

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

Hour of Power 21.04.2024

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, church family, welcome visitors. Thank you so much for joining us today. The Bible says that God inhabits the praises of His people. So He is here now with us, and He loves you.

BS: Amen, we're believing you're going to leave here changed, that the worship, the message, that everything that is offered here will change your life, if you receive it. Let's come into this service with an open heart today. Lord, we thank you for your Holy Spirit, and we ask in Jesus' name that you'd forgive us of our sins, that you'd transform us, that we would leave here renewed, refreshed and restored, and we ask it all in Jesus' name, 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 – Romans 13,8-10 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Romans 13:8-10. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Amen.

INTERVIEW – Dr. Shane Stanford

Dr. Shane Stanford is an author, pastor, and CEO of the Moore-West Center for Theology and JourneyWise. His new book, JourneyWise: Redeeming the Broken and Winding Roads We Travel, recounts his journey in life and the suffering he's endured along the way. He also writes on the Beatitudes and how to reflect on them and apply their teaching to our own lives.

BS: Dr. Stanford, hi. Thank you so much for joining us. I'm really excited..

SS: Thank you.

BS: ..about your book. I noticed here that you're friends with Len Sweet. It's a mutual friend. Welcome, we're so glad to have you.

SS: That's right. Thank you. Good to be with you.

BS: Hey, I want to talk to you about your story, which is an unbelievable one. Before we get to your book, tell people a little bit about your faith journey. I know you've had some health problems, and sort of how the Lord carried you through that.

SS: Well I was born a hemophiliac, which is for those who don't know, is someone who doesn't clot or heal very well. And from the first part of my childhood, we really had some struggles with injuries and so forth, but eventually they came up with this miracle medicine called Factor, which was made from human blood donations, and for about six/seven years, it was fine, but at the age of 16, they told me that I had tested positive for HIV because of the blood transfusions, and then two years later tested positive for Hep-C. And I had grown up in the church, I had become a Christian at the age of nine. I had a very, I thought, very strong relationship with the Lord, great parents who were very active in the church. But one of the things that struck me, Reverend Schuller, was that when I found out my HIV status, I was told not to tell anyone, including members of my church. And so I had all this tension and confusion, and I knew the Lord was leading me into a vocation of ministry, but had to go through a lot of different obstacles on the way.

BS: I can't imagine that. Obviously there's this stigma associated with HIV, but also in the 80's, HIV, I remember, felt like a death sentence.

How Service Changes Lives: The True Measure of Success

I remember when Magic Johnson got HIV, everybody was like he's going to die soon, and it was such a challenge in the 80's, it still is, but I mean especially back then, but the fact that you just got it through a treatment. Now I was under the impression that they maybe test the blood for contamination, that they treat the blood before they give it to people. How did that happen?

SS: Well in the late 70's, they did not just not test it for any types of viruses, they didn't heat treat it, which means that anything that possibly was in there, would just continue to grow. They didn't start that until the early 1980's and so I missed the window of when they started treating the blood, and I will tell you that there have been times in my life where I've wondered about these windows that I've missed, but at the same time, I also was having a chance to meet with other hemophiliacs, and getting to know people who were on the same journey as me. We were all pre-medicine, though, and so unfortunately I'm the only hemophiliac of that group of about 12 or 13 that are still with us.

BS: Wow. Well and the fact that you have HIV and all of these other things, I mean you look healthy, obviously you're not sixteen anymore, I mean what it..

SS: What gave it away?

BS: So what do you think carried you through? I mean there's a lot of people listening now that have been dealt a really awful hand. What sort of hope do you offer those folks who are listening now?

SS: Well I was very privileged to always have very good healthcare, but I think the fine line, the thing that really helped me go over the hill of so many struggles was the fact that I had a very deep, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He was not just my Lord and Savior, which indeed He is, but He was my friend and I always had a chance to see Him that way. So I knew I was not alone, no matter where I was on the journey.

