

Hour of Power Deutschland
Steinerne Furt 78
86167 Augsburg

Telefon: 08 21 / 420 96 96
Telefax: 08 21 / 420 96 97

E-Mail: info@hourofpower.de
www.hourofpower.de

Baden-Württembergische Bank
BLZ: 600 501 01
Konto: 28 94 829

IBAN:
DE43600501010002894829

BIC:
SOLADEST600

Büro Schweiz:

Hour of Power Schweiz
Seestr. 8
8594 Güttingen
Tel.: 071 690 07 81
info@hourofpower-schweiz.ch
www.hourofpower-schweiz.ch

Spendenkonto:

PostFinance AG, 3030 Bern
Konto: 61-18359-6
IBAN:
CH1609000000610183596

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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 welcome church family. We are always so happy to have you here. Thank you for joining us. You know the Apostle James, I love that he said, 'I will show you by my actions what faith is.' Yes, church, may we also always be like that. You are loved.

BS: We're so glad you're here and we believe that God has a word for you today. We're so thankful for the scriptures and for this community and for the Holy Spirit so we just believe God's going to speak to you today. And let's just begin with a word of prayer. Father, we come to you in the strong name of Jesus, and we ask, Lord, that today you would help us to become more like your Son Jesus. We are so thankful that His spirit dwells in us because of the cross and the resurrection. Thank you, Lord, that we can come boldly before your throne with everything we need, and trust our lives to you. It's in the strong name of Jesus 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 – Jeremiah 1,4-10 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Jeremiah 1:4-10. The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." Amen.

INTERVIEW – Timothy Mahoney (TM) with Bobby Schuller (BS)

Timothy Mahoney is an investigative filmmaker and founder of Thinking Man Films and Media. Over the years, he has explored the Bible and some of the questions behind it in his series, Patterns of Evidence. The series documents his visits to locations mentioned in the Bible and brings them to life. His newest film, Patterns of Evidence, Journey to Mt. Sinai, Part 2, dives into the exodus journey and finding the physical evidence of this Biblical event.

BS: Timothy, hi. Welcome. Thank you so much for joining us this morning. And we're just real excited to hear about this project you're working on. First of all, for those who aren't familiar with you, tell us a little bit about your project and your faith journey.

TM: Well, my name's Tim Mahoney, I'm an investigative filmmaker. And I grew up in a Christian home, but what happened was that, as you get older, people just tell you hey, the Bible isn't really true. And you're like well wait a minute, I mean I always believed it was true, my parents believed it was true, my grandparents. But it wasn't until I took an investigative trip to Egypt back in 2002 when I went to the actual location where the Israelites were said to have lived, and I was told at that time that there wasn't any evidence for the Israelites. And that then caused a crisis of faith in my own life, and that set me off on this huge investigation of which, good news, news alert, I did find a pattern of evidence that matches the Bible, and that was in our first film called Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus.

BS: Its interesting, I think, because people take a lot more scrutiny towards the Bible because it has a real impact on how we behave on our moral code, on our beliefs.

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But the way we look at other books from the bronze age and other things, we just almost sort of take them as is, and yet it seems to me that like a lot of even the Old Testament parts of the Bible are so well detailed, the patterns that go into keeping the scrolls of the years, all of the people memorizing it even if it gets lost, seems to have really given some strong evidence that the Bible is a pretty good history.

TM: Absolutely, and the thing that was interesting about the first film is that we had to basically look at it and say well what if we were to look for a pattern, and a pattern is a sequence, and that's really the scientific method. And that has been the basis of all of our films. Every Patterns of Evidence film we made, and this new one that's coming out into theaters May 15th and 17th as a nationwide Fathom Event, we're really excited about, is the sixth Patterns of Evidence film and it's called Patterns of Evidence: Journey to Mt. Sinai. This is part two.

