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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, welcome church family. It is such a joy, joy to be with you. Reminder that whatever impossibility you may be facing today, it is possible with God and He loves you.

BS: Hey, we're so glad you're here. We think God's going to do something great in your life today. We want you to leave here feeling encouraged by the Lord, lifted up by His word, full of His spirit, so we're going to pray for that today. Lord Jesus, we come to your house with your people and we gather to honor your name. And I pray over this congregation, over my friends, my spiritual family that no one would leave here without getting a touch from you. We're here to lift up your name. We're here to worship you. We're here to say thank you for your life and for your sacrifice and for your word, 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 – Matthäus 20,9-15 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Matthew 20:9-15. "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These who were hired last worked only for one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'" The word of the Lord.

INTERVIEW – Barry Meguiar

Barry Meguiar is the President of Meguiar's Car Wax, which he grew from a small family business to one of the leading car waxes around the world. He is also an author and podcast host of the show Ignite with Barry Meguiar. His most recent book, Ignite Your Life: Defeat Fear with Effortless Faith, encourages readers to help others grow closer to the Lord through their actions and words.

BS: Barry! Hi!

BM: How you doing there?

BS: Great to see you, my friend.

BM: Good to see you, pastor.

BS: Well this is so exciting for me. I ran into you, I feel like a few years ago in passing, I know you watch the Hour of Power and you said I'm Barry Meguiar, and I had this company Meguiar's wax, and I thought flashback to high school cleaning my car with Meguiar's wax..

BM: On your Porsche, right?

BS: Well before we say that in church, it was an old rinky dink two thousand dollar Porsche that my dad let me work on. It was a '79 928, but I thought that car was the coolest thing ever.

BM: Oh yes, right.

BS: And I was 18 and I was always out there taking care of it, making it look great. And it was so great to hear that you're not just a businessman, but you have this huge heart for God. We had dinner a few nights ago, and boy, did I leave that meeting so full of joy. So welcome! We're so glad to have you here.

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BM: Great to be here. Watch you on TV. It's even better when you come in person, right everybody?

BS: Yes, yes..

BM: It's pretty cool.

BS: So let's just begin there. Tell me a little bit about your faith, your journey, your family.

BM: Well I was born and raised in church so Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night youth services, all that. But when we got out of college and I met my wife 60 years. My wife Karen, this gorgeous lady over here for 60 years; that keeps me going. And without going, we don't have the time, but God provoked us into sharing our faith, and in 1973, we met the most joyful guy. He was Herb Ellingwood, the legal affairs secretary for Ronald, Governor Ronald Reagan and I walked away from that and said that's a joy I want, and he got it from sharing his faith. Every time anybody moved, he was sharing his faith. And we've been doing that ever since.

BS: And you really do it.

BM: It gives you great joy. Then we discovered the scripture. In John 15:11, he says when you bear fruit, when you bear Christians, my joy will remain with you, and your joy will remain full. That's pretty cool. So we've had joy. And don't let anybody rob you of your joy. You've got to have joy. You do that by just sharing your joy at every opportunity.

BS: When we were having dinner the other night, I thought it was so cool. You weren't doing this to show off to me. I get a feeling you do this every time you eat out. This server came and you remembered her name, and you said hey, is there something we can pray for you about? And she said you can pray for my two-year-old toddler. He's a handful.

BM: He's a handful.

BS: So we just prayed for him and..

BM: Yes we did.

BS: ..that's just kind of your personality. Wherever you go, you just want to encourage people. Joy is a big thing for you. I never..

BM: Yes, it is.

BS: ..have gotten any legalism or..

BM: No, has nothing to do with that. And it doesn't have anything to do with the reciting stuff and memorizing stuff, and sweaty hands and scratchy throat. You just love on people. He says they'll know you're my disciple by your love. And when you just love on them, the Holy Spirit gives you the word to say. You can't prepare. We couldn't prepare for Sarah. Sarah M. the other night, when she talked about her rambunctious two-year-old, so we just prayed her and said he's going to be a winner. You want to hold onto him, and favor him. But you just look.

And move everybody. The theme of our ministry is move everybody, every day closer to Jesus. I mean, everybody. Not one person a day, but everybody. When you do that, you're on your toes always and you're always looking and you're sharing, and you're praying for all the people you've seen that day, and you're going to see the next day. You're digging for answers, for questions you've been asked because you don't know how to answer. You're in the game and that's why God says when you share your faith.. actually, in Isaiah 43:10, we talked about that. He says I appoint you as my witness so that you will believe. Look at it, Isaiah 43:10, I appoint you as my witness so that you will believe. Not that they'll believe. I'd say so that all will believe. His priority is us. Not to use us. His priority is with us, and He knows that when we share our faith, we will explode in our faith, and if we don't, we atrophy. And that's where the church is today.

BS: That's right. And that's what your book is about: Ignite Your Life. This book is really.. and I so resonate with this. My faith came to life in high school, not when I necessarily went to church more, although that's good, reading my Bible is really good, but the minute I shared my faith with someone, it wasn't a little thing, it was explosive. And this is how Hannah and I were. We used to be those crazy kids in college just walking around to people sharing our faith, preaching the gospel, and I can say, and of course we do this on Sunday now, but I can say that sharing my faith has, I think, is one of the most important things that we can do for God to bless us. When we were having dinner the other night, I love businesses and I love entrepreneurs. I love that spirit. And I asked you, something like what was the key to your success in business. Meguiar's been a hugely successful company. And a lot of times people will say something like tenacity or having a big dream or getting around the right people. But I loved your answer. Do you remember what you said?

BM: Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And that was easy for me. We were buffing cars in body shops and dealerships. That's what we were doing, doing about \$600,000 a year, and God inspired me to go retail. I didn't know anything about retail. I had not a clue.

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So I said God, trust you with my whole heart and don't depend on my own understanding is easy for me because I have no understanding whatsoever. I don't have a clue what I'm doing. And I've basically done that for 50 years. And it was 18 hour days for 30 years working hard, but it was always open doors and open doors and we're on the prepuces, keep right on trusting, keep right on moving if God's leading you. And He directs your steps. I mean why would anybody not want to live like that. And of course that's why it's the great commission.

BS: Yes, and that's what you really see your business as, right? An opportunity to share your faith with people that the church can't reach.

BM: Well it's really true. We almost went in, we were talking about it, I almost thought we should go into fulltime ministry three years later, in 1976. I closed the door of my office one day and I prayed the most fervent prayer of my life. I said God, if you want me to go into fulltime ministry, I will but you're almost going to have to speak to me with an audible voice. And not twenty minutes later a man walked in my office, David Knapp from the church that I was going to at the time. I'd never met him, he'd spoken from the platform a couple times, a missionary kid, and he walked in hey Barry, how's it going? And I thought well Friday night into cool cars and shiny finishes as a missionary kid. So I started sharing my faith sharing stories with him, and he said God's given you a wonderful ministry here, hasn't He? And I said wait, why would you say that right now. It was like Twilight Zone. He says well the people you're reaching, a pastor could not reach, but as a business man, you can. And he gave me this great line. This was 1976. It's obvious that your business is your pulpit. And that's true for every one of us that where we're at, God wants us now, not when we get somewhere later on. Right now your business is your pulpit, particularly if you're under stress and bad things happen to you. Your testimony goes on steroids because people don't expect you to have joy in the midst of trouble, and we've had a lot of challenges in our lives.

BS: What do you think, if somebody's listening and they say, you know Barry, I love the Lord, I've never shared my faith with someone; I've never tried to reach someone with the gospel. What's the best..

BM: Well you're talking about 90% of the people who are listening to us right now. Or 99%. And I understand that. And we did it because we knew God wanted us to do it, not because we wanted to do it. But the fact of the matter is you don't have to get out of your comfort zone. Nobody has to train us to love on people. Just love on people. That's all we have to do, just love on people. Just ask them questions, and within five minutes, complete strangers, you can be in the line at Starbucks or in the aisle at Walmart or in a waiting room, whatever. If you love on people, the Holy Spirit confirms to them that your love is real. And it's amazing, within five minutes they start telling you a hurt that's in their life. And then God always, always, always gives you the story or the scripture, maybe a scripture you haven't heard for years, and you bring it to your remembrance and all of a sudden you realize God provoked this encounter, and He's speaking, He's literally speaking through you, and you're seeing the life change in front of you. Folks, ignite your life. That's what this book is all about.

BS: That's great.

BM: It will actually do that, and so every day is an adventure. We have so much fun. We're 81 years old, we've never had more fun in our lives because every day is an adventure. When you share, and then everything else, He promises us, we talked about this, Romans 8:28, He says I'll make everything in your life work together for good, but you got to read that whole scripture, folks. I promise you – God says for now until you get to heaven, I promise you I'll make everything in your life work together for good, if you do two things: if you love me, and you live for my purpose. His purpose, as we talked about. There's no question His purpose is to seek and save the lost. So if we live every day to seek and save the lost, or as we say move everybody every day, even just a smidgen closer to Jesus, we're living in His purpose and we live in His promise that He'll make everything good, and that ends fear. It's the fear of free of life. It ignites your life. What can I say? So it's great fun.

BS: I want to encourage you if you're watching this to get a copy of this book. It really will ignite your life, it'll help you share your faith, and it'll change so much in your life. Barry Meguiar, thank you so much.

BM: Thank you, pastor.

BS: We love you and appreciate you!

BM: Awesome. Great honor, great honor.

BS: God bless you.

BM: Thank you.

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DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Please stand with us. We're going to say this creed together as we do every week. Hold your hands 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 / PRAYER – Bobby Schuller – "Keep Showing Up: Building Connection with God and People"

Jesus Christ says this very interesting thing in the Bible, and He's saying it to you right now. He says behold I stand at the door and I knock. Behold I stand at the door and I knock. And those who hear my voice, if they open the door, I will come in. Many of us, we're living life with the door closed. We're living life with an empty heart. We're living life when we're not living at peace with God or with our neighbor. We continue to be in an ambivalent position when it comes towards Christianity or our faith. I want to encourage you this morning make a decision. Invite Jesus Christ into your heart. He laid down His life on the cross so we could be at peace with God. All those tapes of what you did in the past, all the mistakes you make, God can throw those tapes away, and you can make new tapes with your life. You can make new memories. You can create new experiences in God's kingdom. Won't you receive the free gift of salvation this morning? You may not get another chance and I want to encourage you today to invite Jesus Christ into your heart. Simply close your eyes and pray to the Lord – Father, forgive me of my sins and Jesus come into my heart and your life will never be the same. If you make that decision, will you text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen? We want to send you some materials and we want to pray for you and your walk with God. This morning, I want to talk about the importance of showing up, the importance of getting experience in your Christian walk and in your life in general. The importance of building long-term relationships, and we're going to find it in this sort of famous parable that Jesus gives. Now this parable that Hannah read this morning, the very first thing this parable is teaching us is the availability of the good news; the availability and unfairness of the saving grace of God that saves us, not because of our works or because we're such good moral people, or because we obeyed the rules right, but simply because Christ paid it all. That that's available to us anytime we want, and how sometimes it can feel that that's unfair. It's the availability of the gospel. You might know the name Constantine. He was a famous emperor who when he was marching on Rome to take the throne, he claims.. there was this famous river, the Rubicon, and over the river he saw the famous symbol of Christianity at the time. It's called the key row. It looks like a P with an X through it. And he took that to mean that God was saying take Rome and take the throne. As a king, as the Caesar, he's often called the first Christian Caesar, and I guess in a way he was. But really what he did is he, yes, he did all the things: he allowed the churches to be built, he allowed Christians to worship freely, he hosted and took care of various councils in Rome, but he himself was not baptized until his death bed. It was just that last moment he was baptized, he confessed Christ as his Lord, and he died and he went to heaven. Now many people in the world would say hey, that's a lucky guy. Hey, he did it right! He played that hand perfectly. You see he got to have all the women, he got to do what he wanted to do, he got to drink all he wanted to drink, he got to go to all the parties, got to sin like crazy, got to do whatever he wanted to do and at the last second made the decision and still got to heaven! Lucky guy. Wrong. Maybe you're listening and you're a Christian and you say hey, that's not a bad deal. I'd take that deal. That doesn't sound so bad to me. It's a little unfair, but hey, it's the rules. Play the rules. Play the hand you're dealt. If that's your feeling, I want to encourage you that there's probably more life in your faith than you're getting now. Anyone who says that Constantine was lucky is someone who's probably in bondage to religiosity; in bondage to all of the laws and rules, and someone that needs to experience the Holy Spirit today. See, I feel bad for Constantine. I feel bad for Constantine. Here's why. To be so close, to be so close to the river of living water and to never drink. To be so close to the line of Judah and never follow him into battle. To be so close to the bread of life and to never eat. To be so close to the tree of knowledge and never partake. That is a tragedy. I believe that there's a heaven and a hell. I believe some people go to heaven and some people go to hell. I believe the only way to get into heaven is to trust your life to Jesus Christ. He says in the Bible I am the way, the truth and the life. Nobody comes to the Father but through me. But here's also something I think. Even if everybody goes to heaven.

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Even if somehow we missed a Bible verse that showed us everyone's going to go to heaven, the gospel would still be worth preaching. The gospel would be worth preaching because the gospel is life today. It's worth preaching the gospel. A famous book was written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a book called *The Cost of Discipleship*. Famous minister who spoke out against Adolph Hitler and died in a concentration camp and he paid a great price, and there is a cost to discipleship. But never forget there is also a cost to non-discipleship. There is a cost to living life without the chain-breaking power of the spirit of God. There is a cost to life of not living at peace with God. There is a cost to waking up every morning not knowing what your purpose or vision is for your life. There is a cost to waking up and not giving it your all for the Lord. There is a cost to waking up and not being amongst God's people in the joy and the power and the life that's in it. There's a cost to that. And yes, the greatest reason we preach the gospel is so people can go to heaven. Nothing like eternal life. But there's so much more to it than that. There's the power of the Holy Spirit in your life that heals families, heals nations, heals bodies, heals minds, does miracles, wonder working power in your life today. That's worth preaching, amen? Isn't that worth preaching even at nine in the morning? I think it is. Amen. So that's what this parable is about. It's about some people that got in early and some people that got in late. It goes like this. It says, Jesus tells us, there's this landowner, he's got a bunch of work that needs to be done. So he goes and he finds some guys, and he says come with me early in the morning, let's go work in the field. And they get to working and he realizes I need some more labor, I need some more guys to help, so he goes to the marketplace. It's nine in the morning, still early. He says you, you, you. Come work for me, I'll pay you a denarius. A denarius is a day's wages. Let's say \$150. We'll say \$200. This is California, right? Two hundred bucks. He said I'll pay \$200. Still needs more work, another guy at noon, says come work for me, I'll pay you days wages. Three p.m., sees some more guys idle, standing around, come, work with me. Five o'clock, day's almost over, only about an hour's left worth of work. He says come, come, come work for me, I'll pay you. And then it comes time, the days over, and the man comes to pay all of the workers, and here's what the Bible says. It says "the workers were hired about five in the afternoon, and each received a denarius, so that when those who came were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius." Now when I was a kid, I thought this was so unfair. I thought this was so unfair. And it says, "When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner." Hey it says hey in the Greek. Hey! "Those who were hired last worked only for one hour, they said. And you've made them equal to us who have born the burden of the work in the heat of the day. But he answered to one of them, I'm not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?" That's what we agreed on. That was a contract. That was a deal. "Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you." Here's a great question. "Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous." All right, here's a good question we can ask of this story. Who benefits the most? Morning guy or evening guy? Who benefits the most? Morning guy or evening guy. Now both have a benefit. Evening guy is obvious, right? That one's easy. Evening guy only had to work an hour, still got \$200, got to go on home with his \$200, right, feeling good. Still feeling fresh. Didn't have to work as much. It was easy. But here's what morning guy got and didn't even know it. On top of the \$200 he got, morning guy got, number one, affirmation that he's in demand. He was the first one that was picked. The first one chosen. That says something to a man or to a woman. Number two – he's not sitting there worried all day what am I going to eat for tonight? How am I going to pay for my kids school or for my wife's this or for my house that. Number three – he got more on-the-job experience, which I'm telling you, was worth a lot. And most important, and this is the most important thing to pull from this parable – he got more time with the master. He got more time with the master. He got more time with the boss. He got more time with the work giver. He got more time with the wine maker. He got more time with the visionary, the builder, the gatherer, the master. And that's all we can ask for in life is more time with the master. That's the time that's worth it. You see, morning guy can't see it, but if he could see what I'm saying, he'd say poor evening guy. Poor evening guy. He only got an hour with the master. He only got an hour in the field. He was standing there all day worried. At least he got some money. That's what he'd say. That's what he'd say. And that's what I say. We understand this when we put it in terms of sports. You remember in sports being picked last? Nobody liked being picked last. Nobody says, oh I only had to play basketball for five minutes, right? Nobody likes warming up a bench. Or in high school when you tried out for that famous part in the school musical and you didn't get a part or you got some part that nobody cared about. Nobody says oh I'm so glad I didn't have to act as much.

