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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: Welcome visitors and church family. I just thank you so much for joining us here. Remember today that the Bible is not ancient records of God. The Bible is current, fresh from God's lips to you right now. You are loved.

BS: Amen. We're so glad you're here. God has good word for you today, so let's come to the service full of faith and excitement about what God's going to give us in this moment, and let's also make sure that we're lifting up God's name, and bringing glory to Him. So Father, we thank you for life. Thank you for this opportunity and moment to be in your presence. We ask you'd forgive us of our sins and craft us into a new special kind of thing, and we ask it all in Jesus' name, 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 15,23-28 – Hannah Schuller

You may be seated. In preparation for the message, Matthew 15:23-28. Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, send her away for she keeps crying out after us. He answered, I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel. The woman came and knelt before Him. Lord, help me, she said. He replied, it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs. Yes it is, Lord, she said. Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table. Then Jesus said to her, woman, you have great faith. Your request is granted, and her daughter was healed at that moment. Amen.

### MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller – The Win is in the Waiting

I want to begin by talking about the luckiest thing that ever happened to me. I've had a lot of luck in my life. Man, I am lucky that I was born in America, in an industrialized western free country like this, full of opportunity. That was a lucky thing. That's not the luckiest, though. I have great parents and step parents and cousins. I have parents who love me, grandparents who love me, a great family. Wow, that is lucky, not something everybody gets. But that's not the luckiest thing that ever happened to me. I'm an avid fisherman. One time I caught a two hundred-and-seventy-one-pound thresher shark and I reserve the right to tell you that at least once a year. That was lucky, but not the luckiest thing. The luckiest thing that's ever happened to me is that someone invited me to follow Jesus Christ, and I chose to do so. I would trade everything I have, everything for that one thing. You don't understand, this is the luckiest thing, the best thing that can happen to a person is to know Christ. When you know Christ, everything else in your life begins to change, and most importantly, you have an assurance in your heart. There's this looming fear of death and aging that all of us face, but confidence in Christ either dulls that or just takes it away completely. And so I want to encourage you today. Many people just don't make a decision. They're not against God or for God, they're not religious or not religious or anything, they just kind of waffle, and that's a very normal human thing to do. I did that. But at some point in life, you have to make decisions if you want your life to change. Decide today to follow Christ and you will say in a couple years that's the luckiest thing that ever happened to me. I want to encourage you to that. If you made that decision today or maybe you're watching on television, shoot me a text at the number on your screen and text me the word HOPE, and that way I can know that that's you and I can pray for you. You're like why does he want me to text that? To be honest, it's just a personal goal I have. I want to keep track. It's been said you do what you measure. I think one of the most important things I can do is invite people to be saved.

## The Win is in the Waiting

So if that was you, plug into a good Bible believing church, maybe get baptized, if you haven't done that, make some friends who can help you grow in your faith. I recently was in Holland, one of my favorite countries. And there are a lot of things I love about America, but there's something I hate, and that is the infrastructure here. Every European who visits, tends to tell me, how do you get around in this country, and the answer is, you drive. That's it. There are buses and trains, but they stink, both literally and figuratively. Netherlands has this wonderful thing called a bicycle. Have you ever heard of it? They all have, and actually the whole country is so wired for bicycles. We go all the time, but this recent trip we did, we had a little bit of a slower time, and we were able to relax a little bit, and we rented a couple bicycles, and we got to experience, Hannah and I, Netherlands the way you're properly supposed to experience it, and that is on a bicycle. I could not believe how they had bicycle highways, bicycle stop lights, and very often the bicycle lanes would have tunnels or it'd be separated from the main road with gardens. You could get anywhere on a bicycle. And they were good at riding bikes, too. Think of how healthy these folks were. I remember riding into town on my bicycle and an 80-year-old lady just went zipping on by, and I thought wow! She's in good shape! And you know very often here in the states, not all of us can ride a bike, but when we think of people riding bike, you think of it as an extracurricular fun thing, maybe a silly, zany thing you do at the beach, or something you do when you go down to the park. But not there. We had the former prime minister of the Netherlands visit us at one of our events, Jan Peter, and first of all, I couldn't believe that the prime minister of the Netherlands came. He watches the Hour of Power. But the second thing I couldn't believe is there was no like secret service or anything, he just rode his bike. Rode his bike! Came on over, said hi to us. That was cool. Here's the royal family riding their bikes. I'm sure they do it all the time. It's a great country, Holland. And one of the things I realized is even though I've been to the Netherlands many, many times, and love the country, and love the people, I had never quite experienced Holland the way I did this time on a bike. And I asked my colleague Chris, I said is there anyone in the Netherlands who can't ride a bike? And he said no, not anyone. We were having coffee and I saw a young girl in a wheelchair and she was eating with her friends at the café, and they were having a grand old time. And the thought occurred to me oh there's someone who can't ride a bike. I thought that's kind of sad that she can't ride a bike. And then I saw that they all left together, and as she wheeled out, she went out to where all the bikes were, and there was this attachment. She rolled her wheelchair into this bike attachment, latched it on, and she and her friends, she had like a hand pedal, wheeled away. Isn't that cool? I thought that was really precious and very cool. So here's a question: riding a bike is a skill that not everyone has, unless you're Dutch. Everyone in Holland does it. Would it be worth it if a 50-year-old achieved, acclaimed, successful CEO from the United States decided to retire in Holland, if he moved to Holland, would it be worth it for him to learn to ride a bike, and everyone should say, of course. Of course, right? Let's say it together – of course! Even though he would look a little silly, even though the kids would laugh at him, even though he might fall over a couple of times in his silly suit, right? Would it be worth him learning a skill of riding a bike and the answer is – of course. Why? Because Holland opens up in a whole new way when you learn to ride a bike. This is the thought that occurred to me. Many of us have so much of life that would open up but the thing that stands between us and that life is a set of skills. The thing that stands between us and where we want to be is a quiet personal but devout devotion, redundant, to learn a skill that opens up the whole world. Today I want to answer this question. Very often we find ourselves in an in-between place. What do I do when I find myself in an in-between place? Maybe you want to get married. Maybe you want a new job. Maybe you're waiting for an application to go through to start a business or a ministry. Maybe there's some goal. Maybe you had a prophetic vision. Maybe some crazy thing happened and a note was dropped from a bottle from the sky that said you will such and such and you're really hoping this thing happens, and maybe you're believing this thing will happen. What do you do when you're in an in-between place? What do you do while waiting? What do you do while you're waiting? Today's message is called The Win, the victory, The Win is in the Waiting. We always think the win is when you cross the finish line. We think the win is when you hit the high C in that song. We think the win is when you receive the trophy, or when you receive the promotion, or when you get the great moment in life to perform in the place you've always wanted to perform in, but the truth is the win happens before those things. The win is in becoming a person. And becoming that person happens when nobody's watching. It happens on your free time. When everyone else is scrolling on their phones and you're reading a book. When everyone else is watching TV or falling asleep on the couch and you're seeking out new information, or expanding your network, or even better, going into a time of prayer or studying the scripture.