And this pattern, we're looking for the route of the exodus, we're looking for where did Moses flee. It was called the land of Midian. We're looking for physical attributes that the Bible gives us clues about, which are very interesting. And then we're looking for artifacts. Is there any evidence of the remains of the Israelites at any of these mountains that we've been looking at.

BS: So can you answer some of those questions for us now without ruining the film? I mean presumably it's all true; we kind of come with this assumption. But what are some of the things that you've found that were so shocking in your investigation on Mt. Sinai?

TM: Well, there are six mountains that we're looking at, and the first three we've already looked at. This is the last three. This is the summation of it all. And some of the interesting things are actual altars that people are saying there's a connection between the altars and the campsites at different locations. And pillars, by the way. The Bible says that Moses was told to erect 12 pillars for the 12 tribes of Israel. And then when we go to these mountains, we're looking for is there any sign of ancient pillars that would match this. Is there any evidence of a large campsite, or water. You have to have water in these areas. And there's some amazing evidence of even wells and possible lake and streams. The Bible says that a stream came out of the mountain and the Israelites were to wash their clothes. So those are some of the things we're uncovering and showing a pattern of evidence. And then there's one other interesting thing. There's this phenomenon of exodus explorers. People who have taken upon themselves to go into areas, sometimes that are dangerous, and search and photograph and document, and I've actually included thirty years of these exodus explorers into this new film Patterns of Evidence: Journey to Mt. Sinai, and it's just fascinating. I think it's going to be a great encouragement to many, many people when they see this film.

BS: Now there isn't really a consensus on where Mt. Sinai is, right? Is that why you're saying you're looking at six films? It's obviously on the Sinai Peninsula, I assume. I don't actually know. But I know there's one traditional.. Mt. Sinai has a monastery on it, but then there's others, as well, that could be Mt. Sinai, as well. Is that true?

TM: Well, you've raised the biggest point there is that most people assume that Mt. Sinai is in the Sinai Peninsula. But the Bible says that Moses fled to the land of Midian, and what we're uncovering is that the ancient land of Midian is actually in northwest Saudi Arabia. And so we are looking at some mountains in Sinai Peninsula, some up further north closer to Israel, and two in Saudi Arabi, and the Saudi Arabian mountains is where all sorts of interest has come.

BS: I eat this stuff up. This is so fascinating to me. Did you actually find any other items, old items that could have pointed to an Israelite people being there? Any kind of like pottery or pillars, as you mentioned. Did you actually find some of that stuff?

TM: Yes, yes, well let's put it this way – there's a pattern showing what the Bible says and there are these suggested altars that look like a place of sacrifices, there are pillars actually, at two different mountains, there are campsites, there are inscriptions that some people say are connected to the worship of the bulls - bull worship. And you know that the Israelites, when they were at the mountain, when Moses went up to the mountain and didn't come down, they asked Aaron to build a golden calf so this worship of this Egyptian worship of cows and calves, there are people pointing to evidence of that. And not only that, there's even the possibility of an enormous cemetery that we're going to be showing. And the Bible says that the people who participated in that worship of the golden calf, three thousand of them were killed, and there's this amazing cemetery that's going to be uncovered.

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I mean we're going to be looking at in this one of mountains, and it's just very interesting because once again, what you're looking for is a pattern, a sequence, and that's what we're finding in this investigation.

BS: I can't wait to see it. This is Patterns of Evidence: The Journey to Mt. Sinai part two. If you haven't seen part one, can you go to part two, or do you need to like watch it at home first?

TM: Both films are self-standing but if they want to see it, they can go to our website, patternsofevidence.com. That's where they can get more information about seeing the movie. They can sign up for thinkers. Every week we give an archaeology Bible thinker, and we've got a podcast now. So we've got a lot of ways to stay connected to the Bible, and that's really what we're about is producing these films, and passing the historical credibility of the Bible on to the next generation.

BS: That's awesome. Tim Mahoney, thank you so much. I want to encourage everybody to check out Patterns of Evidence: Journey to Mt. Sinai part two. It'll be in theaters May 15th and 17th. Go check it out. Thanks again, Tim. We appreciate you!