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See we understand in those scenarios that the exposure, that the experience, that the time, that the memories, that the people you do it with and the time with the coaches and the teachers and the things you get from doing it build a man, build a woman, build a person, make a life. And this is what we really want from life. Very few people think this way, but it is so important.. this is a great quote from Naval Ravikant, that we play long-term games with long-term people. That we think about the importance of experiencing life, and drawing from every moment, even the ones that hurt, that are boring, that we hate, that we don't enjoy, taking as much out of that as we can, and to understand that we are doing it with the Lord. That even when it's hard, there's something there, there's some meat, there's some fruit, there's some tangible thing we can draw from this to become more and to do more. It's so easy in life to just clock in. It's easy to clock into work. It's easy to clock into church, clock into school, and when you get home, to just check out. And in a way, both things are checking out. You're checking out of life. But here's what God asks us to do, not to get through life, but to get from life. Get from life. Don't get through the week, don't get through the day, get from the day. There's so much to draw. Don't get through a challenge, get from the challenge. Don't get through a lesson, don't get through a sermon, get from the sermon. Draw from it. Don't get through work, get from work, and you'll see that your life will grow and it'll be excited and you'll be glad to wake up in the morning. Most of who you become is from being in the field, and who you're in the field with. Don't forget it. Now remember, what we do here at church, we don't trust our brain, right? We take notes. This is a good time to take a picture. It's a good time to write it down. Okay. So, so many people today want less work or no work. So many people today want less drama. So many people today want less challenge, and I understand that. Life can be taxing and draining and hard. We can feel tired sometimes. But I'm encouraging you this morning to want more from life. I'm encouraging you this morning to want more from your Christian walk. I'm encouraging you this morning to want more from your Bible, want more from your church, want more from your life experience. I'm encouraging you this morning to make a bigger impact. I'm encouraging you this morning to touch as many lives as you can, and to become more. Becoming more, this is what I believe, it starts with showing up. It starts with getting in the field, and getting as much time in the field as you can. Becoming more starts with showing up. Don't ask God for less obstacles, ask God to make you bigger than those obstacles. Don't ask God to make it easier, ask Him to make you stronger. Don't ask God to prepare the road for you, ask God to prepare you for the road. Don't ask God for fewer problems and challenges, ask God to make you more experienced and to show you how you can become bigger and stronger in the spirit when you go through tough times. As my grandfather said, tough times never last, tough people do. But in order to become a tough person, you've got to face those tough times and you've got to face them with courage. Amen? So here's what I want to encourage you to do. If you really want this kind of life, I want to encourage you to show up for life. Increasingly now, we live in a world where we just don't show up. We send a text. We don't show up, we apologize the next day. When the phone rings, somebody that we care about, we don't like to answer. When the email comes in, we don't like to reply. When we receive an invitation, when someone needs our help, too often we just don't show up. Somebody else will do it. But I'm encouraging you, be different than everyone else. Show up for life. Keep showing up and you'll keep growing up. Show up for your church. Show up for your kids, your grandkids. Show up for your spouse, even if you're tired. That's your spouse! They gave you their whole life! Put a smile on your face. Show up for a friend in need. Show up for your class. Show up for a challenge. Show up for your team. You don't have to be perfect, just show up. Took this wonderful class at a pastor's.. I took it with Pastor Jim Kok, a pastor who's been in ministry here for a long time. A wonderful guy. Oh and man, did we learn a lot in this course. And one of the biggest questions is how do you help someone who's going through trauma, whether they lost a loved one or they're in the hospital, or some horrible surprise got them, how do you be a pastor to that person? And we learned that their temptation is so often to fix the problem, or to give advice, even if you're not a doctor, and really that's not the solution. The solution often is to just show up. To just be there. He famously says "90% is just showing up." You remember anything I say this morning, it's not something I said, it's something Pastor Jim said, and I want you to remember this: 90% is showing up. Don't worry about what to say, don't worry. The Lord will give you the words. Don't worry about this or that or anything else, just show up. That's 90% and you'll figure it out as you go along. You might mess up, but at least you showed up and that counts. Here's what you get when you show up to life, when you show up to the challenges, when you show up to touch somebody's life or to help somebody who's hurting, you get experience. You get to experience your life. You experience the doing.

