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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 friends. We are so, so happy you're here. Reminder that greater is the living God who is inside of you, than the enemy who is in the world. This is the truth. You are loved.

BS: Amen. We're so glad that you're here today. Just believe that God's going to do something really special in your life and in this week. I think it's so great how you started your week here and this is the right way to begin a good week, so we're just going to believe for that. Lord, we thank you so much that your Holy Spirit is here and present in this place. We come here in the spirit of worship. We want to lift up your name, Lord, and say thank you for all that you've done, all that you're doing. We bring all our cares before you and we love you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said amen.

HS: Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – Matthew 16,21-25 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Matthew 16:21. From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. The word of God.

INTERVIEW – David Hernandez

David Hernandez is an author, speaker, and evangelist whose focus is primarily on the power of the Holy Spirit and healing. He is also an evangelist with The Encounter TV Network, including the program Word and Spirit. His newest book, Holy Spirit: The Bondage Breaker, looks at how to recognize spiritual warfare and break free from spiritual attacks.

HS: David! Hi! We're so thrilled you could join us today.

DH: Blessed to be here. Thank you for having me.

HS: Bobby and I are huge fans of your ministry. I have probably watched over a hundred of your Instagram videos. They are truly scripturally insightful and am really grateful for the ministry that you do.

DH: Well I'm also thankful for your ministry. It's a blessing to so many I know.

HS: Thank you. Well David, tell us a little bit about yourself and your faith journey.

DH: Well I'm an evangelist. I love Jesus. I preach the simple gospel message of the cross and repentance. And I travel the world seeing people's lives changed by God's power, so it's an honor and a privilege to be able to steward that ministry. And I gave my life to the Lord when I was 11-years-old. I was a fourth generation Christian, third generation preacher. I knew Jesus socially, historically, philosophically, but I did not know Jesus personally until the age of 11 when I accepted the Lord. There were so many things that were happening at the time; I'm sure we'll get into it. But I'm so grateful that He saved me, and I want others to know about that. I'm married to my beautiful wife Jessica and I have a four year old daughter named Aria.

Choose Your Hard; Choose Your Easy

HS: Wonderful. So you've been a Christian a most of your entire life, and multiple generations, and I love that.

DH: At this point, yes.

HS: Wonderful. So your newest book is called the Holy Spirit – The Bondage Breaker. I love that title. So what prompted you to write this book?

DH: Well, I believe that it's God's will for every believer to walk in perfect liberty. I often say something that gets misunderstood because it can sound so insensitive to the struggles that people are facing, but acknowledging that people have struggles and acknowledging that there are issues, very real issues, even myself from time to time, there are instances where I have to bring myself back on track, correct my thinking. But the truth of the matter is that if you are still bound, you're not living the Christian life. And by that, I mean say not that you're not a Christian if you struggle, but rather that God has given to us the opportunity, a standard to which we can aspire that includes ultimate freedom. Whom the son sets free is free indeed. Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. So that is what the Christian life is supposed to be. That is the ideal Christian life to which we must aspire. And I at some point in my life even accepted this notion that Christians must accept at least some form of spiritual bondage, and I even, in my own ego, dug my heels in on these types of beliefs with phrases like 'well, the enemy is only attacking me because he knows how big of a threat I am.' And I didn't really reconcile that with scripture, it was just something I kind of repeated because it had been repeated to me so often. But the Bible says resist the devil and he will flee! Not he will fight, not he will increase his attack against you, at least for that instance. So I wanted to be able to communicate that message of freedom, because I had experienced that freedom myself. For years I struggled with severe anxiety, even as a preacher, and this is what shocks a lot of people; even as a preacher, as a pastor, ministering deliverance, ministering healing, preaching salvation, even as an evangelist experiencing panic attacks in my own personal life, and I couldn't reconcile that, and I was even feeling in some instances very discouraged because the enemy would attack me with thoughts like 'well you're fake' or 'how can you preach it to others and you yourself are struggling.' And there were some things that I had to reconnect within the scripture, and reevaluate about my own doctrines and beliefs concerning spiritual warfare. And so I wrote this book because I believe that it's God's will for every believer to walk in perfect liberty. I don't mean we'll never struggle. Of course we'll have trials. Of course we'll have instances that are not perfectly ideal to exactly what we want them to be. But when it comes down to it, internally we should have love, joy and peace no matter the circumstance. So that's why I wrote it. I want to help believers get to that place where no matter what's coming against them, they have joy, peace and victory within.

HS: Wow. I cannot tell you how every word you are saying is exactly what has been on my heart and rings so true to me. And I had a similar experience about three years ago where the Lord healed me and set me free. I had multiple autoimmune diseases, all these things. I just felt bondage. And here I am, a pastor's wife who's grown up in the church and just kind of accepting it, like oh, it's just like a persecution, or whatever. But then really investigating. I thought, no, no, Jesus came that we could have life! And life to the full! And I still remember with that time when I just got complete freedom, and now I'm healed, like I don't struggle with any of those.. all the autoimmune things have diminished from me. And just that song that goes He called me out of the grave, and that's how I felt just like coming out of the grave into life! And I love the your title of your book, and I love that you wrote this book because I just think it's so important. And I agree with you that we're going to have.. the Bible says we will have trials. He guarantees us that, but He also says we have victory and that there is freedom in the Lord. So I just love that. Okay, so here's a question for you. I love asking people, just when I'm at a dinner party or things like that, but do you have a life experience where you saw God move in such a way that it would be impossible to forget. Now I bet you have a lot, but is there one that comes to your mind where you're like I cannot un-see that or ever forget that experience.

DH: I would say that there was an instance where after one of the services, a mother brought to me her daughter, they waited by the side door. We like to do a prayer room afterwards. And we came out, prayed with them, and this little girl had a hearing loss, I believe it was in her left ear. And her mother kind of forced her to receive prayer. You know those times where the parents are like hey, pray for my son, pray for my daughter and they're just kind of looking at you like please don't. And so not that that was her posture, exactly. I don't know what was going through her mind, but in terms of her demeanor, she just seemed very hesitant, like she didn't really want to be there, like it was kind of an awkward situation for her.

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She comes forward, her mother is pressing her and please receive prayer. So my team and I just lay hands on her, just asking the Lord – Lord, do as only you can do, we ask you to open her ear. And it was within seconds of praying that you see her kind of jolt like this, and her face, her whole demeanor just goes from one of hesitation and awkwardness, to just absolute shock. And she looks at her mom and she starts touching her ear. Her ear opened up right then and there. Now that of course we've seen time and time again, but one of the things I like about this story, which is probably unique to it in this regard, the mom actually went back and made the medical staff continue to run tests, and as they did run tests, they said things like surely our machine is broken. There has to be something wrong with the test. Let's do it again. And so they did it again and again and again because they just could not believe that the report that they had originally filed said one thing, and then now there was a completely different story being told, even on the paper. Now we have, of course, medical documentation of several of the healings, but it's not always that you get to have those testimonies told in that way. So that was one instance in particular. I mean you can't explain that, and I understand in the medical profession, they say things like well you can't necessarily prove that it was God, but I think they have a term for it in some instances where they say like spontaneous recuperation or something like that. But the fact of the matter was, she could not hear, she received prayer, and then she could hear. And there was no denying those facts.

HS: Thank you, Lord.

DH: And so I thought that was pretty astounding to have that testimony.

HS: I love that. Thank you, Lord. So one last question for you, David. What encouragement would you offer people who want the life and life to the full that Jesus talks about, but aren't sure where to begin.

DH: Well, the reality is that everything that God has promised to you, all that Christ died to give you has already been given to you. It's not a matter of you getting more of the Holy Spirit. It's a matter of the Holy Spirit getting more of you. The Bible says in 2nd Corinthians 10:4-5, we use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. Now if Jesus said you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free, that means if you're still bound, and there's a lie that you're still believing in, somewhere you have to discover what that lie is, combat that lie with the truth, and then continue to walk in the freedom that God has for you. But I'll say to you that it is yours, it is available, no matter how long you tried to be free, no matter how many times you've tried to be free, no matter how many times you've had your hopes come up only to see them come dashing down, you can, you will be free. The Holy Spirit is your bondage breaker.

HS: Amen. Amen. Hundred percent agree with you. Holy Spirit – The Bondage Breaker is available wherever books are sold. David Hernandez, thank you for sharing with us. God loves you and so do we.

DH: Thank you.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Well whoever you are, would you stand with us? Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving from the Holy Spirit. Let's say this together: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. 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 / PRAYER – Bobby Schuller – "Choose Your Hard; Choose Your Easy "

I want to begin by asking you a question. I'm wondering if maybe you've lost your way. It's happened to all of us at times. Life gets hard. We face temptations. We face trials. Maybe at one time in your life you went to church with your grandma, or you went to Sunday school, or maybe one time you had some kind of a faith but you lost your way. Maybe you feel far from God. You don't really know if God is with you or if you're at peace with the Lord. I want to encourage you today to make a decision to follow Jesus. If you make that decision, your life will never be the same. He was crucified for our sin, He was raised from the dead so that we could be in heaven with Him. Invite Christ in your heart today and if you do that, will you text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen. I know you'll never be the same. When I look at the world that we live in today - this is God's world. God made this world. Yes, its fallen, yes it has flaws, yes there's danger; there's all sorts of things.

Choose Your Hard; Choose Your Easy

God made this world, it's His world. And this world is so full of opportunity, of doors, of possibilities, of life. All these things are available to you and to me if we believe. And Jesus has provided us the many tools we need to access this life that's full of opportunity and possibility. Amen? And so I want to talk about those tools today, but first, let's open the word of God to see what Jesus actually says in Matthew chapter 16. It says, "From that time on, Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and that He must be killed, and on the third day, be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him." Can you imagine the hutzpah there, rebuking Jesus? It takes a lot. "Never Lord, he said, this shall never happen to you. Jesus turned and said to Peter, get behind me Satan. You are a stumbling block to me. You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns. Then Jesus said to his disciples whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it." Famous passage, right? If you've grown up in church, you've read that many times. It is what it says it is. It's true. This story begins in a place, if you remember, there was a sermon I gave long ago in place called Caesarea Philippi, and this is where Jesus tells this story. You might remember, I was in Israel, and there was a guy in the background, I didn't see at the time, going like this. Anybody remember that? That's how you know it wasn't a green screen like all the other pastors. I actually go to Israel. Just kidding. And you can go with us, too, in February, if you want. But that was an amazing place. That place was called The Rock of the Gods. It was a place where Pan was worshipped, and there were other idols that were worshipped there. And the way that the worship would happen, typically, was this big wild party type thing. And when I say party, I don't mean a nice party like a wedding, or a birthday, or a celebration of an anniversary. I mean the most pagan thing you can think of. Burning Man on steroids. Think of all sorts of debauchery, drugs, all of these things. And so Jesus, when He's there, He tells Peter "on this rock I will build my church." On this rock. Catholics say that means that Peter should be the Pope, the head of the church. Protestants say no, no, that means that it's his confession is the rock of the church. Truth is, I think, it doesn't mean either one of those things. Jesus is pointing to this rock. On this rock, the rock of the gods, I will build my church. What is He saying? I want you, my disciples to go here. I want your world to be bigger than your synagogue. I want your calling to be bigger than just reading your Bible, although that's really important. I want you to go to the places you feel uncomfortable in. To reach people here who are obviously lost and in need. I want you to go there! One way you might say it is there is a party, right? There's this amazing party, I guess you could say, that the world would like. And then there's this other party that Jesus offers, or it's not a party, this other option Jesus offers, and it's a hard road. Jesus offers us a cross. He offers us a challenge. He offers us pain. And I know most people when they hear that, they say okay, I got a choice between pain or a party, I think I'm going to choose the party. I think I'm going to choose the rock of the gods. And I would just say to you, not so fast. Those of you who have done some serious partying in your life, you probably already know what I'm going to say. Not so fast. Not so fast. Here's what happens in our world. Endless partying is what happens when someone loses their soul. This endless partying is what happens when somebody begins to lose their life. I think that today we're always looking for what's more entertaining, what's more fun, what's more enjoyable, and you guys know me, I am a fun guy. I'm like a mushroom, right? I'm fun. I love a good laugh, I love a good party. But this is not what we're talking about. We're talking about this obsession with constantly needing the next hit, the next thing. So seizing life is not about fun, it's about becoming a person. And this is really the message that Jesus gives us about laying down your life to seize it. Here's another way of saying it. Jesus said it like this: there's two paths. You remember this, don't you? There's two paths. There's one path that's really, really easy, but it leads to a dead kind of life, a dead life. Death. And then there's this other life, this other road, it's very hard, its narrow, it's difficult to tread, but it leads to life, real life! The kind of life you were born to have. The kind of life you really want. And that life is waiting for you. That life is waiting for you right now. That life is calling out to you. It's calling out to you. But the only problem is between you and that life is a difficult road, a narrow road, a hard road. I think most of the people that are in this church right now, and most of you who are watching on television would say I believe that. I believe that the thing between me and my dream is a hard road. I believe that there's this amazing thing that's set aside for me that I can't seem to find. I believe that. And I'm going to get on that road - tomorrow. I'm going to get on that road when the economy gets a little better. I'm going to get on that road when I get a raise. You see.