BS: Your book is called JourneyWise, and you really tell a great story and really hold people's hands through these kinds of challenging things. Tell us a little bit about your book. I know it has to do with the Beatitudes.

SS: Well, my grandmother used this phrase most of my adolescent life – journey wise – and as a child, too, and I remember asking her one day what she thought of that, and why that verse was so important to her. And she said she used the phrase because she would rather learn something from every step along the way than to be born the wisest person on the planet. And she would always reference poor Solomon in that case. When she passed away, I found that she was reading five different translations of the Beatitudes, and so I took those with me after the funeral, pinned them up to my wall and began to read those every day for a year. And what I discovered was that God had opened up, not just the power of these blessings, but the Beatitudes also have a promise to each of them, something that says if you are able to be pure in spirit, which means to basically rid of yourself of all self-interests, empty yourself so that there're more of a place for God to fill up, and indeed you're going to have this, you're going to be able to see the kingdom of God. Mourning, those who mourn, who have risked enough to love, are going to be comforted. These are declarative statements. So it's not just that God might do this for you, but if you live these beatitudes, God has promised these things to you. And He's never failed me in those promises.

BS: I love the Beatitudes because they're often taught as commands, but they're also promises, like you said. That was a word you used. I think it's great that what Jesus is saying is He's saying things are going to change, and I think there's a lot of people that are listening right now that know the Lord, they know the Beatitudes, but maybe they're saying I feel like the Beatitudes haven't been true for me. What do you say to people who kind of are wrestling with that feeling, which many of us do as Christians sometimes?

SS: I think that probably they feel that way about most of scripture. They haven't had both the privilege of sitting under someone who can help teach it, or possibly have just not slowed down enough to experience it. But Jesus would have written the same words or said the same words had it just been one person, but those words can transform you. We have to both know them and hear them, but also understand them and live them.

BS: That's great. I want to encourage people to get a copy of this book JourneyWise: Redeeming the broken and winding roads we travel by Dr. Shane Stanford. Dr. Stanford, thank you so much. Thanks for your encouragement, and what an amazing story you've lived. Thank you.

SS: Thank you, Reverend Schuller.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

No matter who you are, would you stand with us? We're going to say this creed together as we do every week. A lot of standing and sitting today, but we want to keep you healthy. Here we go.

How Service Changes Lives: The True Measure of Success

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 – "How Service Changes Lives: The True Measure of Success"

