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WELCOME – Bobby Schuller & Hannah Schuller

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

HS: Welcome visitors and church family. It is a joy to be with you. You know, Jehovah Rapha means I am the Lord that heals you. Wow. God is saying that to you. You are loved.

BS: Yes, I just believe God has a word for you today. Especially if you're feeling a little discouraged, and today you want to be lifted up. I just believe that the Holy Spirit wants to do something great in your life today. Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much that your Holy Spirit is present with us. Lord, I pray that today we would just receive the forgiveness that you offer us in your crucified, resurrected Son Jesus. Help us, Lord, to walk in your ways, to live with your faith, and I just pray for an outpouring of faith and hope for people this morning, and it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – Genesis 50,19-21 - Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Genesis 50:19-21. But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your family." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. Amen.

INTERVIEW – Morgan Harper Nichols (MHN) and Bobby Schuller (BS)

Morgan Harper Nichols is an artist, poet, and author who creates beautiful and inspirational imagery from the stories she receives from others. Her new book, *Peace is a Practice: An Invitation to Breathe Deep and Find a New Rhythm for Life*, looks at how to find peace amidst the busyness and chaos in the world, and in our lives.

BS: Morgan, hi!

MHN: Hello. So good to be with you all today.

BS: Great to see you again. It's been I think a few years since the last time we talked. It doesn't seem that long, but man, I went on your Instagram a few days ago and I was like holy mackerel, you've got like close to two million followers now on Instagram. You've blown up. Congratulations.

MHN: Oh wow, thank you so much. It's so fascinating to me because when I was with you all in person, that was one of the few moments that I actually got to really connect with people, and I have this book coming out, and all that, and I've just left from that day like so fulfilled and so encouraged, and I was like yes, I guess I'm just trying to carry that on from everything that happened after.

BS: Congratulations. We're so happy for you, and of course people love your art. What do you think it is, I mean there are lots of artists on Instagram, lots of poets, lots of people doing these types of things, but I mean it probably feels weird to.. feels self-gratifying to answer this question, but I'm really curious. What do you think it is that you're doing that people are connecting with in such a way that you've taken off so well?

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MHN: It's no secret that a lot of us in many different ways, have questions and uncertainty in life, and I think that for me, it's just something that I have encountered grace in my own life with people who have allowed me to say like I just feel really confused or stressed right now, and I just want to pass that on. That's honestly what I just return to every day. I'm always thinking about how at any given moment someone is scrolling through just to take their mind off of something that's really stressful in their life. And I think about how.. I'm like yes, I really do feel like God can show up, and people can experience God's grace in that space, even if it's just for a moment. That's something that I'm just very, very consistent about. I tend to think about that at least once a day when I'm on these platforms and I'm like wow, there are people out here who just a little reminder that it's going to be okay; that they can just take it day by day, and its sometimes what someone needs to hear because that's oftentimes what I need to hear. So just trying to pass that on and I think it ends up being something that a lot of people end up connecting with.

BS: You've just written a book. This is why we really wanted to hear from you because this is exciting. We're always thrilled when you have a book, and the book is called Peace is a Practice. I was thinking about this this morning about how the last couple years have been some of the strangest years for all of us, for lots of reasons. And you would think that with all of the cloistering and quiet and times of isolation, that people would have felt, you would think, a little more peaceful. But it was the exact opposite. Seems like everybody is way more anxious and worried and high strung and it feels like a global thing, and a lot of worries about the future and the office and the job and government and all this stuff. You must be feeling that like crazy. Is that why you wrote this book or was there something else. What was the reason you wanted to write Peace is a Practice?