TM: Thanks again for having me, Bobby.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Well no matter who you are, we're so glad you're here. Would you stand with us? We're going to say this creed together as we do every week. 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 – How to Discover Your Next Calling

Today I want to answer the question that so many people ask, and actually it's a bad question, but it's a question we all ask. And the question is what is my calling? It's a question I ask all the time, especially when you feel like you're in a rut, or you're kind of in a middle place, or maybe you just lost a job or something happened and it feels like you've been stuck in this weird gray middle place. Maybe you've been at your job for a long time and you used to love it, and maybe it pays well, but you just hate it, or you don't like it, or maybe you're just kind of like blah, I want to do something else. You're like God, I'm thankful for my job, but was I born to do this? What is my calling? And what I want to say today is that in life, the heart of this question is a good one. The heart of this question says something like I believe I was born for a destiny, and you are. I believe I was born to do great things for God, and you are. I believe that I was born to fulfill and born to have big dreams, and you are. But asking the question 'what is my calling' ironically will not get you to your calling. This question reminds me a lot of a conversation that the disciples were having. You see when the disciples were following Jesus, and He was talking about the kingdom of God, they literally thought it was going to be an actual kingdom with a king. They thought it was going to be like a government, like the ones they'd had in the past. They thought Jesus, who is a descendant of David, was somehow going to ascend to a real throne where He was going to be like the president of Israel, and all of them were going to have governmental positions, like secretary of state, or whatever, secretary of the treasury or vice president. So in their mind, as He's talking about the kingdom, they don't understand. And finally, at one time, they're arguing with each other about who's going to get the best positions in this new literal government of Israel. And Jesus interrupts, indignant, which is the idea of being a mixture of angry and offended over unfairness, all at the same time, and He says you don't understand. The leaders of the Gentiles lord over the people that follow them and exercise authority over them. But in the kingdom of God, whoever wants to be the greatest has to be the least. And those who are the least will be the greatest. So He says to them if you want to be great in the kingdom, you have to serve, for the Son of Man did not come into this world to be served, but to serve and to lay his life down as a ransom for many. When we ask the question 'Lord, what's my calling,' we're asking Lord.. it's a question about me; it's a question about me. But in the kingdom of God, when we fall into what God's calling is for us, it's about others. It's about others. So the first thing I want to say is two points I want to make before I get into this. Number one, with your great calling, and you do have a great calling, number one is you have many callings. We're not born to have one grand final calling. All of us are called to do many things, and all of those things are meaningful and have value. If they're from God, they're going to fold into the thing after that. So it's like cinnamon rolls. I think all of us know cinnamon rolls are the best dessert item.