I want to begin by giving you an opportunity. It's not offered as much as it was when I was young in churches. I try to make a point to offer it every week to every person that hears the sound of my voice, and that is to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life. It is the best decision you can make. Jesus says I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me. Now that was said and it's been written down. You can choose to believe it or choose to deny it, it's your choice, but if you believe that, choose Christ, choose to follow Him. He said anybody who denies me before men, I'll deny before my Father in heaven, but anyone who acknowledges me before men, I'll acknowledge before my Father in heaven. It's either true or it isn't. It's up to you to decide whether you believe it or not, but if you believe it, if you believe it, make a decision today to trust your life to Jesus Christ. We've all done these stupid things in the past, things we did ten years ago that keep us up at night, something we said to a relative we love, we didn't mean it. All this stuff. God can just wipe it all out. He can wipe it all out that in His eyes you have a fresh start. Get that fresh start today. If you make a decision to invite Christ into your heart, text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen. We want to pray for you. Well today I'm going to do a bit of review, some things we talked about a few weeks ago, but I think its worth revisiting, and worth sort of drilling down on a little bit because this thing, if you hear it today, your life will be changed, I promise you. This is something I've experienced, it's something that the sages of old have taught for a long time, and it's something to Jesus teaching that will completely transform your business, your relationships. And I'll get there in just a minute, but first let's set some ground rules. Number one, I believe, and I hope you do, too, that your philosophy dictates the course of your life. Your philosophy is the map in the compass of your life. It tells you where you're going. And everybody views the world through a different lens. You probably know somebody with this type of lens and that type of lens. Many people walk through life full of self-pity, and that's their philosophy. Many people walk through life blaming this person or that person or the government or their boss. Many people say I hope, I hope, I hope, but nothing ever changes. But perhaps it's those words "I hope" and that alone that's keeping them where they are. They hope that things will change. They hope their boss will be more generous. They hope that whenever their president gets in that things will get better. They hope that when this happens to interest rates, or this happens to the banking center, or this happens with their co-worker, or this happens with their spouse, or if they get married, then things will change. But very often nobody says when I change things will change. And boy that's the answer, isn't it. That's the philosophy I felt led to install into this church every single week. To understand that life changes when I change, and I can change today. Nothing is stopping me. Nothing's stopping me from understanding, nothing's stopping me from learning, nothing's stopping me from saying no to this and yes to that. I can choose today to become a new person, and I can choose to have a new philosophy. Your philosophy is your future. And we have many philosophies that bundle up into the Bobby philosophy or the whoever philosophy, right? And here's something I want you to add to your library – if you add this to your library of philosophies, your life will be changed forever. This is a mind blowing reality that seems so simple, and yet the second I say it, you're going to be tempted to reject it. But I want you to hear this and I know it will transform your life, and here's what it says: your achievement in life is equal to the impact of your service. Now you read that and you go well that's not a big deal. Serve more. No, no, no, I want you to know that your achievement in life is equal to the impact of your service. Now we're a notes church. We don't trust our brains here. We trust pen and paper. If you don't have pen and paper, you probably have this thing called a phone. Write the notes in the phone, take pictures of the screen, make sure you track this because I know it'll change your life. Okay, so your achievement is equal to the impact of your service. We see this at play right away in the early church. The early church springs up in the middle of this famous empire, the Roman Empire, wow. Lasted 800 years, conquered most of Europe, North Africa, big chunks of the Middle East. Powerful. But Rome was all about glory. All about the trophies. All about the money. And because of that, the little people in Rome really were tossed to the side. Rome said things like we don't want orphans. We don't want sick people. We don't want widows. We don't want old people unless they're rich. These are the types of things Rome would say. And when the church was springing up, it had a new idea.