MHN: Yes, I've been feeling it like everybody else. That's the first thing. And then on top of that, I, over the past year and a half, I actually, I was diagnosed with autism. While all this was going on in the world, I was also going through this journey of realizing that I had had all these struggles in my life that didn't have a name, and I didn't know what it was, and finally getting those answers. But in getting those answers, it was hard because I had to look back at my life and see wow, there's been all these moments in my life where I've been anxious and stressed and feeling unequipped to be in the world. But at the same time, I have been learning how to seek out peace. And I haven't done it perfectly my whole life, it's been something that I've been practicing, and it's something I can continue to practice. It was through that experience, honestly, that I felt equipped to invite other people into that, of like we all have different things, it's like yes, there's a lot of uncertainty in our lives, there's a lot of things that have stressed us out and there have been mountains and valleys in each of our lives. At the same time, through all of that, we've been learning how to breathe through it, we've been learning how to pace ourself, we've been learning how to find peace in the present moment, and we've been leaning into that as we are in the present, and we can continue to cultivate that as we go forward.

BS: Morgan, let me ask you. Did I catch you right, did you say you discovered during the last couple years that you're like on the spectrum for autism?

MHN: Yes, yes, so I did, and it was actually through a TikTok video that I ended up discovering that it's something that I needed to look into because autism for a grown woman looks different than what it would look like in a young child. And a lot of the research is done on young children, however, when we become adults, it looks different. There isn't a lot of resources out there for an adult to go and pursue a diagnosis. So I ended up on autistic TikTok and people talking about their experiences getting diagnosed as an adult and how different it looks in adults, and I saw a lot of myself in that, and that's what empowered me to go to Google and find a specialist in my area.

BS: Wow. That's actually a surprise to me because when I think of autism, like we have two nephews that have autism, you don't think about someone like you.

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I mean you're looking right into the camera; you seem to be able to write a book fine, but there are other things, I guess, that are underneath.

MHN: Yes.

BS: Yes.

MHN: Yes, absolutely. And it's fascinating because it ties into this idea of practice. It takes a lot of practice, obviously, like even like my natural speaking voice, I don't naturally have like inflection in my speaking voice. It's very practiced. So if I say oh hello, how are you? I'm very conscious of adding that extra layer on, so it's all these little things I've learned to do. Like I've practiced making eye contact, I've practiced doing all those things, and for the longest time, I didn't realize, like oh my gosh, like other people don't cautiously think about all these little things throughout the day. So that's what made me realize, I'm like oh yes, I think there's something going on here, so. So yes.

BS: Awesome. So for you, really, it reminds me of Dallas Willard, this idea that the fruit of the spirit really is a discipline. Just like training anything else, just like doing art or writing poetry, it's something you practice, something that you work on within yourself. That's really at the heart of the book, huh?

MHN: Yes, absolutely. Absolutely, and that's something that I'm seeking to lean into every day, and hopefully encourage others to do the same.

BS: It's a terrific book. If you're at home and you're feeling anxious about life, I really want to encourage you to get this book by Morgan Harper Nichols. It's called Peace is a Practice: An invitation to breathe deep and find a new rhythm of life. Its anywhere books are sold. Morgan Harper Nichols, thank you so much. We appreciate you and God bless you in your work.

MHN: Yes, same to you. Thank you.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

No matter who you are, would you stand with us? We're going to say this creed together. Hold your hands out like this 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 "Your Dreams Will Annoy People and Get You in Trouble; So What?"

Lord, we do just thank you for that. We thank you for the gospel. We thank you for the cross and the resurrection, a great sign of your love for us, that you laid down your life that we could come boldly before your throne. Thank you that you've given us all everything we need to overcome. We trust in you, in Jesus' name. Today I want to talk about this word that's maybe become a touch maybe cliché for some folks, and it's really sad. And that is I want to talk about dreaming, and I mean it in the truest sense. I'm not an expert in these kinds of things, but Jung said that we dream all the time; that we're dreaming when we're awake and when we're asleep. And if you pay attention, it's kind of true. For example, if you were sitting at a quiet bus stop and no one was around and you had no phone or anything, you'd begin to daydream; you'd begin to think about maybe your groceries at first, but if you sat there long enough, you'd begin sort of thinking and picturing other things. And it's important that this thing that happens daily, moment by moment in our imagination is a gift of God. It's the creative part of God imparted into people to create. So everything good that exists comes from a redeemed imagination. Right? It comes from good people daydreaming, or night dreaming. But this building we're in, for example, is the result of someone, maybe a woman or man who was at a coffee shop or someplace, thought at my church or maybe I'm sure it was a pastor or an elder within this church, but somebody thought wow, it would be great to have a new sanctuary on the corner of Alton and Woodbridge.