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You can have it for breakfast, you can have it for dessert after dinner, you can have it for dinner. It's a great thing. It's my favorite dessert. I've got many, yes, double stuffed Oreos are grand, and lemon cake with lemon icing is great. Anyway, finding your calling is a bit like eating a cinnamon roll. The best part of the cinnamon roll, everybody knows, is the.. anybody? The middle, the core, there's so many names for it. The golden jewel. Its right there, its soaked in butter and cinnamon and sugar. It's the best part. Anyone who gives you the core of the cinnamon roll, even if you don't want it, just take it. Okay? They're giving you their best. So like eating a cinnamon roll, you start on the outside, which is the worst part, the crunchy part with the least amount of frosting on it, and the further you get into the middle, the better it gets. And believe me, this is what callings are like. In the kingdom of God, you don't start with the core. That's weird. You start with the outside. In the kingdom of God, if you want to find your calling, very often your path is going to begin in the most unexpected way. You're going to see someone who's hurting, you're going to see a need, and you're going to fill it, and that will be your first calling. And after that, each calling that you fulfill will go into the calling after that. Will you trust me with this? This is how God helps you find your calling. You start and be faithful in the little things, and He'll trust you with the big things. Be faithful in the little things, He'll trust you with the big things. Number two, we often have two or more callings at the same time! That's a totally normal thing for God to do. Does your boss ever give you two jobs at the same time at your job? Sometimes God will give you two or more things to do at the same time. And it is important that we understand which of those two things are most important. Right now, I have at least two callings. I'm called to be the pastor of this ministry; I'm also called to be a husband and a dad. Which one is more important? Being a husband and a dad, or being a minister? This is a no brainer, guys. If you don't know the answer to this question, there's a giant picture behind me giving you the answer, all right? See this is confusing for a lot of pastors because it's easy to say my family's more important than my career, but it's a little bit gray for pastors because well they're like.. well, the ministry is also like a child to me. NO! No! No, it's not. It's important but it's not a child. There's ministry and then there's family, right? And I write down every morning, God, today I want to be the best husband I can be, I want to be the best dad I can be, every day. And so those are two callings. God knows if I'm faithful with my children and my wife, I'll be faithful with my ministry. It's not always the other way around. Isn't that true? So if you're faithful in the little things, you'll be faithful in the big things, and make sure you do it in the order, not what society says: money, power, fame, glory, but in what God says: help hurting people. Take responsibility. Love others. Love your near dweller. Okay. So, if you want to find your calling, understand that in God's kingdom it begins by the little things that don't have a lot of glory. The little things. Its be faithful in the little things and God will trust you with bigger and bigger things as you stay faithful to Him. This reminds me of the scripture we got to today, Jeremiah. The calling of Jeremiah helps us understand our callings, and that very often we are afraid sometimes, even to serve in the little ways. In Jeremiah chapter 1, says "the word of the Lord came to me saying before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." Can everybody do me a favor right now and just take a deep breath. Doesn't that feel good? It feels nice. It's like a massage for your lungs. God knew before you were born that you would do great things in your life. You might say, Bobby, I'm too old, too young, I'm divorced, I messed up, I have addiction issues, I have this, I have that. Guys, one more, one more deep breath. Ooo that's good. That feels nice. The Lord knew before you were born what your calling and callings would be. Let's relax. Let's relax and trust that He will get us where we need to go. When Jeremiah hears this from the Lord, the Lord says you're going to be a great prophet to the nations, he says "alas sovereign Lord, I said, I do not even know how to speak! I'm too young! But the Lord said to me, don't say I'm too young." That's exactly how it was said, too. "You must go to everyone I send you to, and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them for I am with you and I'll rescue you, declares the Lord." "Then the Lord reached out His hand and He touched my mouth" – when it says the Lord reached out His hand, that means His power, so He filled me with His power "and said to me, I have put my words in your mouth. See today I appoint you over the nations and the kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy, to overthrow, and then to build and to plant as a new creation." Notice how the first thing that Jeremiah feels is probably fear, and the first thing he does is disqualify himself when God calls him. I'm too young. I can't do that. I'm too young. And if you just wait a few more years, he would have been too what? Old, right? It's always something. Moses does this when he's called by God in the burning bush, Moses has this exchange with God where He says I need you to go and speak to Pharaoh and set my people free, and Moses says who am I to do that? And then God says you can do it.