Choose Your Hard; Choose Your Easy

And this is the trick is that many of us, we believe the road is there, we believe the calling is there, but we still have not taken the first step to be on that road. So why not? Why not take the road? Why not take the narrow road if you believe it to be true? If you believe it's real, if you believe that there's this great thing waiting for you, why not take that road? And here I want to talk to you about the four why not's. There's four why not's that I think every single person says and why they don't get on the narrow road that leads to life. Here's the first why not. It's because the road seems bigger than the prize. Now I want to encourage you today, friends, what we're going to see today is going to change your life. I want you to take notes. Don't trust your brain. You say I'll remember it later. You won't remember these things later. You can take your phone out and take a picture, you can take your phone out and take notes, you can take out a sheet of paper and write it down, but I want to encourage you, okay? Many of us, we're not on the road we need to be on because the road seems bigger than the prize. Jesus tells us something like this. It's like there was a man and he was wondering around some land, and he saw this bit of wood or something sticking out of the ground. At first it looked like a root. But then he decided to take a closer look, dig around it, and he found whoa, it's a treasure chest. And inside was this immense treasure. Quickly, he buries it up again. He recognizes that what's in that box is worth so much, so he goes and he does everything he can. Sells all that he has, even all of his clothing, except the clothing on his back, goes back to the land owner, buys the land, and gets this great reward. You say well that was too expensive, and he says no sir, it was not. You say that cost a lot. But look at what – the prize. Look at the prize. Look at the reward. The prize is worth it. Can we just say that your victory is worth it, is worth the price. Can we say that your health is worth it, that your finished book is worth it. That the people you lead, it's worth it. Your dream is worth it. I want to encourage you, friend, fall in love with your dream again. If you fall in love with your dream, if you know what it looks like, if you could taste it, if you could see it, if it's in your bones, if it's in your blood, the narrow path that you're called to walk gets easier and easier, and you get more and more excited. And there's a second point. Here's the little secret about the narrow road – the narrow road itself is part of the prize. What do you mean the narrow road? There's this story in the Bible about ten lepers who always wanted this great healing, and Jesus goes to them. Normally Jesus, when He heals somebody, He touches them and they're healed, and that's it. It's a one and done. But in this story, He says go to the temple and show yourself to the priest. And the Bible says as they went they were healed. Now I think this is true for us. When we're called to do something for God, there's an "as they went" moment in many of our lives. There's something about the actual path itself that is also a prize. The excitement of the dream itself. The hope of the calling. The challenge that you face like a game. The personal growth you experience within yourself. The friends you make along the way. The path itself isn't as bad as it looks because the path itself is also the prize – the person you become. Here's something they don't tell you about the easy road. Here's something they don't tell you about that really wide road that leads to death. Here's something they don't tell you about that parking lot paved easy road is that that road is boring. That's the other secret. You say I don't like to get up in the morning because yeah, you're walking the easy road. I don't want to go to bed because I got to get back on the easy road tomorrow. My friend, I'm telling you, choose the narrow road. Choose the narrow road. Okay, here's another thing about this narrow road and its difficulties. Jesus tells us that when you follow Him, His burden is easy, but it's still a burden, right? And His yoke is light. And that you got to take up your cross and follow Him. That sounds like a paradox, doesn't it? Well which one is it? Is it a difficult cross that you carry or is it an easy burden and a light yoke. And the answer is it's kind of both. Let me explain it this way. We have somebody here that works in our ministry here, Catherina Plaza. I had the joy of marrying her and her husband. It always sounds weird when a pastor says that. I didn't marry her and her husband, I married her and her husband. That makes sense, right? Okay. When I was explaining this in chapel last week, this idea that Jesus is teaching, she goes, 'and that reminds me of something they say on the internet. They say this thing to motivate people that goes like this. They say choose your hard. Choose your hard.' I said well tell me about that. What does that mean? She says 'well it's kind of like this. Marriage is hard, but divorce is hard. Obesity is hard, but eating well is hard. They're both hard.' And so that's true, isn't it. It reminds me of something Jerzy Gregorek said. He said "hard choices, easy life. Easy choices, hard life." Isn't that the truth? So choose your hard. Marriage is hard, divorce is hard. Being fit is hard, being unhealthy is hard. Creating is hard, being unfulfilled is hard. They're both hard. Telling the truth is hard, but living every day haunted by guilt, that's hard, too, isn't it. So choose your hard.