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To have right there with lots of glass and tall ceilings. And that got together with an architect and the architect sat down in an office with a cup of coffee and maybe even prayed about it and thought about it and thought about the beams and the symbolism and the glass. And you see, so everything that exists from the good structures and things that we enjoy in life, and the inventions and technology and all these things, it started in someone's mind. Started by somebody dreaming and thinking. And it's true for probably every one good thing that we have, there's a hundred things that didn't manifest; that didn't come about. But yet, nurturing a dream, thinking about what could be in your life is so important. Build your dream and your dream will build you. Boy, is that true. I believe in that. The sermon title I have today, I think is the longest sermon title I've ever had, and it's this: "Your Dreams will Annoy People and Get You in Trouble: So What?" If you can get ahold of this, in our appreciation obsessed, our fame obsessed world, in a world that thrives on likes and shares and comments, a world that thrives on virtue signaling and always getting approval from everybody, and making sure that everything you do is okay by whatever tribe you're in, if you can get ahold of this, that whatever dream that you have, if it's from God, it will annoy people, and it will get you in trouble. To just say so what! Is such a gift. And its Jesus' advice to us! Remember what He said – Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil because of me. Why? Great is your reward in the heavens for that is the way they treated the prophets who were before you. What's He saying? You can't be great and also expect everyone to like you, or approve of your dreams, or approve of the way you spend your time, or approve of your daydreaming. You will be called everything in the book. I just want to encourage you that if you have a dream in your heart, and you're being constantly criticized by people, so what! So what. It is so much better to pursue the dream that God has given you than it is to people please. Let me just tell you as someone who has done a lot of people pleasing in my life, it's a curse. It is a curse to obsess about what people think about you because it keeps you from becoming who God has called you to be. Just let it go. Just say so what. Water off a duck's back. Just let it go. We need more dreamers like you. We need dreamers. People who can't help but think about the way things could be. And again, if you build your dream, your dream will build you. Hannah had a dream in her heart. She started reading the Bible and got this dream: what if God could do what He did in Jesus, and what He did through the Apostles in terms of miracles and healing. What if He could do that through me? And I've been watching, we talked about recently Friday, we had this night of healing here. We had six churches; it was full of all sorts of people. It was this amazing mix of everything, and it was so fun to see the joy and the different expressions that people had in worship, and to see so many people being prayed for, and multiple people receiving their miracles here that night. That's the result of Hannah having a dream. And a lot of that is happening. Hannah's done these amazing things where we're seeing these incredible miracles through her prayer life. But as her husband.

HANNAH: A lot of people, too, dreams coming with me.

BS: I know. See, she's so humble. See, she doesn't want it like.. no, it's a lot of people and it's a lot of things. Its Hannah! And let me just tell you, she's like.. okay, she's still.. its God, it's the Lord, okay we get it. I would just say.. she's like I'm serious. Bro. Hannah doesn't say bro a lot, but this is one of those moments. Bro. All right, Hannah and her friends and the Lord have been dreaming, all right everybody?

But let me just say the best litmus test of whether or not you're doing well in life is simply to ask your spouse or your kids, really, will help you. Maybe some of you are offended by that. But at least for me, it's true. At least for men its true. I remember Bill said if you want to know if you have a good marriage, ask your wife. She'll just tell you. And I will tell you as Hannah's husband, that even before all of this, if you had like a moral report card for Hannah, and an enjoyability and friendship, she'd be A pluses across the board, really. But I've also noticed how this journey has caused Hannah, this dream of Hannah's to have miracles, has built something else in her, as well.