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And then he says but who will I say will send me? And then he says but what if they don't believe me. And then he says oh and I stutter. And he just goes on and on like this. And finally God goes (SIGHS). You know, just like.. just kidding. He gets so frustrated at Moses. And then finally Moses just says please send someone else. Please send someone else. Why? Because he's afraid. Let me teach you something about how we respond to God's calling, especially if we start disqualifying ourself. Disqualifying yourself almost always comes from a place of fear or dread. You just dread the thing. And that feeling of fear or dread always manifests itself as tired. I'm tired. I just can't.. I just.. I just.. I can't. I just, I can't. This is what fear does when we're called to do something. When we're called to confront someone at work or in our family over an issue, and you're kind of feeling afraid of that, and you dwell on it. Well how do you start to feel? I'm just.. tired. I'm just tired. When God calls us to take a risk and it's something we've never done before, and we begin to spin our wheels, very often we just go I just.. someone else, Lord. I feel tired. Does anybody feel this way sometimes? Or when you got to confess a sin or some mistake to someone, or you lied about something, and it's going to be super embarrassing, you got to talk to your spouse or your best friend or somebody you work with, or your boss or your employees, and you just.. I just feel tired. When I was writing my book, I hit writers block and I just didn't want to write, and I was actually afraid of writing. I took what writers call a discouragement nap. You just crawl into bed and you just think this is a lot easier than writing. See fear manifests itself in our life as tired. Tired. And the reason we know this is because if you actually step out and confront the person, or write the chapter, or take the risk, or build the thing, or do the thing, when you're done, you don't feel tired anymore. Well how did that happen? If you were tired, you should feel more tired now that you did it, but you don't. You feel enlivened, you feel more awake, you feel more alert, you feel more excited. And this is why we cannot allow fear to overcome us, even when it's the little things like what if I reach out to that person and pray for them, or what if I do this thing God's calling me to do. So my friend, when you sense that God is asking you to do something in the way He did with Jeremiah or Moses, just do it. Don't make excuses. Just try it! What's the worst thing that will happen? Just try. Just try and see what God will do. Just obey. Be faithful in little things. Be faithful in the little things and God will trust you more and more with big things in life. God sees what you do. You know the big things to you are still little things to God. The biggest, like the president of the United States, that's still a little thing in God's mind. Do you know that? If you're not faithful with the little things, He's not going to trust you with the big things. This is true in finances. Imagine you wanted to hire a financial planner, or you wanted to go to them and they just didn't have it all together. Would you trust them with your money? You say oh, maybe someday, and if I earn more money, then all of my financial woes will go away. No! No, that's not true. You look at your bank statement at the end of the month, and you think where did it all go. Where did it.. you don't know? You don't know where it went? And when we talk about our money, God calls us stewards. When you become a believer, you don't own anything. It's all God's money. And so you don't know where it went, you just don't know? Well you think God wants to trust you with more money when you don't know where the little bit He gave you went? If you went to your financial planner and you said how is the money going with your other clients and he said, I don't know. I just don't know where it goes. Would you say oh, let me write you another.. here's more. Here's more. You got to be faithful with your little money before God allows you to steward more money. People who don't make very much sometimes never give, and they just say I'll give when I make more money. You won't! I promise, you will not give when you make more. It's a fact. I raise money for a living. All of you have gotten probably letters from me asking for money. This is expensive. It comes in, it goes out. People that give a little when they have a little, give a lot when they have a lot. People that don't give when they have a little, usually never get a lot, but if they do get a lot, they still don't give. Giving is a part of being a good steward. And this is not just giving of your money, I mean giving of your time, helping. There's so many people that say ahhh, if I was a CEO, (they're a manager,) they say if I was a CEO, I would run this company better. But you ask the people under that manager how's he running this department, and they're like ahhhh. Nahhhh. He says well if I was a CEO, I could run the big thing. NO! You got to run your department well before you can run the business well. Many people that are entry level jobs say oh, I'd be such a great manager, but nope, the floor is still dirty, or the car is unkempt, or you were late for work, or you're not kind to the people you work with. You're short tempered, right? So you see, if you're faithful in little things in life, God will trust you with big things. So many people say oh, I want to be a senior pastor, I want to have a big missionary thing, or I want to do this. But in your free time, you don't serve people, you don't pray with people, you don't share your faith, you don't study the scripture.