Choose Your Hard; Choose Your Easy

But then it's also easy, in a way. It's kind of easy. What do you mean it's easy? It's like this. The things that we really need to do to get the life we want, it's really just calling on us to do a little bit more than we have every day. It's like this. It's actually easy to read your Bible for five minutes a day. How hard is that? Who here thinks it's hard to read your Bible for five minutes. It's easy, right? It's easy to read your Bible. It's easy to write down your goals. It's easy to pray for someone when they're hurting. It's easy to reflect when you're in bed and think about how your day went. It's easy to get eight hours of sleep. It's easy to treat people decently. It's easy to attend church on Sunday. It's easy to start. It's easy to start that project, that dream, that song, that whatever it is you're called to do. So then why don't more people do it? Because it's easy not to do. Isn't that the truth? So choose your hard and choose your easy. Choose your hard, choose your easy. All right, that was a long description for number one. That's the first reason why a lot of people don't get on that narrow road. Here's the second reason why a lot of people don't get on the narrow road that leads to life. This is a sad one. We've all been there before. Maybe you walked the narrow road once in your life. Maybe you were on the adventure. Maybe you were going down the path and you fell off or you got burned or something bad happened. Here's the number two reason. It's because you say to yourself I can't go through that again. You ever feel that way some of you, you were walking the narrow road. The narrow road is dangerous, isn't it? No one said it was easy. It's dangerous. And maybe when you were on that narrow road once in life, you fell into a deep winter. You fell into a deep pit and you couldn't get out, and you were all alone. You fell off a cliff. You did all the work and for no reason of your own, all your crops got wiped out by the hailstorm, and you just say I can't do it again. Maybe you had multiple miscarriages. Maybe you went through a divorce and you just say I can't get married again. Maybe you went through a detox and now you've fallen off the wagon and you can't go through that again. Maybe a lawsuit. Maybe you were wounded by religious people and you just can't find your way back into a church or back into God's life again. You just say I can't go through that again, Pastor Bobby. Let me say this to you: if you try again, if you try again, and you get the victory, I promise you'll look back and you'll say I'm so glad I tried again. You say to me well what if I don't get the victory? Well that's true, but here's what I can guarantee you – you won't get the victory if you don't try again. A wise man once said I'd rather attempt to do something great and fail, than attempt to do nothing and succeed. You say I can't go through it again. My friend, never underestimate what you and God can get through together. I know the living word of God inside of you can carry you through all you need to get to, so get back on the road to life. It's where you belong. All right, number three. Here's the number three reason why most people have a tough time getting back on the narrow road that leads to life. You say something like my friends, my colleagues, and my family, I got to tell you Bobby, they will not like it. Your friends or your colleagues or your neighbors or somebody you know said something, and I just know they're not going to like it. This is a huge thing that keeps us from being all that we were called to be. I remember when I made a decision to follow Christ. I grew up in church, I grew up in a Christian family, but when I was 15, I really had gotten in a spot where it was not something personally for me, and none of my friends really were Christians. And I remember when I made a decision to follow Christ, I knew that they were not going to like it. In fact, my best friend was starting to get into drugs. He had been my friend since I was a little kid. We were like brothers. I had other friends who I just knew they weren't going to like it. And I knew that there was a very good chance I would lose those friends. And you know what? I lost every single one of them. A lot of us, we look back and we go who cares about when I was 15.. I can't remember any of my friends when I was 15. But when you're 15, it feels like a lot. It felt like a lot, at the time. Do I regret making that decision? Absolutely not because here's the thing – you can't let what people, what my friends and all this stuff, you can't let that keep you from fulfilling your calling. Here's another story. I remember when I was starting at this church. Hannah and I, we started the church called Tree of Life, and we were doing this wonderful thing for God, it was this great experience, and I felt like man, I want to combine Tree of Life and Crystal Cathedral, and I want to create this thing called Shepherd's Grove, and in my mind, I was like they're not going to like it. The Tree of Life folks aren't going to like it. Or I had these people in my mind, I was like I don't think they'll like it. I don't think they'll like it. Yet I felt like it was what God was calling me to do. And we did it, we brought it together, and guess what – most people kind of liked it! And so it was all in my mind. We play these games where we just project on the people that love us that they're not going to like it, or they're going to put immense pressure on us to not do it. And maybe they will, but guess what – maybe they won't. In the end, you'll be glad you did it. You never know. People talk, people threaten, people say this and people say that.