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Yes, you experience the crime, but you experience the laughter, as well. You experience the winning and the losing. You experience the power of God, and most of all, you experience the people who are doing it, and you develop the kind of relationships that will transform your life and the world. Here's what you get when you show up – you get experience. This is the first thing. And this is so important. Experience. For all you millennials and Gen Z out there who are trying to find a job, what's the number one thing employers ask when you apply for a job? Do they ask what your degree is? No sir! Maybe it matters, I don't know. But here's the number one thing they ask for – what's your job experience. What's your experience? And a lot of people today get frustrated because they say well how am I supposed to get experience if I don't get a job? And how am I supposed to get a job if I don't get experience? But can I just tell you something? There's lots of ways to get experience without getting a job. My friend, there is! People think so often that it's all about the pay. You get two salaries in a job. I've told you this before, right? Here's the first salary you get, its money. Here's the second salary you get – its experience. And both are important. This is one of the most important questions we can ask about our job is who am I becoming in the work place? Who am I becoming in my church? Who am I becoming in this group of friends? And how is that experience transforming my life. Okay. So famously this general said "the spoils of war is not money but good soldiers," and I think that's right. You have to get in the field. You have to get doing things for God. You have to be bad at something before you're good at something. And this is the key. Okay? The second thing you get from showing up to life, to showing up to a challenge, to showing up for somebody who's hurting, to show up to pray for someone or share your faith, or when you show up to a church or any of these things, here's the second thing you get, you get relationships, long term relationships with long term people, and the longer you're with them, the more you know who you're dealing with and you're able to sift out the good from the bad, the partners from the people that maybe you need some distance from. You develop a network of people that will transform your life, that when you're there for them, they're going to be there for you. When you become a show up person, you attract show up people into your life. And boy can I tell you, the older I get, the more important I see the value of friendships, especially these kinds of friendships, people who show up. Boy, is that so important. Can we just say this? Your dream cannot succeed without other people. Nor should it. Think about this. Jesus, whenever He sends the disciples out, He always sends them out two by two. Jesus would send them out without food, He would send them out without even sandals sometimes, or without a jacket. He would send them out without a weapon. He would send them out with nothing, except He would never send them alone. Let us learn something from this. It's the only thing that they shouldn't be without is a partner or someone to do life with. The bigger your dream, the bigger your team. You have a big dream? You need to get a group of people around you, or you need to get in a group of people that are going somewhere or doing something, and you'll find that whatever it is you want to achieve, it's going to be impossible by yourself. I realized this that the bigger your dream grows, the more you need more people. And that's hard because people are messy. We're not thinking creatures who feel. We're emotional creatures who think afterwards. I've just learned that as a pastor. There are so many emotions, so many things going on in the surface, but I know that there's a lot of drama, but it's worth it if you have a big dream. When I was pastor of a small church, we didn't need a lot of people. Needed a couple musicians, needed a children's minister, needed a little bit here, maybe some people to help set up and tear down. Now that I'm a pastor of a larger ministry, boy, if I had to create a list of all of the people, the employees and volunteers and the hours and hours of work and planning that go into, not just making a church service, but helping people who are hurting and packing meals and creating music and creating a television service. It takes an army. And the bigger that dream gets, the bigger the team gets. It just is part of it, and you just see the value of people. Okay, not only is the bigger your dream the bigger your team, the bigger your dream gets, the bigger the people have to be, as well. And that's the other thing about developing people is you start to attract into your life big thinkers, people who have specialized knowledge, and most importantly, people you just have great chemistry with. It's hard to put something on that, but this is so important – the bigger the dream, the bigger the people. Do you have a ministry on your heart? You need to get around big people. If you want to write a book, you want to create a work of art, you want to create some business for the kingdom, you want to make an impact in the world today, you want to make some kind of political impact, you want to do a change in your school, your society, you've got to get big people around you. And here's the biggest person you should get around you. Here's the person, the type of person, the person you got to get on your team, here's one person if you get around this person your life will never be the same. Every dream will be achievable.

