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GOOD MORNING – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Hannah Schuller (HS)

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

HS: And hello visitors, hello church family. We are so happy that you're here. Thank you for joining us. I am so grateful that God's word does not return void, and that heaven and earth shall pass away, but God's word or His promises to us shall never pass away. Thank you, Lord. We love you.

BS: Thank you so much for linking up with us today, too. We're so grateful that you're gathering with us here, or online. What a good thing it is to be a part of God's people, God's movement, and we're just glad you're here. We think you're going to get real value, and I want to encourage you to stay connected with us over this next hour. Let's pray: Father, we thank you so much for all that you've done and all that you're doing in our lives. We are so grateful that Christ gave His life that we could come full of joy and freedom into this house today. Thank you for your healing, your power, your fresh vision. Lord, we love you and we thank you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said, amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – Matthew 13,44-48 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Matthew 13:44-48. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy he went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets and threw the bad away. Amen.

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller – Your Philosophy is Perfectly Designed to Produce the Results You're Getting

I'm not an old man but I'm not a young man. I'm 41. What does that make me? Just over the hill. And one of the things I've learned in my 41 years on earth of trying things the world's way, and trying things God's way, God's solutions are better. Always. They just take time. God's solutions are always for your benefit, and God's solutions are better than the world's solutions. We're going to see an example of that today. But first, it's important that we recognize that what the world says about morality, and actually what most religions say about morality is do these things right, and we'll let you in the house. And do them exceptionally well, and we'll give you a seat at the table. But Christianity, in its right form, doesn't say that. It says the opposite of that. It says trust in Jesus and just as you are: sinner, broken, messed up, addicted, carrying a bag from one hand to the other and going back, all your fears and insecurities and all that, just come in the house AND sit at the table and we'll show you what to do. Trust that from day one God loves you just as you are, not as you should be, and build your whole life in response to that. That's the gospel. The gospel says that because Christ laid down His life for me, I'm justified. One way of hearing the word justified is just as if I'd never done it. You have to say it with an Oklahoma accent. Just as if I'd never done it. And who of us has something in our life we wish we'd never done. All of us have many things that we're embarrassed about, worried about. Well God's for you, He invites you to come in. And so today I want to even just ask you on the onset to make a decision today to commit your life to Christ. All you have to do is in your heart right now, make a decision to come before the Lord and just ask Christ to enter your heart and your life will never be the same. And when you die, you'll know where you're going.