Choose Your Hard; Choose Your Easy

Do what you're called to do and don't become a doormat and don't let people push you around. Yes, be nice, don't be rude, but do what God calls you to do. Because here's the other thing that will happen – if you decide not to follow your calling, and be who you're created to be, you will resent the people that you blame from keeping you from going there. Here's what they will like – they will like what that goal and dream makes of you. They will like who you become because every great calling demands that we become someone new. Can I get an amen? All right. Here's the last number four reason, especially in a place like Irvine. Irvine, California, you may or may not know, the average income here per household is a \$140,000 a year. This is a very successful place. It's full of executives and doctors, attorneys, people who have done well, educated people. Here's the biggest danger of all for the narrow road for people like that is this reason – I've got it pretty good. Why risk a decent life for a great life. I've got it pretty good. I've got a nice house, I've got a nice family, things are going fine. I've got some money saved up. Things are looking up for me. Why would I pursue a new dream? Things are good. I don't want to risk it all. Risk it all. Here's the reason why. Here's the reason why you still go on the narrow road, even when you've succeeded in the past. Here's the reason. The man said we have two choices in life. To become all that we were made to be, or to be less than we were made to be. Every day you have a choice to make of your life – to be all that you were made to be, or to be less than you were made to be. Human beings are the only creatures that can do this. Every tree grows as big as it can. Every animal does what its instinct tells us. We have a dignity of choice to be as big as we can, or to be less than we can be. If you can see the narrow road, that means its calling to you. If you can see the dream, if you can see the path, if you can see the prize that means that the thing itself has chosen you to walk on that path. Here, let me ask you another question for those of you who are worried about losing your pretty good life to get a really great life. When was the last time you felt really alive? Now some of you say I feel really alive right now, and that is great. But some of you will say it's been some time. But I'm a good man, a responsible woman, a good person. I'm faithful and that's good. But when was the last time you really felt alive, and I'm going to wager the last time you really felt alive was the last time you were building something. Or it was the last time you were making something. It was the last time you were writing something, or struggling to be better. It was the last time you were reaching out. It was the last time you were making an impact. That was the probably the last time you felt really, really alive. You weren't looking for a safe life, you were looking for a great life. You weren't looking for an easy road, you were looking for the pearl of great price. And even now, you can kind of feel it calling out to you. Don't turn a deaf ear to your calling. Somebody says to me, well it's good to rest, it's good to take a break, isn't it Bobby? Of course it's good to rest, but not too long. Not too long. When you've done well in life, it's easy to rest a little longer than you ought to. The rust starts to gather in the joints and in the brain, and the cobwebs get to forming, and you get this little bit of inertia where you constantly say tomorrow or next week or next month or next year, or when the economy gets better. Not too long. You say doesn't the fourth commandment tell us to rest, and the answer is no! The fourth commandment is you shall honor the Sabbath and keep it holy. And then you say well what does it mean to honor the Sabbath? I'll tell you. The Lord says thou shalt work! Thou shalt work six days a week and thou shalt rest on the seventh day. Now that's how Jews teach it. That's how the rabbis teach it. The commandment is to work six days and rest one day. We like to just say it's just rest at least a minimum of one day. Now what is work? You might say well that sounds horrible. Well, it's time to get better work. This is what work means. It means to create. To make. To study. To grow. To expand. To do. It's the music, it's the effort, it's the things you're doing with your daily time. It's trading. It's these types of things. So it's thou shalt work and rest. Why do you think life goes so fast? This is a big question that many people face. Why does life go so fast? Why does it feel like the years go just flying by? The guiding old philosophy used to be that when you're five, for example, then one year, as a percentage of your life, is 20% of your life, so no wonder when you turn six, that's like a long time, right? And so when you turn 50, then one year of your life is only two percent of your life, so no wonder a year is not a big deal. It's completely wrong. They've actually discovered, scientifically, what the real reason is; why your brain experiences time moving faster as you get older. Here's the reason. Everybody listening? You want to slow down your life? About to give you the answer. Here it is. Your life slows down when you have new experiences in your memory. So the reason why children, their life goes so slow is every day's a new day, every thing's a new thing. You think well what am I supposed to do, jump out of an airplane every day? No! You see a new bird, that's something new. New is new. A new book, a new idea, a new friend, a new haircut, all of these count as something new. You do something new, your life slows down in your memory.

