commandment that comes with a promise. What's the promise? So that you may live long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Notice that this doesn't say, 'the Bible says..' the Bible is a love book, man. Bible says love your neighbor. The Bible says love immigrants. The Bible says love your enemies. The Bible even says that God is love, but the Bible does not say love your parents. You notice that? A lot of you cannot bring yourself to love your father and your mother. And for some of you, I understand that. But it says honor your father and mother. Now without talking about your specific parents, there's a broader principle at play here, which is that the next generation honors the generation before it. And what that means.. and then there's also this commandment to bless, as the two elderly people that blessed Jesus in the temple. That Jacob gets the blessing from Isaac. That the older generation blesses the younger, and the younger honors the older. And when that relationship is happening, good things happen within the community itself. The younger generation now is supposed to honor the older, not for the sake of the ego of the older generation, but for the sake of the younger, like young people need someone to mentor them. They need someone that went before them, that can guide them, even if they say they don't, they don't know what they're talking about. That's why they need a mentor, right? They need someone to guide them and carry them through tough times. And that's why you might think I'm so old, or maybe I'm getting older, that's wonderful. You have a wonderful gift. Every day you get older, you have a wonderful gift to give to those who are younger than you. Even my daughter is a mentor to.. she's nine, or she's 11 and Chloe is like 5, and she's like, you know, she's in this role. She's blessing the next generation, even though she's just a kid. And that's my final point. That if you are older, don't forget that your role is to bless the next generation. That doesn't mean necessarily giving them your advice, that means that they know that you're for them, that you're on their side, that you're rooting for them. And even though they might be being clumsy or making dumb mistakes or something, that first they know that you're on their side and that you love them. And if you're in that younger generation, it is so important that we continue to honor those that came before us, for our sake. To find this deep meaning in life. And this is for all ages, by the way. You might be looking at me going, Bobby, I'm 90. I can't honor my parents. There's nobody left, or something. The Bible doesn't say honor your father and mother until they die. Right? You can honor those who have passed, in fact that's some of the best times to do it. You can honor their memory, you can honor what they taught you, you can think about if so and so was here, what would they tell me to do in this season, and you'll find that when this is happening within a society, really good things happen there. That's my encouragement to you. The best characters in every story look like Mr. Miyagi and Yoda and Gandalf and Tony Stark's best version was when he was mentoring Spiderman. We all know that. The world needs more of that happening, and I know you can be that to somebody, no matter how young you are, you can do that for somebody. Lord, we thank you so much for all that you've given us. We entrust our lives to you. Help us to love people that are less experienced and younger than we are. Help us to bless them and learn what it means to help them succeed in life in the true meaning of the word. We love you and it's in Christ' name we pray, amen.

BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you His peace in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen.