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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 welcome visitors and church family. You made it! And we're so happy that you're here. The Bible says that God inhabits the praises of His people. He inhabits the praises. Let's praise Him today with all that is within us. Thank you for joining us.

BS: Let's pray. Father, we thank you so much for your Holy Spirit. We're grateful, God, that you chose us. We didn't choose you, you chose us. And we pray, in Jesus' name that today you'd help us become more and more like your Son Jesus. We take a rest, we relax and rest our hearts and say we thank you, we trust you, and we love 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 – 1. Samuel 16,6-7,11-13 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, 1st Samuel 16. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Amen.

INTERVIEW – Annabelle Chinchin (AC) with Bobby Schuller (BS)

Annabelle Chinchin is the project design manager for African Bible Colleges, which was founded by her grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. John Chinchin in 1976. Since then, three campuses have opened with the hope of providing quality education and ministering to those in Africa. Other ministries and schools have also been created, and they are hoping to build the first STEM School in Africa. BS: John, hi, how are you, my friend. Great to see you.

BS: Hi!

AC: Hi.

BS: So great to meet you. Thank you for being here.

AC: Thank you for having me.

BS: Now I want to hear a little bit about your ministry, but you've lived most of your life in Malawi Africa, but you live in San Diego now.

AC: Correct. So I am what many would refer to as an M-K – missionary kid. I grew up..

BS: A P-K – pastors' kid, similar thing.

AC: ..okay, there we go.

BS: I get it.

AC: We have that in common. So yes, I did grow up in Malawi Africa since I was a little girl, and I come from a legacy of missionaries in Africa that started with my grandparents 50 years ago. And it was during my time at Biola University that God really laid upon my heart the desire to be a part of cross-cultural missions, specifically with African Bible Colleges. And after losing my dad, it's more evident than ever that there was no mistake as to the family that God placed me in. That He has chosen me for such a time as this.

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JB: Well, I mean the fear of the Lord, the Bible says, is the starting place. And it's actually the same word that God uses in the beginning that God created the heavens and the earth. So it's the starting place of knowing God intimately. Bobby, I know everybody that's sitting there, everybody that's watching us, they have a deep desire to know our creator. God put that in us. Well, the fear of the Lord opens

BS: So you recently lost your dad, and that was what last summer you said, right?

AC: Correct.

BS: And he was a huge part of this ministry, right? He led it after your grandparents, I guess handed it off to him?

AC: Yes, that's correct. My dad was the president of African Bible Colleges. We have three college campuses in Africa. One in Liberia, one in Malawi and one in Uganda, and we have a few different support ministries, one of those is the STEM high school that my dad had started.

BS: That's great. I want to get to that in a minute, but I want to hear more of your story, so you grew up on the mission field, you grew up around these, but you said you were here at Biola just down the street, right, when you had this revelation that I want to be a part of this. I want to do it. That can be a thing for a lot of missionary kids where you are kind of forced to do it when you're a kid, right? You don't have a choice, you have to. But to choose to do it as an adult, like what happened in your heart, or what changed? Why did you make that choice?

AC: Yes, I felt similar to the story of Jonah that I was kind of running away from this calling that had been on my life since I was a little girl. I decided when I got to Biola originally, that I was going to study biological science and I was going to be a dental hygienist, and I was never going to go overseas again. But it was during our mission's conference at Biola that God really pressed upon my heart that I have a purpose for you, and this is your God given purpose. And instead of running away from it, I want you to run towards it.

BS: That's awesome. It's interesting to think, you're an American, you grew up in Malawi Africa, so I assume you learned some of the languages, or I don't know what the native language is for Malawi, but culturally the food, the people. Do you feel more.. this is a weird question, you don't have to answer it if you don't want to, but do you feel more at home here like in San Diego, or do you feel more at home in Africa?

AC: Oh, that's a great question, it's also a very hard question to answer because I would classify myself as a third culture kid, that part of my heart is here, but part of my heart is also in Malawi; that there's so many people who have influenced me to being the woman that I am today, so I owe so much to the people of Malawi.

BS: And you're carrying on your grandparents and your parents' legacy, I certainly understand that and understand what you're trying to accomplish there, and it brings so much more meaning than just doing something that you started. Do you feel like you're standing on the shoulder of a giant, maybe to fulfill your dad's passion and dream, as well. A it's weird, as you fulfill your dad's passion, you'll start to develop some of your own passions, as well. His passion is your passion now, but I'm sure as you grow older, you'll just see that from being obedient in that, there'll be all these other things that will spring forth.

AC: Yes.

BS: So STEM. So you want to do a STEM school. When I think of STEM I think of something that grows on a tree. That's an acronym for something, right?

AC: Yes. It stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

BS: So if you guys are used to doing Bible schools, effectively seminaries, you're wanting to go to a whole different discipline. How are you going to do that? And why do you want to do that? I think it's a great idea, by the way.

AC: I appreciate the question. So my dad was a very visionary man. Whenever he saw a need, he took it on his responsibility to do something. And so he saw the ABC STEM high school as a catalyst of change for future innovative generations in Malawi; that this education would provide something that you wouldn't be able to find anywhere else in the country. So this is a very exciting historical moment for the country of Malawi; that we will be building the first STEM high school.

BS: That's awesome, that's great. Now I just saw a story on Mark Rober about a company called Zipline where there was a kid in Rwanda who lost his parents and his whole family during the Holocaust event that was there in the, I don't know a lot about it, but about 30 years ago.

AC: Yes.

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BS: Really rough period for that country. But he became an engineer; he went to Stanford, actually, became an engineer, came back to Rwanda and is paired up with this company called Zipline that sends out through like plane drones. They're not like the drones we see, they're like airplanes.

AC: Okay.

BS: They're still drones and they drop parachute medical supplies to different hospitals around the country..

AC: Oh, that's amazing.

BS: ..because of the road system; it takes too long. And it's amazing how if we're set in our ways about Bible college or whatever, I mean do you envision something like happening? I mean it seems like there's so much need for that type of thing in Malawi.

AC: Absolutely. And that's really the original vision that my grandfather had is that education is the most powerful tool you could give a developing country, and to go even further with a Christian education. Now you're transforming people's lives; you're impacting communities for Christ. And so our desire is to build this STEM high school but also offer these types of degrees at our universities so that these high school students can then go to African Bible College and that they wouldn't have to leave the country. That that could all be provided within the country.

BS: There's a lot of people watching now that are like I want to be like Annabelle Chinchin. I want to be opening up schools and I want to be a missionary. I want to do these things, but people can do that right here in Irvine or in the backyards in LA or wherever they are. What encouragement do you give to somebody who has that sort of question for you?

AC: Great question. So I have two pieces of encouragement that I would like to share. The first one is if you have not already done so, go on a short-term mission's trip. There is something transformative and remarkable that happens when you go. That you truly get to see God's heart for diversity. And the greatest mission's trip that I've ever been led on has been the one through my own heart. And the second piece of encouragement that I would like to share is to dream big. That God has given you gifts to utilize for His kingdom, and my dad had this phrase, and you could write this in the back of your Bible. He would say "there's a Grand Canyon of a gap between a good idea and actually making it happen." And so I encourage you to do something everywhere you go, to do something engaging, and don't wait. Do something now.

BS: That's great. I love it. If you want to know more about Annabelle Chinchin, you can check her out at africanbiblecolleges.com. Annabelle, thank you so much. We appreciate you.

AC: Yes, thank you.

BS: What an awesome thing you're doing.

AC: Thanks for having me. Thank you.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

All right, no matter who you are, would you stand with us? Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving from the Lord. Let's say this together: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. It's 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 my neighbor. Thanks, you can be seated.

MESSAGE – The Key to Do the Big Things

One thing that all human beings share in common is our pension to do evil, to do what's wrong in God's eyes, and in our own eyes. To violate the very things that we think make us good, wholesome, pure, whatever, and we carry these things. They compound very often over life. Two types of sins that are mentioned in the Bible – the sins of commission: that's the stuff we do to people, but then there's also sins of omission: the time we felt like we needed to stop and help a person, or the time we weren't there for our kids on a special occasion or something. There are these things, and whatever reason, some things weigh heavier on us than other things, but all of us are weighed down by the same briefcase, very often, that we've carried from one hand to the other. Sometimes it's something that was done to you. You didn't do anything. You didn't even do anything wrong, but you still somehow feel shame about it. The great thing about God's power and God's goodness, is He can break the bondage of all of that in your life; of its effect on your soul and on your mind. Sometimes takes time, but if we respond in faith, God can forgive us, renew us and completely transform our hearts, if we trust in Him. I want to encourage you today. I believe that God made a way for us to be at peace with Him. Are you at peace with God? Really important question.

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When you quiet your heart, look at the sky and smile. I want to encourage you today to be at peace with God by trusting in Jesus. He lay down His life for us. He was crucified and raised from the dead so that we can come before God's throne boldly. And so I want to encourage you today to believe in the gospel, to repent, to make a new life, and do your best. Do your best and forget the rest. You're never going to be perfect, but to do your best to become more like Jesus in the best way that you can. If you're watching on television or you're visiting from outside of the country, I also want to encourage you to plug into a good Bible believing church and you'll never be the same. So make a choice today to invite Christ in your heart and become a new creation. If you make that decision, text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen so we can pray for you here at the church, and we really do. All right. Today I want to talk about the importance of the little things. We see big things everywhere. In life, we see big personalities. We see big buildings, we see big organizations, we see big successes, but very often we forget that these big things that we see, that we want to emulate, these big things that we like, these big things we want to become, they're made up of little things. Big buildings here in the United States and Los Angeles, you'll see some very big buildings, but those very big buildings are made up of very small bricks, of little small choices. Of screws and bolts and things over time that made it big. We see movies and they're playing along; videos. Even right now, if you're watching, it's probably on a form of a video. We forget that every video, every second of a video is made up of 24 pictures. Every time you see one second, what you actually saw was 24 pictures going ba, ba, ba, ba, ba, ba, ba, ba, ba. It's actually an illusion. You're just seeing a bunch of.. isn't that interesting. All that makes a whole film, there are thousands of these images in a row that are all slightly different from the other. When you listen to a symphony, huge piece, maybe its 30-minutes long, it's still made up of small notes, and we all know in music what one note off can do to a song. All these things, these big things that we admire, that we want, that we enjoy, that we like, sometimes seem so effortless, like somebody was just born with it. In most cases they weren't. But you see that in life that the big personalities and the big things; the big things that we see and they admire are made up of a bunch of little things. You want a big life? It's in the little decisions. If you want a big life, you need to change the little decisions that you make. All of us, we want more from life, but if you want more from life, you need to become more. If you want a bigger life, you need to become a bigger person. If you want life to get better, you need to become better. And this happens when you make a decision to change your thoughts and change your actions and have a new will that's saturated in God's life and spirit. You want to become more? You can. You have to simply make a decision today to take the first small step on the thousand-mile journey. All of us can have bigger lives. All of us, no matter how big your life is, it can be bigger. No matter how good your life it is, it can be better. No matter how powerful your life is, it can be more powerful. And all of this comes from becoming more. Not from the government changing, not from your school changing or your job changing or your boss or spouse or kids changing, it all changes when you change, and you can change today. I believe in you. I'm so proud of you. You're going to do it. You want a big life? Time to focus on the little decisions. And you know what the Bible seems to point out is these little decisions that we think don't matter, they actually matter a lot. And actually, it seems to be, according to Jesus' core teachings, that the more invisible it is, the more it counts. The more unseen it is, the more it counts. The less applause we get, the less we post about it, the less people know about it, the less we hear a comment about it, the more it counts. Classic question: a tree falls in the wilderness. How does it go? Does it make a sound? Is that how the expression goes? Something like that. If a tree falls in the wilderness, does anybody see it? Does it matter? Did it happen? And the answer is yes! It happened because God saw it happen. In fact, the Bible says, and not just trees, but if even one little hair from your head falls, God sees it. The Bible says that even if a sparrow falls from the sky, God sees it and its under His loving gaze. Part of believing in the gospel, and walking in Christ is understanding that even though nobody has ever seen it, and probably nobody will ever see it, that there is some hidden reward in doing the little things no matter what. What is that reward? That reward is a bigger you. You want a bigger life? A bigger soul? A better life? You want more from life? You become more. You want to become more? Start doing the little things that nobody can see. That's the reward and this is what the Bible teaches us. From the scripture reading today, we see a story, and I'll just paint it in my own imagination, if you don't mind. This is how I see it, okay. Goes a little something like this. About three thousand years ago in a little town called Bethlehem, there was a young, cute little boy, and he had seven older brothers, and a really influential and powerful dad who was probably a chief of some kind. And all of his older manly brothers were going off to war, and they were going off to fight.

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And he says to his dad something like 'I can fight, dad. I can go with you guys. Bring me along. I'll help you out.' And his dad says to him, 'no, little David, we need you to stay here and protect the sheep. If we leave, if you leave, who's going to care for the sheep? We need you to protect the sheep.' And so they go off to fight, and little David says to himself, in his cute little chubby cheeked voice, 'protect the sheep. Protect the sheep.' And I just picture him, he's out there with the flock of sheep and they go way out to pasture in Israel, because there's not a lot of green.. it's not Scotland. It's like you have to find these little patches of brownish green hay way out in the middle of nowhere, so you picture little boy David taking these sheep out to go eat, and maybe when he's five years old, you just picture him feeding them. He knows them all by name. Little tenderloin, and little snowflake, and little cotton swab, and, I don't know. Next time I do this, I need like a bunch of names from the choir, but we'll do it next time, because there's a lot of jokes in there. He knows them all by name, he loves them, he washes them, he cares for them, he loves them, and maybe when he's five, he sees a tarantula crawling on one of them and he's scared but he goes (MAKES SWATTING NOISE) and gets rid of the spider, and helps little foxtrot, I don't know. And then when he's six years old, he sees that there's rats eating some of the special food, and so he's grossed out by rats, but he chases them off when he's six years old. And then when he's eight years old, they have to stay the night out in pasture – it's too far to get home, and so they're going to sleep out there. In the middle of the night, a fox comes and bites one of the sheep on the leg and tries to drag it off, and he fights off the fox, even though he's afraid. And then he gets a staff and he gets a sling and when he's eleven years old, a pack of wolves try to attack his sheep, and he wards those off, and he's feeling stronger, and he is stronger. And then a little bear comes and the bear tries to eat the sheep and he's 14 and now he's strong enough, he fights off the bear. And then he's 16 years old, and a lion comes and he remembers what his father said 11 years ago to the day – little David, protect the sheep, and he says to himself, if I die, I die. A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, and he fights off the lion, and he saves the sheep and they live to see another day. And one day, the great prophet Samuel is called by God to go find a king. He's in Bethlehem somewhere and so he goes and God says go to the house of Jesse. He's in that house. So he goes to Jesse's house to make a sacrifice and honor the Lord. And the people are terrified, and he says no I'm just here to bless the Lord. This is going to be okay. We're going to have a barbecue. And he invites Jesse to come and Jesse brings seven of his sons, and his eldest is there, and he looks good. He's tall, he's handsome, he's charismatic, he's buff, long hair, awesome beard. I'm adding some of this. But the Bible says Samuel says to himself when he sees Eliab, he goes 'Surely this is God's anointed.' And what is God's response? No. No. Not him. The Bible says in 1st Samuel that "the Lord said to Samuel, don't consider his appearance or his height for I have rejected him." You see the Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. So he's a hard no. Six other sons, just as tall and handsome and strong as the last, no, no, no, no, no. Finally gets to the last son, he scratches his head, assuming this is all there is to pick from, and he says to them all, is there no other? Is that it? Is there no one else? And they all look at each other and shrug their shoulders and they go well there's David, the baby, but he's just out doing the little stuff. There's David, he's just out there protecting the sheep. It's interesting in the Bible, God refers to Himself as a shepherd, many times. And it's interesting because the shepherds work is actually typically a teenage girl's job. It's a noble job, but David didn't care about that. I'm doing this job. I'm doing this job. And God honors him and he says, that's him. That is him because God sees the heart. The Lord sees the heart. Now beware, oh you western listener. When we hear "the heart" we think of our feelings. We think of what we feel. My heart, you know, we think about our emotions. And this is not what the heart means in the Bible. The heart is metaphorically the location of the will – the will. It's what you choose to do. It's what you choose to do. It's not your emotions, it's your will. It's what you choose to do despite how you feel, and this is an important characteristic when we read about this word that's so often used in the Bible. The heart. When God talks about your heart, He wants to know what are you actually going to do even though you feel a certain way; even though you feel tempted. Even though you feel depressed. Even though you feel bored. Even though you feel afraid. Will you still do it? Do you still got what it takes? Will you still press through? The heart is not what you feel, it's what you do. In the Bible. A man says to his wife – he cheated on her and he gets caught, and of course he says honey, I know it seems like I love her, but I don't. My heart is with you. Everybody say, hogwash. His heart is not with his wife, it's with his girlfriend, because it's what he chose to do.

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A lot of men will use this ploy on women because women are very often empathetic and sympathetic and want to sort things out, highly relational. Its hogwash. I almost used a joke and I didn't. I cut it. I'm getting better, Irene. Mother and her children, caring for her children, feels guilty about her emotions, and she says I've got four kids. Maybe she's single, and she's put all the kids to bed, and she just wants to relax and watch some TV or take a bath or something, but after putting the last kid to bed, and she's changed her diapers, so many diapers, and taking care of the children, and now she has to get a little work done on the computer. She feels guilty because she doesn't feel a lot of love necessarily towards her kids, or she feels frustrated because she's so impatient, she thinks, or because, whatever. She feels frustrated with them because they don't listen to her, or whatever. And she feels guilty for feeling those emotions, but God doesn't care about that. God cares that she did the work. The heart is not in the feelings, it's in the doings. It's what you do despite how you feel. So you ask the question – does she love her children, even though she doesn't feel anything when she's tired late at night? And the answer is absolutely. Look at what she did. That's what God cares about. And that's the difference between the heart, and it's been a while since I was in seminary, but I believe in the Bible the emotions are actually in the belly. So the belly is where the emotions are. That's where hunger, metaphorically, hunger, anger, lust, greed, its located in the belly. And this is very often why in Judaism and Christianity, fasting is a way of having contempt for the belly, for the flesh. It's saying I'm going to do what's right, even though I feel this other way. I'm going to overcome my emotions. So what is heart? Is it what you feel? No. It's what you'll do despite how you feel. Isn't that good news? Now we want to be careful of legalism and things like that, but at the end of the day, God wants people who have the heart. So was David afraid when he saw the spider? Yes. Was he afraid when he had to scatter the rats? When he had to chase off the fox and the bear and the lion? The answer is yes. But he chased them off anyway. That is someone who has heart, and that's what the Lord sees. He sees your heart. Will you choose? Will you choose to do what's hard? And the answer is yes, because you have a good heart. Don't feel guilty about your emotions. Feel guilty about making bad choices. And if that's what you've been doing, change your heart. So how do you change your heart? You don't try harder. Here's how you change your heart. In athletics, we call it progressive overload. Progressive overload. It means that you train for it. You start to do the little things; you do the little heart things so you can do the big heart things later. It's like this. Most Americans cannot do a pullup. A pullup is very hard. I remember the first time I tried to do a pullup, I could barely get one, in high school or college. I've been working out a lot lately, I can do 20 or 25 now, which I think is pretty good. But, I'd need like a gun to my head to pull out that last like two or three to get the last few. But did you know that the world record for pullups is 651 consecutive pullups in one thing. And the world record for most pullups in 24-hours is 8,008. Pretty cool. Now think about that for a moment. Every single person, the person that did 8,008 pullups at one time in their life could not do one. What changed? It's a real question. What changed? Well, first they did one pullup, and then they did one pullup again, and then they did one pullup again. And then all of a sudden they eked out a second pullup, and they did two pullups, and two pullups, and then they eked out a third. And they did that enough times that they could get to the point where they could do 8,000. Isn't that amazing? Wow. And this is how the heart is. We want to be whatever. We want to write a novel, sing some famous song on Broadway, lead a huge church, build a huge business, but what we forget is those big things are made of progressive overload; of a heart or a mind that is put in the effort to become those kinds of things. You say to yourself I feel like God wants me to be a pastor or an evangelist, but I can't preach a sermon. Well can you pray with someone? Start praying with people. Or leading little Bible studies. You say to yourself I could never lead a business. I want to, but I don't feel like I ever could. Could you lead a small group? Could you lead a volunteer group in the church? You say I feel like I've got a novel inside of me. I've been dying to write this novel, but I just can't seem to do it. Can you write one page? Write a short story. Write another one. And just do the work. If you do a little, you'll become a lot. If you do a little every day, you'll become a lot over time. You don't have to be legalistic. I hate legalism. You don't have to be doing it all the time, but just do a little bit every day, and that makes all the difference. Here's one way of doing it, or thinking about it. A guy named Steven Pressfield – wonderful writer put it this way. He said "become a professional." Become a professional with your dreams. Now every person in this room is a professional, in some way. Let's say you are a fry cook. We'll just.. anybody. Being a fry cook might not be your dream, but you get up, you put on your little uniform and your hat, and you go down, you clock in, you cook the fries, you cook the burger, you put it in the bag, you put in the receipt, you hand it to the person with a smile, most of the time, you finish your eight hours, you clock out, you get your check.

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That's what it means being a professional. It means you show up and you do the work. You don't feel like it, most of the time, when you go to Starbucks or do whatever it is that you're doing, but you are a professional. Now what if we were to become a professional with our dream. If you have a dream to play piano, look at piano the same way you look at your job. You get there at the same time, the same place, for a set amount of time, and you do that long enough, you're going to get paid in piano giftedness. You want to be a writer? Start writing. Be a professional. Sit down and write for a given amount of time, lock the door, turn off your phone, and write. William Faulkner, the great novelist was asked once how did you write so much? Do you only write when you're inspired? And he said yes, I only write when inspiration strikes, but fortunately for me, inspiration strikes at 9 am every morning sharp. Let's carry this a little further. What would it look like for me to be a professional dad? For me to have the heart of a dad. That means, even when I don't feel like it, even though I'm not into it, even though I'm a little bit tired or I have work to do, I put a smile on my face and I'm there for my kids because they need me. That's what it means to be a pro dad. I don't think about how I feel, I think about what my kids need from me. What's it mean for me to be a professional husband? It means that I don't say this marriage gets good when my wife gets better, I go this marriage gets good when I get better, right? That's what's missing is me. So I be a professional husband. I do my best, even though I don't always feel it, to be there for my wife. That's what it means to have a heart for your wife. And to be a professional Christian, if I can say something so.. maybe it sounds inappropriate. Be a professional Christian. I don't always feel like it, but I'm going to read my Bible. I'm going to go to church. I'm going to give to charity. I'm going to do what I need to do to prove to God that I'm honoring Him with my life. See God sees my heart, not my belly. Isn't that good news? God sees our heart, not our belly. And yes, emotions are important. Don't neglect your emotions, don't pretend like they don't matter or something like this. They can have a big impact on you, but at the end of the day, what matters is what we choose to do and who we choose to be. In the book of Acts, there's a fun story where the apostles say to the church at large, we need someone to care for the widows. We need somebody to do the little things so that we can go preach and pray because that's what God's called us to do. And some guy named Stephen, who.. whatever, works in a hardware shop or something, just everyday kind of guy, raises his hand and says I'll do it. I'll look after the widows so you guys can go preach and pray. And so he does, and guess what the Bible says in Acts chapter 6 and 7. It says that out of all of them, he had the most miracle working power, and he gave the best sermons. Now think about that for a moment. They neglected it so they could do that very thing, but he was the greatest among them because he was willing to do the little things that they didn't care about. The little things matter. The little things are what are going to make you a bigger person. Don't neglect them. And don't forget that it's also little things that can tear you apart. How many people here know that termites are little things. Isn't that true? Germs are little things, and they stopped the whole globe from spinning, it seemed like, for a whole year during COVID. Right? Germs take a big strong man and have him on his knees, right? Germs will get you. Calories are little things, but they will get you. In our family, we call calories flavor points. I remember when I was at CPK we used to.. I'd go to CPK at California Pizza Kitchen and I'd get the salad because I want to eat healthy, I want to take care of myself. And then California passed a law that said you have to post, if you're a chain, all the calories for every dish. And I went down the menu, and I found that the lowest calorie item on the menu was the cheese pizza at 1,100 calories. And this delicious salad I'd been eating had almost 1,700 calories in it. That's like a whole day worth of food in my salad. Oh well. The Romans struggled with this because they would have bridges that would be built, and they would collapse and so they passed a new law where any bridge builder, engineer who made a bridge didn't have to pass anything. Didn't have to get an approval or anything. All he had to do was sleep under the bridge with his family for one week while all the horses and people went walking over it. You know why? Because nobody could tell what differed a good bridge from a bad bridge, but the answer is the little things no one can see. When they were excavating the temple in the 20th century and they were pulling out dirt and all this stuff, they started seeing stones, and examining things, one of the stories I loved so much is obviously on the outside of the temple there's all these ornate carvings and flowers and all sorts of beautiful things on the outside, but when they pulled the stones from the foundation, from the inner part underground that no one presumably should have ever seen, they still found the same ornate carvings. Why? Why? Because the Jewish builders who were making a house of God didn't care what other people saw. They knew that God would see it. And they knew that even God can see even underground. Let Him see what we do even in the places nobody else can see. What wisdom there is in that.