Choose Your Hard; Choose Your Easy

And you can actually test this. They've seen it that people who get out of the rut and the rhythms of everyday life, their life begins to slow down. I remember something happened to me in COVID, you might have noticed. During COVID, I have this personal thing that I just hate being told what to do, I love being the boss, and I hate the government. And when COVID happened, I had this big brother telling me what to do, and I couldn't go to the beach, and I couldn't go outside, and I couldn't get my most favorite thing in the whole world – food. I couldn't get my favorite food. It was a terrible.. poor Bobby, boo, hoo. But I tell you what, when I got out of that, I thought a lot about my life during COVID, and I think many of us did here. And I thought about I have allowed too many days of my life to not count. From this day forward, I will be different, and I have been. Can I tell you the last three years of my life have been slow, very slow? Yesterday, I saw some Halloween stuff come out, which still seems pretty early, and I was like Halloween. Is Christmas not here? This is the slowest year ever! But in a good way. Why is it slow? I'll tell you why. I don't watch TV. I'll tell you why. I try, and am I perfect at this, no. I still waste time. But I try every day, intentionally to make every sip of coffee count, to make every bit of eye contact count, to make every word count, and I commit as much of my life to personal growth as I can. What I'm asking you to do today, I'm asking you to do it because it's been a gift to me because it's transformed my life. We call it discipleship. It's the missing part of Christianity that has been forgotten in churches. The daily commitment to be more like Christ. And so when you do that, when you commit your life to more, to be more, to do more for God, your life gets bigger, and guess what – your life gets longer in terms of how you experience it. It slows down in just the way you want it to. So, do as much as possible. Be as much as possible. Touch as many lives as you can. Pray for as many people as you can today. Give as much as you can. Make as many friends as you can. Earn as much as you can. Read and study as much as you can. Create as much as you possibly can. And most of all grow as much as possible for you. I want you to get back on the narrow road, and I know your life will never be the same. Father, we ask for that in Jesus' name. We pray that you'd bring us back to the narrow road that leads to life. And we pray that if we lose some people along the way, that you'll bring alongside us the right kind of friends. Lord, we love you and we thank 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.