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More joy, more personal strength, a lot more boldness in approaching people, a lot more boldness and assertiveness about what she wants in life, but also doing it in a way that's respectful and kind. And I have watched as Hannah's husband, how this dream has also built Hannah. And that is always true of dreams, of good dreams that are from God: if you build your dream, your dream will build you because you have a reason to become the better version of yourself. We all want to be disciples of Christ, but we forget sometimes that becoming a disciple is not a 'you should be a disciple' but rather its good advice. That if we want to achieve our dreams, if we want to live a great life, that discipleship is the doorway through which we enter into the kind of life we've always dreamed of. And though it's not a perfect life, and there will be suffering and there will be challenges, that what God offers us through discipleship is a reward that He calls eternal life. And the mistake we make with that is limiting eternal life to just heaven. It is heaven, but its eternal life now. Eternal life is the quality of God's life. It's not just long. God is a dreaming God and He gives people dreams, and it's all through the Bible, and it's the reason we use this word so much. There are people in your life that are dream destroyers. There are. There just are and we need to learn to just say so what. We don't have to cut them out of our lives, but its good when people criticize you too just be like: so what. Let me hear you say so what, right now. (AUDIENCE – so what) So what! Who cares! I remember my mom, who is a dreamer. When we were at a family reunion once, and she was talking about this brilliant idea she had to create, I think it was this, it was called breaking the ice, and it would be like an ice cube, and you break it and inside is like.. it was like for kids. I like you and stuff like this. It was a cool idea. And we were at a family reunion, and it was a great family reunion. I loved everybody there, but there were some people in my grandparent's distant family that are a bit strict and deeply religious in a bad way. And one of these ladies that seemed like a bit of a curmudgeon. Do you say that for women? I don't know. She was a curmudgeon, if that's appropriate, and she just looked at my mom and in a very snarky condescending way, said, 'Linda, you're such a dreamer.' And they say your mother is your first true love for a boy, and she was for me. I loved my mom growing up, and I still love my mom, of course, but I remember looking at that lady and being I don't like you. That's what I thought. I was like don't like this lady at all. As if dreaming's a bad thing. And luckily my mom isn't brought down easily by dream killers. Neither are you, right? Neither are you. Never forget that the dream that God's put in your heart's going to build you up. Even if it doesn't come to pass, and a lot of them don't. That the dream gives you a reason to build yourself and your life. Let's redeem the dream. It's time to dream again, everybody. Let's dream again. The Old Testament is full of dreamers. A dream that God has to redeem the fallen and broken war-torn world, torn by war and evil and violence and all sorts of things. And God wants to send into that world a covenant family who will redeem the whole world through the scriptures and finally through the life of His son Jesus. And that story really begins through a man named Abraham. And God gives Abraham a dream. Abraham, you're an old man, but guess what, I'm a miracle working God. My dream for you is you're not only going to have a one kid, you're going to have so many children in your posterity that this family will become a nation and it will bless the world. In fact, He brings Abraham out into a night sky, out in the desert and God walks with him and points to the sky and says Abraham, look at all the stars in the sky. Have you ever been out in the desert and seen the stars? Like if you go to Death Valley or something like that, to see the Milky Way is such an incredible thing. I remember sitting with Hannah out in Yosemite on the ground, and just looking up at a clear sky, and it just becomes brighter and brighter as your eyes adjust to the darkness, and you see shooting stars and millions of stars. And those are just the ones we can see with the naked eye. And God says to Abraham that your children will outnumber the stars in the sky. And the Bible says that Abraham just believed God, and it was a credit to him as righteousness. Paul reminds us of that often. That to just believe in God's dream for your life is somehow a moral act of goodness that makes you right before the throne of God. To just say Lord, I trust you.