The Key to Do the Big Things

It's so interesting, too, because as an employer, our church now employs probably about 70 people, and seeing the world through the eyes of an employer, it's amazing you'll have a bunch of people apply for an amazing job, and you'll have two people, and one guy will just, or gal, will just barely win over the other. And it's amazing how many times that happens. You really can't decide. It's one small thing when you make a decision. I have this friend of mine, John, who got his dream job, and he applied for the job, he got it. He was thrilled, but they said the only thing is you've got to shave your beard. And he came back and he said I'm not going to take a job. They want me to shave my beard. And I said 'shave your beard! It's your dream job! You care more about your beard than you do your dream?' And this is why men do better when they're married, I think. Men benefit from marriage so much because a wife would have said, you shave your beard and you go down there and you say yes. They'll listen to me. Earl Larmar, a good friend of mine, he's the chairman of the board in Australia, he and his wife have been extremely generous to our church and other charities all around the world. They've done very well in business and other things, and ministry, and my wife and I were hanging out with them and she loves to ask this question. She said – what's a piece of life advice you would give to us. And one of the things he said, I never forgot it, he said picture horses racing. And when the horses are racing, they're usually so close to each other. And the one who gets first place is sometimes just a nose ahead of the one that gets second place. But the rewards between the two are so big that the one who gets in first place might get two million dollars, but the one in second place, even though he lost by just the nose, gets a hundred thousand. And think about just a little difference gets a vast greater reward. I think that's how it is in life, my friend. I want to encourage you, your life before you is, in a way, a dream and a possibility that is attainable when you get the decision in your heart to focus on the little things that will build a big life, and you will and I believe in that. And I believe in you, Lord. We ask in Jesus' name that you would help us become all that we can be for the people in our lives that need us to be all that we can be. Not for ourselves, but for the people we love. Help us, Lord, to see the things that we can change today to become who you see in us. We love you. It's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said, 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.