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Not because you were perfect, but because you trusted in Jesus Christ. If you make that decision today, or maybe you just made that decision, text me the word HOPE to the number 25252. The number on the screen. I want to know your name and I want to pray for you. Well God's solutions are better than the world's solutions. God's solutions are good for all the problems in the world that we face. And there's a lot of reasons they're good, but one of the main reasons is for God, time is on His side. Whenever you're doing life with God, time is on your side, too. Sure doesn't feel that way, as we get older and things don't work as well, and we have to face changes we don't like. But when you serve and do life with God, time is on your side. I know all of you are as big of fans of Trader Joe's as much as I am. Trader Joe's has a Neapolitan pizza you can buy for \$4.29. Its frozen. And as I do, I take these frozen pizzas and I'll buy about ten, and I'll put them in the freezer in the janky leftover fridge we leave in our garage that's for all the guys stuff. And I put those pizzas in the freezer and when I'm hungry at night and I just need a quick meal, I'll go in there and open up the box and it says "real Neapolitan pizza" and they claim that it's made in Italy; I'm not sure though. Maybe it's made in Italy but it's not made by Italians. Anyway. I open it up and I use a knife and I take the plastic off, and I take it as like those little like crispy frozen cheese shreds that kind of fall on the board. And I put it in the oven, and wouldn't you know, at ten minutes later, that's pretty quick, I got a fresh Neapolitan pizza from Italy. And the inside sometimes is a little doughy. If you don't time it right, sometimes you get one side is burned and the other side is a little frozen. You don't know why. Like isn't it the same temperature everywhere in the oven? I guess not. Well a lot of people did a lot of things during COVID. Some people developed some new hobbies. Some of you are into sourdough bread. I've heard that. But a good friend of mine, he got into making real Neapolitan pizzas. I was over at his house recently and we got to talking, and I told him about my good deal that you can get at Trader Joe's for \$4.29 – frozen Neapolitan pizza. And he said Bobby, that's not a Neapolitan pizza. I'm an expert. You want me to make you a pizza? And I said why sure, that sounds great. So he got out the ingredients, he got out the flour and all the other stuff, and as he's talking to me, he's making his dough, pounds it, rolls it up, does this thing, puts it in the bowl, and I said all right, you ready to stick it in the oven? And he goes NO! No! We have to let it rise. Oh! My frozen pizza doesn't rise. I just stick it in.. anyway, he lets it rise and takes an hour, puts a little towel over it, puts it over by the oven, hour goes by. His alarm goes off, he says okay, all right. Goes and gets the dough, it's now twice as big. He punches it, which looked really fun to me. I didn't get to do it. Next time. Puts it out on the board, cuts it into four bits. I said now are we ready? He goes no, no, this isn't one pizza, this is four pizzas. And so he cuts it into four bits, rolls them into four balls, puts them on a cookie tray, puts it back over on the oven. I'm like what's going on now? He says well Bobby, it's not done. It still has to rise. Right. So now we got to wait another hour. Two hours go by, and I haven't even seen the cheese yet. He makes a big deal about when the two hours are over. He pulls this one: this one is for you. Makes a big deal about the fact that he's not using a rolling pin. He's going to use his hands and he stretches it out, uses his fingers, and pushes it to the edge. And he puts a beautiful sauce on it that he had made the night before, full of garlic. He said we love to serve our food with garlic. And then put on this fresh mozzarella that he cut. I thought mozzarella was always in shreds in like a bag. And he's like no, no, mozzarella's.. you slice it and it comes off in circles. And he put these circles all over. And then he had this oven outside, and the oven used real wood. He had gotten the wood going, and it was full of ash, and smoke is coming out; it's this big turtle shell-looking thing with a tube. And he had this big stick, it was like four feet long with like this big thing, and he took this thing, and I don't even know if he put it on the ground, he just kind of swirled it around inside the oven, that part was quick. It was about a minute and a half. Brought it out, it was smoking. He used this.. he didn't have like a wheel thing, he had like this big.. it looked like a sword with two handles, I'm like CLUNK, CLUNK, CLUNK. And then before, then he put the best olive oil all around, and he went to his garden and clipped Italian basil. Put the fresh Italian basil on top and then served it to me. And I took a bite and I thought whoa, whoa. This is good. Are you hungry yet? Are you hungry yet? It's almost lunchtime. He said Bobby, this is a Neapolitan-o pizzeria. This is the real thing. That's a real pizza. But the difference between my pizza and his pizza, his pizza takes time. Takes a lot of time. Takes three hours. I don't know about you; I don't want to wait three hours if I'm hungry to eat a pizza. Or do I? Or do I? I don't know. As I've learned in life, this is the way that God is. God doesn't do frozen pizzas. That's not His way. He likes to do the good stuff. He likes to make your life what it really ought to be, and that doesn't happen quick. See when you're in the hands of a master, there's no frozen this or that. There's no microwaves. They say that anything that heats up food that doesn't use fire is from the devil. That's in the Bible.