## The Win is in the Waiting

There is something in the waiting that creates in us, who we need to be to get the things we want. If you have a pen or maybe a phone with those little like note apps, I would write this down: God is way more interested in who you become than what you accomplish. I'll say it again. Because if you catch what I just said, your life will change forever. God is more interested in who you become than what you accomplish. Because if you become the right kind of person, you can accomplish anything you put your mind to. The people who accomplish the goals they set out to accomplish have become the kinds of people that get those things. Hopefully this will make more sense as we go along. But God cares very much about who you become. That's what discipleship is about. Matthew chapter 15. A strange story where Jesus seems to be a mean guy. You might have heard it before. It takes place in Phoenicia. Now remember, the New Testament is always meant to have hyperlinks back the Old Testament, especially in Matthew, which was written to Jews. When you hear this story, two characters come to mind. Both are women, one is a villain and one's a hero. The first is Jezebel. Rich, wealthy queen, but evil. And the other is the widow of Zarephath. Poor, destitute, but full of faith and miracle working power. She's the one who cares for Elijah when he goes to the gates. It's in this same place that Jesus travels to, for whatever reason we don't know, and He's walking along, and a woman starts yelling out after Him to heal her daughter. Heal my daughter, yelling out after Him, following Him, Lord, heal her. Lord, heal her. Lord, heal her. Until finally Jesus' college-age disciples say will you tell her to shut up! You have to read it in Greek to see that bit. And they say send her away! Let's read it together. Matthew chapter 15. "Jesus did not answer a word." You ever feel that way when you're praying to God? It's easy to feel when Jesus doesn't answer a word to think that the word He answers is no. But that's not the word you get in this story. Okay, so "His disciples came in and urged him, send her away. She keeps crying out for us. And he answered, I was sent only to the lost people of Israel." Who's that? The Jews. She's not Jewish. "The woman came and knelt before him, Lord, help me, she said. And he replied, it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to dogs." Dogs? Dogs? Toss it to.. you're a dog? If that sounds bad in English, I promise you it sounds like a million times worse in Aramaic. Its obscenely offensive to the max, incredibly offensive. Dogs? She wants Him to heal her daughter and He calls her a dog? Goes right over her head. Right? He says it's not right to take the children's bread and give it to dogs. So she says, "yes it is, Lord." Oh! Talking back to God. "Yes it is, Lord, she said. Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters table." You hear what she says there? Yep, I'm a dog. Call me whatever you want, just heal my daughter. Like call me whatever you want. Just give me my miracle. Say whatever you will about me, I need a miracle from you. Call me anything you want. I love lines like that, too, it's a very Middle Eastern thing, a wonderful culture, full of cleverness like that. I just think turning it around and Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith." Only two times in the whole Bible Jesus says that. This is one of them. Everybody else have little faith. Everybody else is the little faiths. Not her. You have great faith. Did Jesus love this woman? The answer is, of course. He's teaching His disciples something about real faith. And the request is granted and her daughter was healed at that moment. What do we learn from this passage? Here's two things I pick up from this passage, that if you learn today, your life will change. Number one: this woman cared more about her miracle than she did about her ego. This woman was unoffendable. There's a superpower! If you're looking for a superpower to achieve great things in life, here's one: become, as much as you can, become unoffendable. That's hard to do in a day that's all about trophies and glory and labeling everything on earth that's offensive. We don't want to be offensive, but you know we can be as unoffendable. That would be a great thing to have. One commentator on this passage said, she was too desperate to take offense. How desperate are you? How desperate are you for that thing, that dream, that goal, that thing that's laid before you. How bad do you want it? Do you want it so bad that you don't care what people say about you? If you do, you just got a superpower. Congratulations. How do you become unoffendable? There's lots of ways. But I remember being with a friend of mine and some random stranger, probably had some kind of mental illness or something, just starting saying the worst stuff to my friend, and my friend looked at this guy and he said, 'hum, that's interesting.' And I thought that's a good line! Everybody – that's interesting! If someone says something horrible to you, you can say something horrible back, can't you. If someone says something horrible about you, you can mull it over and not sleep all night, right? Or here's something that can happen – if someone says something about you, or you hear that they said something about you to a third party, that's even worse, isn't it. Here's something you can say – that's interesting. That's interesting. There's something I can learn about this person. There's something I can learn about myself. That's interesting.

## The Win is in the Waiting

I promise you that if you work on being less offendable, you will have more power in your life. This program makes a promise, it's called the Hour of Power, and one key to power, personal power, is understanding that the more power you have, the more people will offend you. The more people will criticize you. The more people will go after you. And in large part, your success is completely also related to your ability to withstand criticism and let it roll off your shoulders by simply saying – that's interesting. Interesting. Okay. So that's one thing I learned is that she cared more about her miracle than she did her ego. Her desperation for a miracle was greater than the offense. Number two: Dr. Schuller said it best – God's delays aren't God's denials. Right? Jesus is walking around, she keeps saying Lord, heal my daughter. Lord, heal my daughter. Lord, heal my daughter, Lord. Heal my daughter. Heal my daughter. And what does He say? Not a word, until His disciples say tell her to shut up. It even sounds like a no at first, isn't it. She just will not accept a no. God's delays are not God's denials. Maybe you're crying out to God and you're asking Him for something, but it's just silence. It's just silence. Sometimes what God is doing is giving you a space to become a different kind of person. And this is the key to everything I want to say today. The win is in the waiting. The win is in the in-between. The win is taking your eye and fixing it, not so much on a goal, an achievement, as much as becoming the person who can get that kind of achievement. It's such a subtle difference, but it makes all the difference. What do you do when you're waiting for God? You work on you. You develop in yourself the skills, the knowledge, the ability, the network, the spiritual life, the things you need to attain what you want in life. You can grow. You can grow as a leader. You can grow in your language and vocabulary skills. You can grow all sorts of skills. You can grow in your spirituality. You can study people. There's a good discipline, studying people. You can develop good friendships. Yes, you're going to take things off of the friends that you have, all the good things and bad things. It will rub off on you. These are things that you can do in the in-between. Nobody is born with leadership skills. Nobody is born with language skills. And if you want to be different and get what everybody else isn't getting, you need to become a different kind of person, and you can today. Nothing's stopping you from making a decision to become who you need to be to get what you want to get. I am your friend, let me tell you something. I am giving you some really good advice that will change your life forever. Become the kind of person you want to be. Joseph was given a dream, you remember that, a wonderful dream. But he had no idea the kind of person, and the kind of suffering he'd have to go through to become the kind of person to get what he got. You have to go through a lot to become a great leader. Moses had no idea, right. He had to become a totally different kind of person. He had to not be a prince anymore, he had to be a shepherd. And how old was Moses when God called Him to free His people from Pharaoh, do you remember? If you watch the movies, you think oh 30, 40, maybe 50 with some steroids, right? Looking a little bit buff. Nice jawline, perfect teeth. Great teeth in those days. No sir. No sir. Moses was an 80-year-old shepherd, remember? He was a prince and he lost everything, and he was a shepherd. God needed a shepherd, not a prince. He had to become a different kind of person. Israel was promised a land, remember? But before Israel received the promised land, they had to become a different kind of people in the wilderness. Saul, no doubt, thought he was doing good work for God, but Saul had to become Paul before he could do what he was called to do. God is looking for you in the waiting to become the kind of person first! Work on you. There is an inherent need in every single person for progress. Here's something that you may not have recognized about yourself, but the second I say it, you'll know it's true. All of us want a sense of personal progress in our lives. And the way most people measure personal progress is with personal milestones. You get married. You have kids. You get tenure at your school. You get partner at your law firm. You get a promotion. You get the ideal job. You sell your business. Whatever. You have these things in life, but the problem with these milestones is they're not always within your control. And they don't happen every day all the time. So if enough time goes by without a great musical performance, or without a great whatever, enough time goes by the sense of meaninglessness in life grows because the meaning of life, really for many of us, is about progress. But here's something that you can control. See all those things I talked about are outside progress. That's the stuff people can see. I'm convinced very few people would run a marathon if they couldn't talk about it. There's like three percent of marathon runners would keep doing it if they couldn't mention it to anyone. What are they doing? They're looking for, and rightly so, achievement, something to brag about or to feel proud of, that's good. But many of the outside things that people see in life are out of your control. Here's something that's under your control – personal development. Personal development. Here's a progress you can make: on the inside. You can make progress on the inside. You can become a different kind of person.

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And inside can always happen. It can happen in a jail cell, ask Dr. King. It can happen in a hospital. It can happen if you're a homeless person on the street. Because before the big things happen out there, big things have to happen in here. I want to build a big church, but God is not looking for big churches – He's looking for big Christians. He's looking for people that are developing here. One big Christian can do a lot more than a thousand big churches. That's a promise. There is no limit to what you can accomplish or do for God if you allow God to do something in you. And if you think about that waiting period between point A and point B as where the real progress happens, when you become a new kind of person. The inside has to be bigger than the outside. The inside has to be bigger than the outside. Almost every single person who wins a fortune in the lottery loses all their money, ends up in debt, breaks up their family or dies of a drug overdose. In almost every single case, and there have been many, many studies, people who win the lottery, their lives end up worse five years later. Why? Because what's on the inside is not what's on the outside. The fortune is bigger than the person, you see. And what has to happen is the person needs to become bigger than the fortune. I knew a man who was already wealthy, and this seems so unfair, doesn't it. That he and his wife would play the lottery every Friday night, and then he won millions of dollars! And guess what – he turned that millions into millions and millions of millions. Why? Because the person was bigger than the fortune. He was a CPA so he knew how to handle money. The bigger thing on the outside must be bigger on the outside than what's on the inside. I often think about this – do today's college students.. what do they want more, a diploma or an education? That's a good question, isn't it. If you had to choose between the certificate or the education, what would you pick? Here's how I used to think when I was in college: I was a hundred percent about the diploma, right? My favorite thing to say, C's get degrees, right? It's all about just getting that diploma and getting that job. I remember I went to business school and my goal was to find the easiest professor I could find. Right? The ones who gave the least amount of homework, the ones where you could definitely get an A no problem. I still remember my.. it was a business degree. I got a financial professor. When we were getting ornery, he would just give us the answers on our tests. Can you believe that? He seemed burned out, by the way. Can I tell you, that was everyone's favorite professor. But what a disservice he did to us. In our foolishness, in our immaturity that we think a diploma matters. Diplomas don't matter. Knowledge matters. Yes, a diploma might get you in the door, but if you lied and you don't have financial knowledge, you're going to get what? Capital F – fa-fa-fa fired, right? Nobody wants someone with a diploma that doesn't have an education. The market does not pay you for your diploma. The market does not pay you for the hours you work. The market pays you for the value you bring. You can become more valuable. And a lot of college students have never learned this fact. There's a professor named Maitland Jones, this story just came out in the NY Times about an organic biology professor at NYU who was apparently a really nice guy, his colleagues liked him, he wasn't abusive, he didn't shout at students as far as I understand. But it was really hard to get an A in his class, and students didn't like that. So 82 out of 350 of them signed a waiver asking to get him fired because they couldn't get an A. And guess what – NYU fired him. What is happening. And even though there was an outcry of other students, the ones who got the A's, I'm sure, the ones who did the work, the ones who had what it took, the ones who didn't make excuses, they cried out and said what are you doing? This is NYU! NYU, one of the most prestigious universities. This isn't UCLA. Was that good? Just kidding, Marc. Where did Marc go, I'm sorry, my friend. Ahhhh, why I oughtta.. When prestigious universities are firing their professors for making organic chemistry too hard. You know who takes organic chemistry, don't you? They're called doctors. They're called physicians. Can I ask you a question? Do you want the doctor who got an A in that guys class, or a doctor who signed the waiver that said I deserved an A. I bet I know which one you'd pick. I know who I'd pick. See the education matters more than the diploma. The person matters more than the achievement, you see. It's about becoming someone. I saw an article recently that said yes, prices are coming down on homes, but unfortunately you millennials (I'm a millennial) will never be able to buy a home. Everybody repeat after me – hogwash. Let's say it together: hogwash. I promise you yesterday a millennial bought a home somewhere, I promise you today a millennial bought a home somewhere, and I promise you tomorrow, guess what, a millennial's going to buy a home. See, the people that are not going to buy a home are the people who read articles like that and believe ideas like that. That's the idea of an excuse. That's a new thing you can blame. But nobody really wants a good excuse, most people want a good house! Am I right? So here's a good goal. Here's a good goal, if you're a millennial – I want to buy a house. That's a good goal. Here's a better goal – I want to become the kind of person that can buy a house.