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Abraham was certainly not an all-around perfect man, and very imperfect in many ways, and we could spend a lot of time talking about that, but yet he was justified because when God gave him a dream, he believed it in his heart. This was a dream and this dream evolved and develops into a family, right? And he gives Abraham's grandson, Jacob a literal dream when he's running from his brother Esau to save his life. He sees this vision of angels going up and down a stairway to heaven. I always look at the guitar player because it's the one song you're not allowed to play on guitar. And these angels are going up and down, and it's this image that God gives Jacob that even though in the natural it seems like everything is falling apart, behind the scenes I'm doing things on your behalf. The dream I gave you will come to pass. Just don't give up and trust in me. Just hold on tight, buddy! I'll get you there. Maybe that's a message for you today. In the natural, looks like it's falling apart. God's doing things behind the scenes working on your behalf. And this guy Jacob, he has two wives and two concubines, basically four wives, and please don't get caught up on.. I don't have time to talk about it, but the bronze age and it feels unjust for a man to have four wives, and all of the weirdness that goes with that. And the children of those four wives become the 12 children of Jacob who become sort of the 12 tribes of Israel. But don't get hung up on that because in that world, people aren't marrying for love, they're marrying to survive. Survive raids, survive pestilence and hunger, and also the great dangers that come with having children. But I will say that it's interesting that in a world where people don't marry for love, Jacob's story with Rachel is an outlier. That the day Jacob sees Rachel, he's in love. And it will be 14 years of the trickster being tricked. The word Jacob means trickster. It literally means the one who pulls the leg, but it's an idiom that means a trickster. And he just keeps getting tricked until he finally lands. It's a romantic story but he lands the love of his wife, Rachel. That brings us to Joseph. Can't talk about dreams in the Bible without talking about Joseph, am I right? (SINGS – any dream will do) How many of you guys have been in Joseph and the Technical Dreamcoat, by a show of hands. Even in high school. Not as many as I thought. I thought I was going to see every hand go up. Where was I? Oh yes, Joseph. Joseph is the first son of Jacob and Rachel. Rachel's like the love of his life. Just totally enamored with her. And he has many sons first with his other wives first, but it seems like, this is me, when Rachel has her first child, Joseph, something about that kid just emblazons itself; I don't know if that grammar was correct, on Jacob's heart. And it becomes obvious. By the time he's 17, Joseph is clearly, of his 11 half-brothers, he is clearly the favorite. Jacob makes it just plain that Joseph is his favorite son, in many ways, but one of the ways is by giving him, of course, the classic technicolor dream coat – some kind of ornate coat that's a symbol of favor and blessing. And to add insult to injury, Joseph was also very good-looking. The Bible even just tells us that he was a good-looking and in shape guy. Probably had a six pack. That's hard to do. And what makes it even worse is he was probably a really good person, like in general, just a really good guy. So he has it all, right? He's good looking, but he's also really nice and friendly and loving, and he's got this cool coat that was given to him, so they just already have a lot of envy and resentment for this brother of theirs. But what finally pushes it over the edge is when God gives him a dream. And Joseph's dumb idea to tell his brothers about this dream, he's like guys, guys, come here. I had this amazing, dream, you're going to love this dream. Come here, let me tell you this dream. This is great, you're going to love it. We're all out in the field, right? And we're all harvesting our grain, right, you remember that? And we all had our bushels of grain we'd collected, and then all of a sudden all of your bushels of grain bowed down to my bushel of grain. Isn't that funny? And then it says, the Bible says that when he told his brothers his dream, they hated him. They just hated him. I don't think Joseph.. this is just me. I don't think Joseph had any idea that his brothers hated him. I think he was just a good naïve dummy. You know what I mean by that? I think there are some people who are so good, they just have no idea when people hate them. I think that's how young Joseph was. Poor guy. mAnd then he had a second dream a little bit later. Guys, let me tell you this dream.