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Just kidding, it's not. No, it's a joke. No, I thought you knew that! I got to clarify sometimes. Guys, you got to read your Bible. And what this has developed in me in understanding about God is just an absolute trust with God and His timing and His way. You just do things God's way things will go better. You may have heard the name Warren Buffet. He's called the oracle of Omaha. Worth a hundred billion dollars. That's a lot of money. A million dollars is a lot of money. If you multiply a million dollars times a hundred thousand, a hundred thousand million, you get a hundred billion. That's how much Warren Buffet has. And in my day, I've always been surrounded by people that are on computers and have all these screens, and they're timing everything, and they're shorting and they're doing calls and puts and all this stuff. Warren Buffet does, he just looks at a bunch of companies, and when he finds one that's just a good business at a fair price, he buys it and he just forgets about it. And boy has that served him well. He calls it sit on your keister investing. Although he doesn't say keister, but you can't what he says in church. Sit on your keister investing. You buy a good company, that's where the work is, and then you just let time be on your side. You don't worry about up markets and down markets. You don't worry about charts. You just look at a company and if it's a good business, you own it. You know what I discovered that's so strange about Warren Buffet, how wealthy do you think this guy who's worth a hundred billion dollars, how wealthy do you think he was on his 60th birthday? Anybody? On his 60th birthday, he'd been investing, he started Berkshire Hathaway when he was 26. By his 60th birthday, he was worth ten million dollars. Now that's a lot of money, but my guess is there's at least five people in here who have a net worth of ten million dollars. Probably more. We're in Irvine, let's be honest. Ten million dollars is a fortune, but it's a small fortune. You wouldn't think that on your 60th birthday.. most men, when they turn 60 with ten million dollars, what do they do? Right? Little bit of this, bit of that, right? Warren Buffet just kept doing the same thing, and now he's worth a hundred billion dollars. What happened? I'll tell you what happened. He turned 92. He's not just a good investor, he's old! He's old! That's right! When most people retired, he kept investing for an extra 32 years of compound interest on ten million dollars. Warren Buffet looks in the mirror and says time is on my side. Time is on my side. And if you say I want to live to be 92 like Warren Buffet, what do I do? Well, simple: just eat what he eats – diet Coke and McDonald's. I don't know. Don't do that. Works for him, though. Irene, works for him. And I think that.. everybody's laughing because Irene likes McDonald's. I think that things in the kingdom of God are like this in the sense that you just do things God's way, and things go up and things go down. Storms come, sunny days come, but if you do things the Lord's way, its good advice for a good life. It's really good advice, and over time, you can trust in the word and in the way of the Lord, but you have to know what the way is. Now, that brings me to the main question of today: what do I do when I'm angry, or what do I do when someone's angry at me. How do I respond? That's a good question. That's a good question. Isn't it a good question to think when you're not angry. What do I do when the time comes. Certainly not good to ask that question when you're angry, because punch somebody in the face might come to mind. James gives us the answer. "My dear brothers and sisters," he says, "take note of this. Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak." What a good philosophy that is. Lord, help us be that way. "Quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." Do you think a person that does that is a happy person or an unhappy person? What do you think? I'm going to go with happy. "Because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent." When we read moral filth, there's like a wait hold on now, what is that? What is it in this context if we're studying? Moral filth is lashing out in anger. "And humbly accept the word planted in you which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word and deceive yourselves, do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but doesn't do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law." Another way of reading it is the perfect way, right? The guidelines. "That give freedom and continues in it, not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it, they'll be blessed in what they do." The scriptures are saying God's solutions are better than the world's solutions. If you've grown up in church, you've heard be doers of the word, not merely listeners, but maybe you didn't know that the context of that "to do" means to be slow to speak and quick to listen. Who wants to do that? That is not what the world teaches us to do. What do we do when we feel angry? A good question. A very good question. What do we do when someone's angry with us? Another good question! Well, we know what the world would say. The world's stories and heroes and messages are around one message typically – lash out. Power up! Protest! Fight! When no one listens, then you push. When pushing doesn't work, you punch.