How Service Changes Lives: The True Measure of Success

Your value is not based on your glory, your value is based on being a child of God. So the church, the early church in the first, second, third centuries, great history written on it called when children became people. Good line. That the church said give us your children, we'll take them. Give us your poor people. Give us your sick people. Give us your old people. Give us your abandoned people. We'll take them. Give us your slaves that are no good anymore to you. Don't kill them, don't throw them away. Just give us and they will be our brothers and our sisters. They will be honored among us. And actually, the Bible said that they very often put those people to work. Now before you hem and haw about hey, how you put them to work, remember that that was part of.. it was not only that they were going to serve these abandoned people, but show these people that they have something to give, too. That they have gifts, too. I mean isn't that part of the gift of taking someone in is showing them you can do something for this community. It may not be a big thing like this person over here, but we know you still have something to offer this community. See that's the gift is not only to be served, but to learn that you have something to offer, and you do. Boy, do you have something to offer. And because of this, I think, the churches emphasis on service undermined the whole Roman Empire. Some people believe it's the reason the Roman Empire ultimately fell. I sure hope it is. Anyway. We can look at other ways in which this principle, when it's not even applied to Christians, still has a major impact in the societies around us. I still remember when the CEO of Chick-fil-A came and spoke at our business school. Back then, Chick-fil-A was a small start-up franchise company, guy named Dan Cathy came and spoke. This is the Lord's chicken. This is the good stuff. I love Chick-fil-A. And he talked about how they train and how they serve people. I still remember pulling up to a Chick-fil-A, this is before I was married, and there was this cute girl about my age. She took my order, I ordered something like a number 1 with a lemonade, and I said thank you, and she said my pleasure. And I thought whoa, hey, oh, my pleasure. Oh, nice. I was feeling good, I pulled around to go pick up my food, another teenage kid my age, he handed me my food, I said thank you, and he goes my pleasure. And I thought mmmmm. It wasn't what I thought it was. But the "my pleasure" thing, that the way in which Chick-fil-A just makes every person count, they really do their best. Can we say Chick-fil-A is a successful company? Did you know Chick-fil-A makes an average of four point four million dollars per location? Subway, not a bad place, four hundred thousand per location. So Chick-fil-A makes ten times the amount of money, one Chick-fil-A station that Subway does. Why? Great food, great services, everything is great. The impact of their service is big. Bill Gates, another example of someone who's served a lot of people. Poor Bill Gates. Can't get no love, can't get no respect. The left hates him because he's a billionaire, the right hates him because of the mosquito thing in Florida and everything else. And here's poor old Bill Gates with his billions of dollars. Everybody's like boo hoo. But anyway, I will say Bill Gates deserves every single dollar he got. Every single one. Probably should have gotten more. You know why? Before Bill Gates, nobody had computers. After Bill Gates, everybody has a computer at their desk. And you say well, I don't know if my life is better with computers. Then why'd you buy one? Save your money then. And I can tell you, although it has its downsides, computers have improved the world. I'm telling you, your food is fresher, your car runs better, prices are cheaper, you can buy tickets online now. Remember, that was a hard thing to do. I mean there's a million ways in which Bill Gates improved our lives. The impact of his service in the business world was big. You don't want to give him the credit? No problem. But he did it. And this is true of every organization, every team is that when they're in decline you can see that they're not serving any longer. They're not making an impact any longer. Their products don't have an impact any longer. Their people are not working with each other and serving one another any longer, and that's what begins the decline. You want a great marriage? A great marriage is made up of two people who serve one another. It's really not that hard. You want a great team? A great team is a group of people who serve one another and serve a greater goal. You want a great nation? A great nation is made up of people who want to serve their country and serve each other and love their neighbor. In fact, even when people are in the military and they do what. What do they do? They serve, right? We use the word they serve. I think that's a new word, I'm not sure, but it sounds good. So here's my point is really for all of us, many people think that the goal of life is to relax. The goal of life is to rest, or to have fun, or to get a break. But really the goal of life is to make an impact. Really the goal of life is to have a service that you offer the world, that in large part you enjoy giving that makes a big impact. That's one of the big goals of life. And we can say that to be of service is really the nectar of life. That when you feel like your service is making an impact to your world or your country or your family, well you want to wake up in the morning and do it again. And I will tell you, just think about the opposite. Think of someone who never serves.