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You've got to be faithful in the little things if you want God to trust you with the big things. Because for God, even the big things are little things! This is what we learned from Jesus. Jesus tells us in Matthew chapter 25. He tells us a story about a great.. there was this great businessman who gives some money to some of his different servants while he's going to go away, and he wants them to build this investment. So the first guy he gives five talents. Now a talent is about twenty years' worth of work. So can we round up and say it's about a million bucks? So he gives the first guy five million dollars. He gives the second guy two million dollars. And he gives the third guy a chance, right? One million dollars. And he says I'm going to leave. Take care of this money. When I get back, give it back to me. And the guy who had five million bucks, what did he do with it, you remember? Turned it into ten million bucks. Hundred percent return. That's pretty good. The second guy he gave two million bucks, what did he do? Turn it into four million bucks. What happened to the one guy who got one million bucks? He got that money and he goes a million dollars? What do I do with a million dollars? If I lose this, what if I lose this? I can't.. this is a million dollars. So he digs a hole in the ground and buries it and guards it. Right? That's the guy who gets in trouble. So the master comes back and he says well done good and faithful servant, right? You took my five and you turned it into ten. Well done my good and faithful servant. You took my two and turned it into four. And then the guy that had one, he said I know that you reap where you haven't sown. I was so worried about this, I buried it. Right? And he gives it back. Here's your money back. I protected it. And he says you wicked servant! And then he says this famous line. For those who have much will be given even more – this is called a Matthew effect in sociology. And at first glance, it seems unfair, but it is a principle of the universe, my friends. This goes beyond Christianity. This is true of everything and everyone. For those who have much will be given more, and those who have a little, even that will be taken away. Why? I often wonder in this parable, what would have happened.. I wish I could have sat there; I would have asked this question sitting under the olives trees with Jesus, what would have happened if the man with the one million bucks invested it and lost it all. Instead of burying it, he gave you zero. Or he gave you like a thousand bucks. This is what I think, okay? It's not in the Bible, it's just what Bobby thinks. I think He would have said well done good and faithful servant. And I think He would have given him another million and said try again. I think. Maybe would have sat down and said, the problem.. what God is pointing out in this parable, and remember that word talent is where we get the phrase talented from, is not that the man didn't make any money. It's that he didn't try. Is that the other two guys responded out of faith, right? They did something, they got creative, but this guy, everything he did was out of fear. And when we get afraid, we get, what? Tired. We get tired. We just bury it, protect it, just survive, just get through another day. When my master gets back. Who would trust someone with money like that? And this isn't about money, by the way. This is not about money. It's about how you spend your time. It's about how you use this precious gift called life. Do you live by faith or live out of fear? And this parable, by the way, goes right into the next super famous parable about the sheep and the goats. And it says for the Son of Man will come back and He'll sit on His glorious throne, and all the nations will be gathered around, and He'll separate them into two groups, sheep's and goats. You know this passage. And He'll say to those on His right, the sheep, He will say "you who are blessed by my Father in heaven, enter into the kingdom that was prepared for you before the creation of the earth, and receive your inheritance. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me." "And they will look at Him and go, when did we do any of that?" We never did that for a king. And He will say "when you did it to the least of these, you did it to me." When you did it to the invisible people out there, or the annoying people, or the.. whatever. When you did it for these ones, you did it for me. And when we read that passage, we're supposed to put our Jesus glasses on, you see? And recognize that what the world calls a big deal is not always a big deal to God. And what we think is not a big deal is a huge deal to God. You see? And when we are faithful in the little things, God says okay, I can trust them with more. When we turn two million bucks into four million bucks, in kingdom terms, when we serve the least of these, as Peter, our interview guest earlier, just fostering kids. What God called him to do. Foster kids who were like him. We do that. He's got 26 kids now! Maybe you don't want 26 kids. Maybe do something else. But God is basically saying to do something. Do something. Don't wait until the big thing comes, do the little thing. Do the little thing. If you have those Jesus glasses and you saw somebody that was in need and you were able to see it through the lens of okay if I help this person, in God's eyes, it's the same as helping Jesus. Would that have an impact on you? I hope it would.