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When punching doesn't work, you shoot. Amazing how much Hollywood talks about gun violence being a bad thing, and does movies about gun violence. Is this the right way to respond when you feel angry? Well Jesus, you might remember in His day, there was a group called the Zealots, and they wanted to be free from Rome. They wanted to be free from Rome. And their anger was justified. Here's something you can write down in your notes – all angry people feel justified. Everyone who's angry has righteous anger in their own eyes. Every single person who feels angry about something feels like their anger is righteous. Next time your best friend or your mom or dad or your spouse or your enemy, especially your spouse though, shouts at you, ask them are you justified in your anger? Yes! They are justified in their anger! At least they feel that way. Everyone thinks that their anger is righteous anger. You say well righteous anger is okay. Well show me anger that's not righteous. Show me someone who feels angry but would say I'm angry but it's not righteous or justified at all. Very rare. Maybe it's there, maybe you've seen it. But I've seen it and I've seen pigs fly. So Jesus sees the Zealots and their anger is justified. They're being occupied by the Romans who are colonizers, right? They're brutal, they're taxing, they're unfair, they're all the things that we don't like in the modern world. And the Zealots say we need to power up and push these guys out. And how does Jesus respond? He weeps over Jerusalem. Jerusalem, Jerusalem. Why? He has a prophetic knowledge that even though they're justified, they'll all be destroyed and put into bondage. He sees the fall of Jerusalem. He sees the destruction of the temple. And this is what anger, lashing out gives you. This is what the world's way gives you. Gives you frozen Neapolitan pizza. Frozen pizza. Its food, but it's not that good. Even when you win, it's not that good. And that's what the Zealots got. They got Jerusalem for a small time, but then they were utterly destroyed. Were they justified? Absolutely. Were they the good guys? Hundred percent. But they didn't do it Christ' way. They didn't learn that God's ways are better. And so we have a world in which everybody feels like this is the best way to do things. I don't know about you; I've seen so many protests. I am over protests. Everybody's doing it, it's the new cool thing. I have seen protests the last couple years about vaccines and masks, the police, the presidents, the environment. I've even seen protests over wanting the McRib to come back to McDonald's. And don't get me wrong, I like the McRib as much as the next guy. I love all the good things in the world, but can I ask you a question – with all the protests that we've had, and all the shouting and all the angry name-calling and all the throwing of things and the breaking of things, all of the texts that have been written online, are we better off? Is the world's way working? Did you get what you wanted? Or did you just get, at best, a frozen pizza? I think that the book Animal Farm ought to be required reading in every college and high school in America. George Orwell fought on a side he thought was good, the socialists against the fascists. Hey if you're fighting fascists, even socialists are good, right? But boy did he find out that they were all bad. When he wrote Animal Farm, it was a story about the farm animals who take over the farm, and they kick the farmer out, and the way they do it is by constantly shouting "four legs good. Two legs bad. Four legs good." And every time some sensible voice or someone in their team tries to raise a concern about the pigs who are slowly getting power, or about the way things are going, or about the way we treat people, they just start shouting over them – "four legs good! Two legs bad!" And of course the culmination of the story is eventually the pigs get power of the farm, and they change the words to "two legs good. Four legs bad!" And if you don't follow along, you're in big trouble. And all I can hear in angry mobs, whether they're on the left or the right and even in the middle, no matter what, even the McRib guys, all I hear, all I hear is stupidity. The kind that hurts people. "Four legs good. Two legs bad. Two legs good. Four legs.." who cares. As long as we're in the shouting group. I'm a hero. Oh, okay. Thank you. And so you see, the people of Cuba protested and got what they wanted, the people of Venezuela protested and got what they wanted, and the Russians and the North Koreans and all these folks, when they protested, they got power, but they got bondage. Doesn't mean they weren't suffering, or they didn't want the right thing. But God's ways are better. Couples that fire off at each other, that claim that they loved one another, that they'd commit to each other in a relationship and protect each other, and never be against one another, are shouting the most harmful, mean things at one another, and still call each other in public the love of my life, and still shouting demeaning, dressing down, insulting. And they got what they wanted. They got it off their chest. I finally told her what I thought. I finally told him what it was like being married to such a buffoon. Or what a lazy bum he is, or she is, and this type of thing. And what they got? A dead marriage, a dead family. Recently a man went into a smoothie shop, and it was on TikTok, it went viral, and took a peanut butter smoothie and threw it at a couple of kids, minimum wage workers, shouted at them racial slurs, horrible things, got it all on video.