Keep Showing Up: Building Connection with God and People

Your life will be completely different and His name is Jesus Christ. Just get around the Lord. Amazing how often we think about this person and that person, but we don't think about just getting around the Lord. Hey, here's something I can promise you. If you get close to Jesus Christ, you're going to get around people who think and act like Jesus Christ, too. If you say I can't find those people. I can't find Christians where I live. I can't find people who have big dreams. I can't find people who are positive and full of life. Get around Christ and you'll get around people who are getting around Christ. You want your marriage to be better, if you're in a Christian marriage.. you think how do I get closer to my spouse? Get closer to Christ and you'll get closer to your spouse. That's a promise. When you get close to Him, you get close to people who are like Him. And I just want to finish again by encouraging you to make that decision this morning. So often in life we have all these problems we want to solve, and they're important to God. But very often we forget the most important decision of all, the most important thing we can do is to be at peace with God and to be full of His power. I want to encourage you this morning to make a decision to follow Christ and your life will never be the same. Let's pray. Lord Jesus, we thank you for all you've done for us. And I pray for my church and I pray for the people under the sound of my voice, your church. I pray that they would be full of the Holy Spirit. I pray that you would give them fresh vision. I pray that you would attract the kind of people in their life that will build them up and not tear them down. I pray that you would give them a desire for more from life. Not less pain, less challenge, less worry, but more strength, more insight, more wisdom, more skills, more experience. I pray that they would be above and not beneath, the head and not the tail, and I pray most of all that Jesus Christ, you would be the king of their heart and that you would reign over their life. And that you would help them to walk every day in your power, in your life, and in your joy, and I ask it all in the name of Jesus, 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.