How Service Changes Lives: The True Measure of Success

Or think of someone who says I can't serve, I can't help, I can't do anything. That person probably feels kind of useless. They probably feel meaningless. They feel upset about the fact that they can't serve or make a difference. So I'll finish this first point with this, by simply saying, this is a quote from Earl Nightingale. Earl Nightingale, wonderful man, served as a mid-shipman, I believe on the.. was it the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor when it came under attack, and survived and he went on to have a successful career, Christian man, but this was something he said and it's profound. "It would be as impossible to succeed without serving others as it would be to live in our modern world without others serving us." You got to catch this. Impossible. When you serve others, you increase your achievement, your success, your possibility, your opportunity, and gosh, you feel better about life in general. And that brings us to our scripture for the morning. Romans chapter 13. We read Romans 12 last week, we're going to the next one. Here we go. Romans 13. Verse 8, Paul says this: "Let no debt remain outstanding except to the continuing debt to love one another. For whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and whatever other command there may be are summed up in this one command – love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law." Now what debt is he talking about? He said there's a debt outstanding that we all have. What's that debt? He says it's filled by loving your neighbor, but why is it a debt? Because Christ first loved us. When we were a mess, when we were a train wreck, when we had it all wrong, when we hurt all sorts of people. When we lied, when we messed up, all of that, guess who still loved us? God loved us through it all. And He gave His Son's life for our sake that we could be at peace with God. Now that is a big debt. But God doesn't say pay it back, He says pay it forward. He says you receive my love now here's what I want you to do – love one another. I guess we pay it back by loving God, too, but the point remains, He asks us to love each other, to care for each other. So what does it mean, a lot of confusion about love? Here's three things that define Christian love. First one, probably know I'm going to say it, Christian love is not a feeling. Christian love is a verb. It's something you do for the benefit of others. Love is care for human good. This is why you can love your enemies. Love is care for human good. In other words, love is service. Okay, number two – what is Christian love? Christian love is about becoming a loving person. Now we can't mess this one up. Many people think that Christian love is forced, it's like a lightbulb, it's something you shine on people, but no, it's someone you become. Christian love is like becoming a lightbulb in the sense that you're transformed and everywhere you go you bring this, can we use a modern California word? You bring a vibe. You bring a vibe with you. You bring this sense that people just go wow, she's a loving person. Maybe they can't always put a finger on it, but there's something about you that emanates kindness, compassion, love, service. And so instead of making it an effort all the time, you're sort of bringing something that God's already baked into the pie and that's the kind of love that God wants us to have. Number three – Christian love, and this is so important. Christian love is something that God does in us first. Never forget that. Henri Nouwen tells this great story about the catcher and the flyer. He was touring with this circus group, and they would do these shows. You know the catchers and the flyers, those guys that hang onto the swings and then they let go and they do flips through the air, there's no net below them, and this other person on another swing hanging by his legs, reaches out with his arms and catches them by their wrist. Everybody (GASPS) holds their breath. Will it be okay? Catches them and they live to swing another day. He was talking to them and found out that the flyer.. it always seems like the flyer's job is the hardest, but the hardest job is the catcher, the guy who's hanging that has to catch the person. And he was told that what happens with the flyer is they're supposed to do all these flips and all this stuff, but they should never try to catch the catcher. If they do, they will likely miss, and if they connect, they will likely break the arms of the catcher. In other words, what the flyer's supposed to do is do all the flips, show off, and then just like a baby, throw the arms into the air and trust that the catcher's going to catch them. And what Henri Nouwen says is this is what the Lord does for us. This is what it means to be saved. It means that we fly and we do what we're called to do, and then we trust that at the end of it all that the Lord's going to catch us. We don't try to catch the catcher, we trust that the catcher will catch us. Isn't that beautiful? And He always does. He will always catch you. So if you've been caught by the Lord, something special happened to you. It changes the way.. it gives you more patience, it changes the way you see people who have not been caught. And I think that's the other thing is.. this is not what Henri Nouwen said, but this is what I say. I think that once you've been caught now, it's time for you to become a catcher. I look around at the world and so many Christians look at it with judgment.