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Surely his anger wasn't justified. Surely he was just a psychopath, right? Well the other side of this story, he has a son who's allergic to peanuts. He asked them don't make a smoothie with peanut butter in it, and when they gave him a smoothie that almost killed his son, he lost his mind. Was he justified? No. But in his mind was he justified? Yes, he was. There is a better way, and that is the loving way to even love your enemies by being slow to speak and quick to listen. That when someone draws a line to box you out, you draw a line even bigger to box him in. They have to sit and talk to you, even though they hate you. Slow to speak, quick to listen. This is where the real power is. This is called the Hour of Power. Are you ready for some power? Here it is: the real power is in listening. When you listen you are in the power position. It's like when two cars here in Irvine get next to each other, one is an old Honda from the 80's. It's got about 150 horsepower on it, but boy does it have a big muffler. And it'll (MAKES MUFFLER NOISES) and next to it pulls up a Tesla – Tesla plaid with a thousand horsepower, it's about as loud as a golf cart, pulls up, which one has the power? I'll tell you who, it's the quiet one. You go into a room and people are shouting, and one lady or one gentleman is sitting in a chair confidently listening, I'll tell you who has the power, it's the quiet one. The power is in the listening, and you don't do it to have power over people, you do it to give power to people so they stop feeling angry and insecure and can listen. So many people feel unimportant, un-listened to, uncared for: shouting doesn't fix it. It's a ministry. What if when you went into a meeting with your team, you wanted to hear what everybody had to say before you told them what you thought it was supposed to be. What if when your kids are having a rough time, you listen to what your kids were going through before you diagnose them or solve their problems, and they really feel heard by you. What if when your neighbor lashes out at you about where you're parking, or about the noise you make, you listen to him instead of telling him all the things that he does or she does. I bet it would work better. You know why? In fact I'd stake my life on it because I'd be staking my life on the word of God. It's what it teaches us. Slow to speak, quick to love, quick to listen. Don't play the game. Don't play the game, and don't play by those rules. Don't let it corrupt you. Remember what Jesus did when He faced evil people who were going to crucify Him? He said nothing. I like this picture at Rancho Capistrano. Great image of Jesus being questioned and judged by Pilate. Pilate's doing all the talking. Jesus is doing the listening. What I love about this image is clearly Pilate is looking down on Jesus, but the artist makes it clear that Jesus is higher than Pilate. He doesn't see what's really happening there. Jesus is in the power position. So that's where we want to be. We want to learn to be like Christ and to listen before we speak, and I just promise you this is a better way. It's so much better to forgive people and to be merciful and to be slow to getting really angry, even when you're totally justified in your anger. It's a better way to live. Feel it. Feel it. Don't pretend it's not there. Don't act like it's nothing, but forgive it and move on. Feel it, feel hurt, acknowledge that it hurts, but forgive it, and move on. Oh man, you do that, you get an all-new kind of power. You become like water. You become like water, just no problem. You are good. You are good to go. Funny story. King Xerxes in the ancient days was trying to invade Greece, and so he built a bridge of pontoon boats so he could invade Greece, and the weather got bad, and all the pontoon boats sank. And he was so angry, he commanded three hundred men to whip the sea with lashes. So they're all out there whipping the sea. And then poke it with hot irons. And then take handcuffs and throw them into the ocean to show the ocean that it was under bondage under the King of Persia. I don't know about you, but to me that sounds pretty stupid. That sounds pretty stupid. Wouldn't it be great to be more like the sea and less like Xerxes? Who's more powerful? The great Emperor Xerxes, or the sea? Last I checked, Xerxes is long gone, but the sea is doing just fine, Irene. Just floating around. Those lashes and all that stuff doesn't seem to bother him or her, whatever it is. She's fine. And so are you. If we can learn, especially with words to just listen and do our best to forgive the person and move on. One last thought – it's hard to forgive people when you've got a lot of turmoil inside already. Hey, if you feel beat up in life, you feel like you've been put down, you feel like you've been marginalized, you have no power, or people misunderstood you, maybe you did something you feel really embarrassed about. A lot of us feel that way and I want you to know God loves you and I love you. And you can let that go. It's hard to forgive people when they insult you in those tough spots the same way your mom did or your dad did or that crazy uncle or whatever. It's hard to forgive them. It's hard to be easygoing when you feel like you're judged. It's hard to be easygoing when you have a lot of guilt or there's something you did in your past that everybody knows about and you're really embarrassed about that. Hey, I want you to know that Christ died that you can have a fresh start. God's word is bigger than the world's word. God's word is bigger than your family's word. It's bigger than everybody's word.

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His word over you is you are loved, forgiven, you're a new creation. There's not a lot of chances you have to receive Christ in your life. People hate making decisions because there's a renunciation in it all. But I want to encourage you – make a decision for Christ today, and just follow Him and let go of that, and you'll receive the power from the Holy Spirit to love people. And in fact, I want you to make a decision right now if you've kind of left the faith, to come home to God. Do it in your own way, but come to Him today. I want to encourage you do to that. And if you made that decision today, I want you to text the word HOPE to the number on the screen. I want to know your name so I can pray for you. I'm just going to send you an encouraging text, that's it. But I believe that this is the most important thing we can do in our life is get our spiritual life right with God, and then things everywhere else go better. So Father, we love you, and we thank you that your ways are a happier more joyful, better way to live. That you give us real tools for a successful meaningful good life for better marriages, better work, better churches, better schools, better government. Lord, if we do things your way, it goes better. Let us be the first one to do it right. Wherever we are, whatever field we're in, we trust your ways. Your ways are the good ways. And we love you, and we thank you. It's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said, amen.