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Sheep and goats don't look that different. If you grew up on a farm, which I didn't. I'm a city boy. But still. This is a sheep and a goat. They're pretty similar. This is a goat with his horns cut off, which happens all the time in the Middle East. Horns are not always a good thing. The best way to know the difference between a sheep and a goat, if they're both a white color like that, is what? How they act. They are definitely different on the inside. There's an old saying that says if your fence can't hold in water, it can't hold in a goat. Goats are ornery, they're Lone Rangers, they go off and do their own thing. And goats have to be driven, whereas sheep all are like really sweet to each other, and they work together, and they group together, and they are led. They follow the shepherd wherever the shepherd goes. They are like opposites even though they look similar. And that's how it'll be in the kingdom. If you served in the little things, if you care about the little things, you'll be in the group that God says come and receive your inheritance. So you want to find your calling? Of course you want to find your calling. Of course you want to make an impact. Of course you want your life to matter and make a difference. But, if you want those things, ironically it needs to not be about you and your calling anymore. It needs to be about finding a need and filling it. So here's a wrong question to ask: What's my calling? What's my calling, Lord? Here's the right question to ask: where is a need God wants me to fill? Just start looking around with those eyes. Where is there a kingdom of God need that needs to be filled? And you might even recognize that someone like you has a unique set of skills or experience or perspective to make a real positive difference in this kingdom of God need. Here's a wrong question to ask: what title do I want? What job do I want? What ministry do I want? Here's the right question to ask: who does God want me to become? In what ways shall I be different a year from now, five years from now, two weeks from now? What steps will I take to become a different kind of person that lives according to the kingdom? Here's a wrong question to ask: how can I get a raise? Anybody want a raise? Everybody wants a raise. That's the wrong question to ask – how can I get a raise will never get you a raise. Here's the right question to ask: how can I become more valuable to my team? How can I increase my value in the marketplace? How can I become someone at my job that's indispensable, they would do anything to keep me? If you feel that way, you know you'll get your raise when you ask for it. Or, if you feel like you wouldn't get a raise, you know that at another place you'll get a better job. You'll be able to leverage that position, you see? So asking how can I become more valuable is a better question. These are the kinds of questions in the kingdom of God that matter. It's about who you become. It's about who you become. So if you want to get closer to those great things that God's calling you to, this message is for you! God wants you to hear this message. Start finding small ways you can make a little difference and God will trust you with more. Think with a relaxed mind. Relax. Relax. Don't think with an angry mind. When you're angry, you act like a drunk would. Right? Anybody experience that? When you're angry, you say things you wish you hadn't have said, you do things you wish you hadn't done, you drive recklessly, anybody? We should get an AUI. Wait, is that.. DUA – driving under anger. Think with a relaxed mind. When you have a fearful mind and you're spinning your wheels and you're really afraid, what happens? You become? Tired, right. Or if you think with a hurried mind, always hasty, always trying to get to the next thing, always in a hurry, you become clumsy. You start messing things up and tipping things over. It ends up taking much longer, ironically. So think with a relaxed, clear mind when you think about your life. My grandpa used to say never cut a tree down in winter. Because on a farm, when you look at a bunch of trees in winter, all the trees look dead. But when spring comes, some of them come back to life and some don't. And so what he meant by that is don't make big decisions in your life when you're in a bad mood. Just make that a rule. If I'm feeling angry, hurried, or scared, just don't make big decisions. Just chill out. Wait until you're in a good mood, and then make those key decisions in your life so you don't cut down something that's still alive. In life, it is important that we see what the world thinks is important, is not actually probably as important to you. When you actually get it, you'll realize it doesn't have the value you thought it would. See the world through the lens of the kingdom of God, and recognize that when I serve others, I am taking a step to leading a meaningful, powerful life that God planned out for me. But to get there, I have to be faithful in the little things before He trusts me with the big things. So Lord, we come to you in Jesus name, and we thank you for all you've given to us. How kind you are to us. Lord, all of us want to make an impact with our lives. All of us want to do great things for you. We pray in Jesus' name that today you'd give us eyes to see the small things; that we'd be faithful to you over time in these things, and we ask it all in Jesus' name, all God's people said, amen.