How Service Changes Lives: The True Measure of Success

But what I see is a world of people with their arms out and nobody's catching them. And so what a great moment it is in life when you are led of the spirit and you catch somebody by those arms, and you bring them into the house of God. You encourage them in some way. You've touched them in some way. You pray for them in some way. You serve them in some way. Not trying to always convert them or trying to get something out of them, but just cause you love them, and believe that the Lord will do the rest. Well anyway. Christian love is something God does in us first. So here's another way of saying it. If we want to love people, find a need and fill it. You want to make an impact? Find a need and fill it. Finding a need and filling it is a discovery. It's getting out there and understanding that people have needs and that there's something in me that can help them achieve whatever it is that they're lacking. So you want success in academia? Do you want success in your church or in your relationships? Do you want success in your business, success in your Christian walk, then find a need and fill it. Learn to serve people. Make a difference in people's lives. Your achievement is equal to the impact of your service. This is because of two things. Number one is the law of reciprocity. Now the law of reciprocity basically says what comes around goes around. It says this effectively – the law of reciprocity - others always feel obliged to return a favor. Now that's not a good reason to serve someone, right, but it still happens. You ever go to a car dealership and the first thing they do is they hand you couple bottles of water, and you say oh thanks, I was thirsty, maybe I should buy a car. They gave me a bottle, I'll buy a car. Or maybe you've given to a charity and they send you an envelope and in the envelope are just a bunch of free return labels that have your name and address with a beautiful countryside picture on it or something. Its free, it's free. You think well I'll send them twenty bucks. It's the law of reciprocity. Here's where else it's placed. God gives us this promise, as well. He says that when we tithe, He'll open up the barns of heaven and that there won't be enough room to contain it. He says this: anyone who gives to the poor lends to God. So you think well I helped this poor person, I helped this person that could never help me back. Well guess what – God, God, God will bring it back. So here's the key with reciprocity. Don't do it because of reciprocity, but understand when you put enough good out there, when you give enough out there, it's just going to come around. There's no way to plan it, there's no way to predict it, and you shouldn't even try. Just become a serving, generous, giving person, and in due time, it will come around, not what you gave, but thirty/sixty/a hundred fold. You'll give away a bottle of water and they'll buy a car. Okay. Number two – the reason this works just practically, is because of the law of familiarity, which basically says that people pick what their.. people don't choose what's better, they choose what's familiar. I learned this in marketing. Yes, I took marketing, I'm sorry, in college. This says something like if you're on a road trip and you're going down the road, and somebody has to go to the bathroom, it's always a kid, right? And you pull off and there's two places you can go, and you think why don't we get some lunch, and one is a rib joint. And you look on Yelp and it's got five stars on Yelp, and it has all sorts of signs that say world's best ribs, and then across the street is a McDonald's, 99% of people are going to McDonald's. Because they just know what they're going to get. It's the law of familiarity. Okay. So, your achievement in life is equal to the impact which is the quality and quantity of your service. We got it? Now I know there's somebody watching on television, on YouTube, don't forget to like and subscribe, I want to get a hundred thousand followers, guys. I said that in the last service. I've not said it here. Please subscribe if you're watching on YouTube. Where was I? Oh yeah, yeah. I remember now. But wherever you're watching or if you're here in the church, I know there are people that are listening that say something like this – hold on, Bobby. I serve like crazy and my marriage is bad. I serve like crazy and my business is bad. I serve like crazy and my friendships are bad. I serve like crazy and my life is bad. I am not saying you don't serve, I'm saying probably your service is bad. It's not that you don't serve, it's that your service.. let's just say it can improve. And for all of us, even for Chick-fil-A, the Lord's chicken, it can improve, right? We can always get better. It's a skill. Don't get offended, get better. Take a look in the mirror and say if this principle is true, that means with just a little bit of tweaking, I'm already doing the hard part. If I just give it a little bit of tweaking, I can have a ten times, thirty times, hundred times impact with the same amount of work. That's my promise to you. So let's go deeper. Here's the four things that probably need to be looked at in your service, no matter how good or bad you are at serving your kids, your grandkids, your school, your neighbor, whatever it is. Number one – this just seems like it's not linked at all, but you become what you think about. You know that, right? You've been going here long enough. You become what you think about. The Bible says it plainly: "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." It's written. It's true. What we dwell on day and night becomes our life. Everything that you have in life is the result of your thinking.