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Come here, I had another one! They're like we don't need to.. no, no, come here, you're going to love it! There were 12 stars in the sky, and 11 stars bowed to one, and the sun and the moon bowed down to him! And then in this story, not only do his brothers hate him, his dad rebukes him. That word rebuke, that's what we do with the devil, right? I rebuke you, Satan! The father rebukes him because it is so obviously, maybe we could use the word narcissistic, egotistical. And when this happens, this is sort of the last straw. A bit later, the father sends Joseph out to get his brothers for supper, they're a ways out, and as he's coming out, they all see him coming and they plot against him, and they say let's kill this guy. That's it, we've had it. Let's kill him; let's murder him. And then somebody, I think it was Ruben, smartly says wait, why would we kill him when we can also make a little cheddar. Let's make some money. So they take him, and they sell him into slavery. They take this coat, and they put blood on it, and they ravage it, and they give it to the father. They say he was killed by a wild animal and for a long time, until this story ends, of course, the father Jacob, or Israel is actually his name now, is frozen in grief. It's interesting just to pause for a minute. When God gives you a dream, we think things are going to get better, but very often it actually gets worse right away, doesn't it? You ever feel that way? I just want to encourage you that even if you're getting criticism, or even if things don't always go your way, just continue to listen to the quiet voice of the Holy Spirit, and just ask the Lord: is this you? He'll tell you. He'll tell you. Joseph's life gets harder. He's sold to the house of Potiphar, who's a kind of like a governor in Egypt, which is a great, powerful nation at this time. And right away, it's just obvious that Joseph is slathered in favor and he's incredibly gifted. Potiphar puts him in charge of everything. He's a wealthy man with all sorts of servants and things, and Joseph just becomes the manager of his whole house. And the Bible actually says that Potiphar is so at ease and so blessed by Joseph's work, that the only thing that troubles him is trying to decide what to eat for dinner. That's a good place to be. And you may know this story. Think of Joseph, a young man in his early 20's, very good looking. Potiphar's beautiful wife has her eye on him. She wants to lay with him, she wants to be with him. Joseph is just a good guy. She makes multiple attempts and finally one day, when Potiphar is gone, she makes a solid 100% attempt to sleep with Joseph. But Joseph was a good, just a good guy and there's this like silly story of him running away from her, just like no! I won't do it! And she grabs his coat and as he's running away, sort of runs away naked or something like that, and of course she shows Potiphar – he tried to sleep with me, and it's this whole drama. Because of that, Potiphar arrests him, and he goes to prison. And even there, Joseph is blessed and becomes this great manager for the warden, and manages the jail, and it's just like everywhere he goes, he's gifted and blessed. It finally culminates at the story where there's two men who work for Pharoah, the great king of kings, right. And they're there. And I always think that it's because they had some kind of like maybe Pharoah had food poisoning, because they think the cup bearer, he's like the sommelier. He gets the wine together, and then the baker's like making the sourdough. I don't know what kind of bread they eat in Egypt. They're there, and they both have a dream, and the cupbearer tells Joseph, I had this dream and Joseph interprets the dream. He says you're going to be brought back and you're going to be blessed. And so, the baker, feeling encouraged by this is like, okay how about me. Let me tell you, my dream. And Joseph says, buddy, it's not a good dream. You're going to be impaled, beheaded and crows are going to eat out of your neck. I'm sorry, it's the Bible. All right? I didn't write this. If you read it, that's what it'll say. Well, at least you're paying attention. That's what happens. The baker is killed, and the cupbearer is put back into good standing, but before he leaves, Joseph tells the cupbearer, don't forget me. Remember me. Please, remember me and tell Pharoah about me. And of course, what happens to the cupbearer? He's put back in place, he just completely forgets. And years go by, and then Pharoah has this bizarre dream, again it's a story about dreams, right?

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Its bizarre dream of these skinny ugly cows eating these fat cows, and all these grains eating other grains, and he doesn't know what it is, and none of the wise men can answer. And then the cupbearer is like, oh yes! There's this guy Joseph. Go find Joseph. Joseph tells him, my lord, the Lord is revealing to you that there will be seven years of plenty, and then there will be seven years of famine. You need to prepare now. Prepare now. It's coming. Pharaoh sees something in Joseph and puts him in power, and he becomes a grand vizier for all of Egypt, which is something they really did back then. You would have like a CEO that you would put in charge of the kingdom while the Pharaoh, they sort of saw it as bean counting, so the Pharaoh would go off and do his thing. And the final part of this story, as the famine sets in, and Joseph now has been running the country for years, his brothers finally come before him, not knowing its him. He goes by a different Egyptian name now, and he just begins to weep. And they reconcile and there's this whole long story of trickery that he does with the cup and a thing. It's not really important here, except to say that Joseph finally has this.. imagine what that would be like. Just to go through that whole thing, and then finally see the ones before you that did this to you, you have all the cards now. You can get them back any way you want. Or you can bless them. I'm always so surprised when a lot of people try and teach the Old Testament like it doesn't teach us to love our enemies, but it does over and over again, and this is one of those great stories where Joseph just weeps and he loves his brothers, and he brings his father back, and there's this famous line, and I'll read it to you. Hannah read it this morning, but just to remember. "Joseph said to them don't be afraid. You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done – the saving of many lives." This is God's dream, my friends. This is God's dream. You see, I don't think Joseph, when he pictured the grain bowing to the other grain and all that, I don't think he pictured becoming the grand vizier of Egypt, right? But God did. And it's like every betrayal, every bad thing he went through, he didn't realize it at the time, but it was training him to do this. To save millions of lives. He had no idea that that gauntlet of betrayal, suffering, deception, all of that, was all preparing him for this moment. What if what you're going through right now maybe God's going to use that moment to make you into the person you're supposed to be, a Jesus kind of person. Peace. A person of peace and power. Well, that's what He did. I'll just finish with this. This is the Mishnah, right? This is the wisdom that we pull from this story and about dreams. Number one, I'll say it again: Dreams from God will annoy people and get you in trouble. Can we all say it? So what!? So what! It is so much better to live life free of this. Yes, here constructive criticism and stuff, but let go of this and focus on the dream God has given you. Just do the next right thing and forget the rest, okay? The second thing we learn is that God's dreams take time. God is not an over-the-counter microwave kind of God. The length of this story for Joseph's life, he was sold into slavery when he was 17, he united with his brothers when he was 39. That is a long, long time of work and suffering. It's okay. God is going to redeem your story. He's going to. But in this moment, you have to trust in the process, trust that He'll get you where He needs you to be. And finally, the last thing is God always turns tragedy into triumph. Can we just pause and remember, too, that even death has no victory over us? That heaven is real. That death for a believer is more like waking up than falling asleep? And more so than that, God doesn't limit His redemption to just heaven. He told us to pray in Irvine as it is in heaven. Right? In my school as it is in heaven. In my family as it is in heaven. To believe that God's not done with that part of the story. God will always turn tragedy into triumph. Isn't He a good God? He is so good. And He's going to do it in your life, too, my friend. He's going to do it in you. But sometimes you just got to hang on. Got to hang on. If God gives you a dream, the enemy will try and destroy that dream. He will. But it's all smoke and mirrors. So much of the battle that we have with the enemy over our Christian life is happening here. Like ten percent is out there, the other 90% is what's happening in your mind. That's why Jesus says you shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and then He replaces the word strength with mind.

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You love the Lord with all your heart, your soul and your mind. This is where you love the Lord, as well, in your thinking. Thinking is the power that happens before the doing. So that's what we train. We train our mind to just say it's well with my soul. I serve a God who turns tragedy into triumph, and He will do that in your life. Your dream, if it's from the Lord, is going to bless your life eventually and it will build you as a person. So continue to lean into it. I just hope you feel encouraged and know that the Holy Spirit is at work in your life even now. Father, we thank you and we trust you with our lives. And then we just believe again, we ask Father that you would redeem the dream, that you would begin to build inside of us as you did in Joseph not just a dream but the character, the character of Christ that comes from that. Thank you that you're making us into stronger, more hopeful, more loving people, and help us to love people that don't always see things our way and be patient with them. Love is patient, and we thank you, it's in Jesus' 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.