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Do you see the difference between those two things? And you say well what's the kind of person that can buy a house? Well that's a good question. Why don't you make a list of the kinds of millennials that can buy a house. You might put Mark Zuckerberg up there. Immediately I can hear everybody's eyes roll; oh gosh, Mark Zuckerberg. Right? Okay, fine. Work your way down, right? What is the kind of person.. you can make a list of all types of persons. You probably know a person who can buy a house, and now you begin to ask a better question – how do I become the kind of person who can buy a house. Oh, here's a better question – how can I become the kind of person that can buy three houses. See, now you're thinking like a Schuller. See that's a Dr. Schuller, not me. I'm talking about my grandpa. That sounds arrogant, and it is. You see, it begins here, friends, it begins here. It begins not in the goal of what you accomplish, it begins in the goal of who you become. Here's a good goal – I want to get married. Here's a better goal – I want to become the kind of person everyone wants to marry. I remember in college there was a gal that I thought was.. I mean she was cute, I guess. Didn't really.. to me; I hate talking about people's looks, but guys went crazy for her. I had one guy that told me a part of his body he would cut off if he could marry her. It was his left hand. It was his left hand. He would cut off his left hand and I believed him. And so I said to him, my friend, I don't think she wants to date someone without a left hand. Why don't you just ask her for her number? And he said I already did, and she said no thank you. See there's something about that girl that made her alluring to people that wanted to marry her. She had her pick of the litter because.. So here's a good goal – become, if you want to get married, become someone that everyone would love being married to. Here's a good goal – I want to have children. Here's a better goal – I want to be an amazing father. I want to become an amazing mother. Here's a good goal – I want to start a ministry. Here's a better goal – I want to become the kind of person that everywhere I go, somebody receives a touch from the Lord, that everything I say inspires or encourages people. I want to have the kind of skills and understanding of the scripture communicated effectively to everyone I meet. That's a great goal. See someone like that doesn't have to try and start a ministry. A ministry just evolves and develops around them. See, are we getting it? Some of you are getting this, I can tell. Some of you are seeing that the slight difference in goals from "I want to get this" to "I want to become this" is the biggest change you can make in your life. And that always happens, almost always, in that waiting period, in the free time period, in the time when everyone else is just bored and trying to be entertained. When you do something there to become a different kind of person, everything changes. Well, we can't become who we want to be without the master of life, and His name is Jesus Christ, and we need Him to teach us all that there is to know about living a fruitful and godly and awesome life. And so we ask you, Jesus, to help us. Thank you that you're living spirit dwells within us, that you're living word is given to us and we can study it. Thank you that your followers are all around us, and we can learn from them. Father, put the right kind of people in our life that we need to become the people you've called us to be. We entrust our lives to you, it's in the strong name of Jesus we pray, all God's people said, amen.