How Service Changes Lives: The True Measure of Success

So the first thing we want to fix is the way we think. And here's why especially this is true in service. A lot of us, we are by ourselves, and we're thinking. We're thinking about our husband or wife, we're thinking about our colleague, we're thinking about this, that, na, na, and a lot of times we get all hot and bothered because we've been spinning our wheels, and then we go to serve with gritted teeth, but they can feel something else. And they're like are they mad at me? Do they really want to be serving me? Do I need to pay them back? Or like should I tip? Did I not tip them? Should I tip this person? You see attitude is really like 80% of the service. I think it was Maya Angelou who said people are not going to remember what you said, people are not going to remember what you did, they are going to remember how you made them feel. And so your attitude that you bring into your service is all what's happening up here when you're not serving them. So take every thought captive. Guard your thinking and tend to thoughts that are loving, positive and good, and you'll bring that into your service. The number one thing that's destroying love and service today in our country, in our schools and everything is fear. Its fear. Fear is the greatest enemy of love. The Bible says that perfect love casts out fear, but I think it's also true that perfect fear casts out love. Dallas Willard told this story once. He said there was this guy that was walking into a tool shop, just minding his own business, and there was a dog in a car, and the dog barked at the man – bark, bark, bark, bark. And the man jumped back, reared up and he said I'll kill you, I'll kill you, I'll kill you! Now let me ask you – do you think that man hated that dog, or was a dogist, just hated dogs in general? No, the man was afraid, you see. He was afraid of the dog. Looks like he hates the dog, but the truth is he got spooked. And so any kindness he would have for that dog is wiped away by his fear. Many of us who are married have found this nice equilibrium in our chores with our spouse whereas maybe one person does the trash and the other does the dishes. One person cleans the mirrors, and the other person, I don't know, cleans the windows, I don't know. And so when you kind of want to do a thing, you're worried about doing it because you don't want it to become your new chore. Anybody feel that way? You're like oh trash needs to be taken out, that's kind of his job, and I'll just do it this one time, but I don't want it to be my thing. That's fear! Nothing is stopping you from taking out the trash once except fear. Just take the trash out. And gosh, boys today, young men, and boys when I was in college, just really struggled to ask a girl to dance, ask a girl for her phone number. I remember being at this wedding, and there was this beautiful girl Hannah Presley, and I had been dancing with her for like three songs in a row, and then there were literally a circle of very good looking men wearing suits and tuxedos. I knew at least three of them had a crush on Hannah. I'm like I'm going to give one of them a try. And then some beautiful song like Unchained Melody comes on, nobody asked her to dance. They're all looking at it, but they're kind of going like this, kind of like this. I'm like what are you expecting her to ask you? And I finally just said this woman can.. this beautiful can't just stand here un-danced. So I did a fourth song. But you see there how fear again is keeping young people from matching up. All this social anxiety. So here's the solution. This is always the solution to fear. Take action. Fear is something that happens when we think. Just do a thing. Do something. Ask for the number, take the trash out, pet the dog. Maybe don't pet the dog, but take action. Here's a choice you have every single day – to serve or not to serve. Here's a choice you have every single day – to take action or do nothing. Here's a choice you have every single day – to expand your life or to shrink your life. And it all happens here. Take action. All right. Second thing – this is probably the most important of the four, and I'll go the last three super quick. Here's the most important probably of all of them. It's not about whether or not I serve, it's about how others experience my service. Friends, please hear this one. It's more about what people experience from you. Gosh, as a pastor praying and counseling people, how often I've met a man who is completely shocked when his wife comes and serves him divorce papers. He thought I thought it was going pretty good. Not amazing, but it was fine. Or a woman is completely blindsided because her husband has an affair. And this is because the way we show love is not the way everyone else receives love. We all show and receive love in different ways. This is so important. It's obvious with men and women. In a study that was done, the top five things that make women feel loved were completely different than the top five things that make men feel loved. At the very top, and there's broad strokes. A lot of men and women cross over, but on average the top most common thing that makes men feel loved was extracurricular things like going to a baseball game or going to a restaurant or doing things that are fun. Some of you young women today, you have to play video games with your boyfriend, I'm sorry. It's just the world we live in. And then on the other side, there's women, the number one way that women feel loved is through conversation, meaningful conversation with their boyfriend or their spouse or whoever.

How Service Changes Lives: The True Measure of Success

One of the worst things you can say to your wife when she says let's talk about something is say what do you want to talk about? If you want to just drive a stake in her heart, that's what you say – what do you want to talk about? No, you say of course I'd love to talk to you. What's on your mind? What are you feeling? How was your day? And so this is a major problem in marriages, but this is not just true in marriage. Everybody's different. Every single person in here has a different thumbprint, different string of DNA, and we all have different stories and experiences. So your customers, your team, your kids, your neighbors, they all have needs. They all have needs waiting to be discovered, and if you can discover those needs, you will ten-x your impact. There's no extra work required other than this – understanding the heart of the person you're wanting to serve. If you get that right, you're going to get it all right. Just get it right like 60% of the time. In school they call that a D-minus. You get a D-minus, you're going to be killing it, crushing it, melting it up. Anyway, you get it. You know what I'm saying. All right, here's the number three. Number three, most obvious thing. I just want to say this, there are people here who serve and serve and serve, and are just being walked all over. We'll just say this. I love these people so much. I got to say this. You've heard it from your pastor. You are limited. You're limited, okay. In life, there are some people, you're probably thinking of one right now, I call them black holes. You know what a black hole is in physics, right? It's a gigantic sun-shaped black hole in outer space that sucks light and time from the universe. Okay? There are people in this world that no matter how much you serve them, they will suck out all of the life and time that you have. And if you give into those people, you won't have the time and the energy to serve the other people who really need you. So don't be worried about putting up healthy boundaries. And finally, number four – don't forget Jesus tells us to love our enemies. But there is a real practical benefit to serving your enemies, to serving your competitors, and even your boss! Imagine that. Yeah, you have to even love your boss, it's crazy. Never bad mouth your competitors if you're in business or in sports. It makes you look weak and petty. Just don't do it, trust me. And yes, you should love and serve and respect your boss. You filled out an application, you pushed it across the table, you made certain promises to that boss that you haven't kept, you showed up that first day excited to work, you prayed, you asked your friends to pray, you told everybody you were hoping you could get this job. And this boss took a big risk on you, especially if he owns the business. He's got to raise enough money to not only pay for everything else, but pay your salary. You say well you don't know my boss. Look, nobody's holding a gun to your head. Get another job if it's that bad. Nobody's forcing you. The Bible is so clear on this issue, that's why I'm almost being mean about it. It is so crystal clear that we have to, at the very least, respect our bosses, and are called to serve them. And trust me, there is a benefit to it. And finally, yes, we're even called to love and serve our enemies as Christians. Here's why, and this is the biggest thing – because when you love your enemies, you stop blaming them for your problems. When you love your enemies, you stop blaming them for your problems. And that's when everything will change in your life. Everything. It's not your boss' fault, it's not your enemies fault, it's not your toxic relatives fault, it's not the governments fault, it's not interest rates fault, you can change today and everything will change for you. Judgment cuts off your life from all sorts of opportunity. Movie critics don't make movies. Simon Cowell, the singing critic from American Idol will never sing. You've never heard him sing, I promise. I have a friend who has a stack of theology books, he's been studying theology, super critical of other sermons, wants to be a preacher, after 20 years I've never heard him give a single sermon in his life. This is the problem with judgment and criticism and cynicism. Just get rid of it. Forgive and love your enemies. So, what do you want from life? You want to be more happy in life? You want to have a more full life? You want to wake up excited in the morning? You want to have more friends? You want to grow? You want to achieve more? You want to please God with your life? Understand that your level of achievement of life is equal to the impact of your service. Father, we ask that you'd teach us and show us how to make an impact with our lives. I pray first that every single person in this room would know that this sermon is for them. That they would see the special ways in which they can serve and make a difference. We love you God, it's in Jesus' name we pray, 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 peace, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen.