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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 church family, welcome visitors. We are so, so happy that you're here. You know, the Bible says that when we love each other, we fulfill God's law. Let's love each other radically. Thank you so much for being here. We love you.

BS: Amen. Let's begin with a word of prayer. We thank you, Lord that your presence is here right now, and we pray in Jesus' name that you would forgive us, renew us and restore us. Thank you that you've already given us the power and the authority to do great things in your name. We love you, God and it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HS: Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – Luke 10,1-4,17-20 – Hannah Schuller

If you want to read along with me as I read this, or read the scripture as Bobby goes through his messages, it will grow your faith. There's something about reading God's words in your own Bible that will grow your faith along with the message. In preparation for the message, Luke 10:1-4. After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or a bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. The seventy returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Welcome to Shepherd's Grove, we're a special church. Would you stand with us? We're going to say this creed together as we do every single Sunday. Hold your hands 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 – Bobby Schuller – The Power is Within You!

Many of us have results we want in our lives, and today I want to talk about the importance of how inner change leads to outer results. How changing what's invisible to the world outside leads to the visible; how focusing on what no one else can see will lead to something that everyone can see. And we call this formally discipleship, but I want to talk about it in a specific way for you today. My guess is if you're here this morning, or watching wherever it is, that you have a hope, you have a dream, you have a need, you have a want, you have a desire, that if you were sitting all alone and as your friend, I sat across from you and I asked you 'what do you really want'; that if I could read your mind, a flurry of things would come to your mind – some small, some big, but still many desires, wishes and needs that we have. And what we're typically taught, whether it's by our teachers, or our pastors, or our parents, or our grandparents, or our siblings, or even our enemies, or our colleagues, is that you simply hope for these things.

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You hope for typically an event that some kind of happening, that some event will just come upon you and bring this thing about, because well, sometimes that does happen. So we sit and we hope. We hope for a raise. We hope for the lottery win. We hope to meet someone, that special someone. Or some of us, we hope to fall at Walmart so we can sue them and make some money. That's an actual thing I read there was something like 20% of Americans, their plan to retire is to win some kind of lawsuit, so they're just walking around Target hoping something falls on their head. And so we hope; we hope for some kind of financial thing, we hope we live a long time, we hope we meet somebody, we hope we create something great with our careers and the things we want. And for many of us, sometimes we get those hopes, a lot of times we don't get those hopes. So what's the second thing we're taught? Or its just human nature, well, we blame. We all have had a blame list. I used to have a very long blame list. I'd like to think I threw it away, but I've noticed that lots of people have picked it up and continue to.. I've met so many people who blame, blame, blame. And this is a tough trap to get into. As a pastor, I will say that many of us in this room have been hurt by our parents, and ironically, our parents were probably hurt by their parents, as well. Now no parent is perfect, and I would say, first of all, that many of us are going to be blaming our parents. Let's let go of that. No more blaming your parents. Here's one that I struggle with. I blame the government. No more blaming the government. Don't blame the city, don't blame the state of California, don't blame the federal government, don't blame this, don't blame interest rates. A lot of us will blame our boss, a lot of us will blame bad luck, a lot of us will blame our spouses, a lot of us will blame the weather. Why didn't you go for a run today? Well why didn't you go out and make your pitch? The weather. Listen my friend, there's always so many reasons to not be, to not become, and to not do all that you were called to be and do. Can we get rid of that list today? Let's get rid of blaming and let's get rid of just sitting around hoping all the time. Instead, let's put a plan together to become something new; to achieve inner change that will bring outer results. When we say I blame this person, I blame that person, what we're really saying is I'm powerless. There's nothing I could have done. It's not my fault. And why do we say these things? Because we're embarrassed. We're trying to come up with an excuse. But no more. Instead, I want you to understand today that you are not powerless, that God has given you power today. And even though many of those bad things happened, whether it be your parents, or the government, or your school, or your boss, or your colleagues, or the friend that betrayed you, no doubt bad things happened to you, but my friend, you're not powerless, and that's the good news. You have the power! You have the power to choose what you're going to do with the rest of your life, the rest of your month, the rest of your year, and even the rest of your day when you leave church here today. You have the choice to decide how you're going to spend your time, and here's another big one, who you're going to spend it with. You have the choice to be able to choose how you'll respond to negative experiences. This is something Victor Frankl taught us. He was a Jewish man who suffered in the Nazi concentration camps. He said the Nazi's took everything from me. They took my family, they took my wealth, they took my school, they took my job, but here's the one thing they couldn't take away from me – they couldn't take away my ability to respond, or how I was going to respond to them. He had a choice. You can choose to pray. You can choose to read. You can choose to go. You can choose. You have the power. And this is so important that as you leave here, you get an Hour of Power. That you get a nice taste and a nice remembering that the Holy Spirit is in you, that no matter how young you are, how old you are, you have the power to choose, and to make a difference in your life and in the lives of others. Here's the most surprising thing you're going to say today, but I think it's provable: almost any goal or dream is achievable in five years IF you commit to becoming the kind of person that can achieve that dream. It's not about just having the goal, it's about becoming the person that achieves that goal. It's not about just having a dream, it's about becoming a person who attracts that dream to you. And this brings us to the main point of the sermon today. Commit to becoming the person that attracts the thing you want or need. I've noticed that in life we attract to ourselves the things we have because of who we've become. If you want more in your life, become more. If you want a bigger life, become a bigger person. If you want more love in your life, become a more loving person. You want more adventure in your life, become a more adventurous person. You see, my friend, whoever we become makes us a magnet both of negative and positive things in our lives, and we need to pay attention to what we're attracting into our life. You can become a magnet today. You can become a magnet for abundance, you can become a magnet for amazing people, you can become a magnet for miracles, you can become a magnet for incredible experiences, but it's going to take some work, and it's going to take some chiseling away. Now Jesus, when He's preaching, He's asked 'when will the kingdom of God come?'

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And He tells the Pharisees this. He says this is what's going to happen – everybody's going to say the kingdom of God is over there. Or the kingdom of God is yonder. BUT the kingdom of God is within you. What does He mean when people say it's over there? It's going to be over there. It's coming ahead of us. This is like the man, and many of us know this, some of us have been this man who is constantly always so close to a victory, but always being cheated. Always being swindled. This man is always being tricked. He's always on the next get rich quick scheme. If you have a cup of coffee with you, he'll tell you just the next thing that you can put your money in that's going to make you a millionaire. He's always looking for that next thing, but never looking in the one place where his true fortune lies, and that is the new man in the mirror. The man who can change. The man who can become. The man who can add value. He's not going to find it in any of those other get rich quick schemes, he's going to find it in himself. This is also like that person who's always looking for revival. That believer that always saying oh we got to get to this next event or that next event. I remember when I was in college, there was a lot of talk about this amazing revival in Pensacola, and we just always thought if we could just get down to Pensacola, we can see a move of God. And that's a great thing, the revival in Pensacola. And there are revivals going on all over. People say if we can just get to whatever – Bethel. If we can just get to this spectacular church, if we could just get to Israel. And boy, do I love Israel, and boy do I love those churches, but friend, let me tell you, the revival is not out there, it's inside of you. The move of God is not somewhere else, it's inside of you. The power of God is not waiting for you in the Holy Land, it's inside of you. Those other things help us in those ways, but God's power is in you, and His possibilities lie within your heart and within your mind. Jesus tells us the kingdom of God is not going to be observable, it's not going to be over there, it's not going to be over here, it's inside of you. And boy if you get anything, get that today. The power of God's right there inside of you. Amazing story, it was speech that was given by a guy named Russell Conwell in the 19th century. He used to travel, he gave it over 16,000 ah.. 60,000 times. Six thousand times, rather. And it's been researched as a true story, and it's such a tragic story that it seems like it had to be fake, but it goes like this. There was a man in South Africa had a farm, and he'd been working on it for years and years. Tilling the soil with an old plow, lived in a shack with his family, barely could make ends meet, was trying to pursue his dreams. One day a traveler came by and stayed with him overnight and told him about diamonds. He said did you know that in India right now they're finding these gigantic diamonds the sizes of apricots and apples. And he said if you can just get to India, just one of those diamonds could change your life forever. After the traveler left, this farmer began to think about this and dream about diamonds, and started to become unsettled with where he was, and finally one day he kissed his wife and his little son, and he said I'm going to go find these diamonds, and when I come back, you're going to be sitting on thrones of gold, and off he left. He went to India. He traveled all around Africa, and the story tragically ends. He's in Spain one day, and he throws himself into a river and commits suicide. And behind he left a note that said something like this: there are no diamonds anywhere. Interestingly enough, the man that he sold his farm to was plowing the field every day, and he was plowing that same field with the same plow, the same ox, and he lived in that same shack. And every day as he plowed that dirt, these stupid, annoying black rocks would always get in the way. And so it would get stuck and he'd go and he'd dig out this black rock and throw it to the side. And he had these piles of black rocks that made it so hard to grow any real crops. No wonder the guy sold the farm. One day he hits this gigantic rock and he thought it looked pretty, there was some gleam coming out of it, and he put it on his mantle. And the local priest came by to welcome him to the new community, and when he saw this rock on the man's mantle, he almost fell over, and he said do you know what that is? That is the biggest diamond I have ever seen in my life. Now this is a true story. The problem, and this actually we found out, that this field became the Golconda Diamond Mine. The man literally had acres of diamonds; acres of diamonds in his own backyard, and he left it all to go find diamonds somewhere else. And they say the problem was that when he had read the manual about diamonds, all that he had seen was what? What you see in Snow White with the dwarfs, right? A nice clean polished cut diamond. That's what he's looking for. He did not know that diamonds come in their rough form. Maybe I can say that again: he didn't know that diamonds come in their rough form. They were invisible to him, even though they were there all along. What's the lesson for us? The lesson is that right now you have an acre, you have acres and acres of diamonds, they just don't look very good. They don't look appealing, nobody can see them. I can see them. So many people cannot. My friend, they're right there. You don't need to go over here or over there, it's right there. It's within you. Where is the kingdom? Where is the revival? Where is the power? Where is the joy?

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Where is the life you're looking for? It's inside of you. It's the kingdom of God right here. You just have to cut and you have to clean, but that doesn't feel very good. That doesn't feel very good to cut and clean the diamonds, does it. That brings us to Luke chapter 10. Jesus has gathered the 70, He's about to send them out, and He says this is what I want you to do – I want you to go out and I don't want you to take anything with you. Don't bring your sandals, don't bring any gold, don't bring any bread with you, don't even bring an extra cloak, and I want you to go out there to the towns, and people are going to give you the food you need when you need it. They're going to give you shelter when you need it, and when they give you food or money or shelter, receive it kindly for a worker is worth his wages. And He doesn't say to them don't worry, everything's going to be fine. Remember, Jesus was kind of a youth pastor. He says to them I'm sending you like sheep among wolves! Whoa. Now what are they feeling? What emotions are they having? Are they inspired? Are they excited? No, it's very likely that they are not into this at all, that they still want to do some more learning, that they're not ready to fly the nest yet. They're asking aren't you coming with us? He says nope, you're going to go heal people and you're going to declare to them the kingdom of God has come among you. Why has it come among them? Because it's inside the disciples. And when they return, they said it worked! We always had our food we had everything we needed, and even the demons submitted to us, and as they went around, it really worked. Jesus says to this, that's because I have given you authority. I have given you authority. Now this is important, this word in your own private Bible study time, whenever you're reading the gospels, I want to encourage you, every time you see the word "authority" in any of the four gospels, to underline it. It's an important word in first century Judaism. In Jesus' day, there's two types of religious leaders. There's the teachers of the law, and then there are the rabbis who have authority, or in Hebrew the word is "semikhah". Today the word is used to talk about rabbis who are ordained, but back then, semikhah meant that there was this actual lineage going all the way back to Moses of people who had received a special blessing to have power and perform miracles. So we all probably know, why did Jesus choose 12 disciples? Any takers here? Tim can't answer. Because there's 12 tribes of Israel. I want to say David Cheng said that, good job, David. Twelve tribes of Israel, so you pick 12 disciples. Why did Jesus choose 70? There was 12 and there was 70. And the reason is because Moses, in the Torah, when he's feeling overwhelmed, he chooses 70 people, he lays his hands on them to give them spiritual power to do what he does, and that spiritual power carried on, and incidentally also becomes the number of the Sanhedrin. So what is Jesus doing? He's calling 70 people to say I'm going to give you authority in the same way Moses gave authority. So he's saying, I gave you semikhah. I gave you authority. And it makes me wonder, are there two types of Christians? Those who are experts in the Bible, and then those who have authority? It's sure starting to feel that way. Now there's nothing wrong with being an expert in the Bible. You have to be an expert in the Bible to be someone with authority, I think. But it seems to me that what the Holy Spirit is especially doing today is looking for big believers full of faith who have authority – authority over their sickness, authority over their destiny, a positive, good kind of authority, the kind that leads people to victory, that encourages people, that makes a positive difference in their workplace and the world around them. And I want you to believe today that you have that same authority from God; the authority to proclaim goodness and light in the world around you. Here's the most important thing we know about this story, I think. Those 70 didn't know they had the ability to do that until they did it. It's the doing that shows you that you've got it. They didn't know they had it until they used it. God's asking you to use it. And later on He says, when I sent you out, did you lack anything? And they said never Lord! We couldn't believe it! Every time we were hungry, food appeared! Every time we didn't know where we were going to stay, somebody invited us in. Every time we went to heal somebody, they got healed. And then He says to them, okay good. Now, take a cloak with you and take a bag of gold and take a staff and take some shoes and take a bag and even take a sword. So what do we learn from that? God's not asking us to live penniless, He's asking us to live without fear. He's not asking us to live that way, He's asking us to live without fear. That even if you lose everything, if you lost every dollar, if you lost your house, if you lose all your clothes, that's not where the value is. The value is in here and the value is in here. That's where the power is. Amen? Okay. You've got the diamonds. They're all ready. They're just in their rough form. You've got the diamonds. You've got the experience. The older you are, the more this is true. The more you've understood people, the more you've seen wicked people do their wicked things, the more you've seen good people do their good things. The more you've learned what it's like to make a difference. You've got it, my friend. So here's this last question: how do we get inner change? How do we clean? How do we cut the diamonds?

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This is the first thing I want you to hear. We want to train, train yourself to become a magnet for what you need. Don't think about it as much as hoping that when you're out there, that you'll find it. Think about becoming the person that attracts it to you. All that you have in life, you've attracted because of the person you've become. So continue to become a person. Abundance – financial abundance in life, for example, which of course is not the most important thing, but financial abundance comes from adding value. It doesn't come from hoping. Guy says to me, I want to have a big ministry and a big church. I say to him, then become a big Christian. You want a big church? You need to become a big Christian and it will attract people to you. Friend of mine showed me this list, and on this list, he's a single guy, on this list are all the things he wants from the wife he's looking for. Many of us are out there, we're looking for Mr. Right or Mrs. Right. We're looking for that person. But he showed me this list and boy, let me tell you, this list, it was like she had to be beautiful; a ten out of ten, gorgeous, but educated. Something like a doctor or a rocket scientist. That was the one line I will never forget. He literally wrote that - something like a doctor or a rocket scientist. She's got to have a great sense of humor. She's got to have a big heart for God. And the list goes on and on and on, including her looks, the color of her hair, her teeth. I'm going okay. And he's finishing this list and as he's reading it to me on a sheet of paper, I notice his fingernails are dirty. Now ladies, how many of you like a man with dirty fingernails? I mean that's not a huge deal, but happens to some of us – we're out gardening or something. But this was from gaming. He just hadn't taken a shower in a couple of days. Now here's what I want to say about this friend of mine back in college. There's nothing wrong with that list. Good for him for putting a list like that together. Well I think what we all would say is if he finds a woman like that, how is she going to find him? You see? It's not about finding the gal, it's about becoming the man. It's not about finding the guy, it's about becoming the woman. You see? My vision for you, if you want to get married, would be to become such an attractional person in what you have to offer in a relationship, in your relational skills, in your dreaming, in your achieving, in your positive attitude and so many other things, that you'll have people tripping over themselves to take you out on a date, you see? The question is not how do I find Mr. or Mrs. Right, the question is how do I become a dream husband or a dream wife, and then you'll attract the right person to you, you see? This is what it's all about. We call this discipleship. It's about never settling for who you've become. Many people in here are great people, achieved great things, have incredible moral character, great senses of humor, you're full of life, but never settle for who you've become. You can always become more, and I want to encourage you to do that. So how do we do that? How do we become a magnet, a magnet for opportunity, a magnet for life, a magnet for love, a magnet for victory, a magnet for miracles and open doors? Well, the first thing, it's obvious, you know this is a Bobby Schuller special, right? This is like my kind of sermon. Here's the first thing – you got to learn. You got to commit some of your discretionary time to learning. Now if you work 40 hours a week, and if you sleep eight hours a night, you have about 4,000 extra hours every year you can do something with. Don't doom-scroll those 4,000 hours away on Facebook or Instagram, on TikTok. All right? You can do a little bit of that. But what if you just took a half hour, an hour, two hours each day to read the book, to find the friend, to write the goal, to put the vision together, to research the thing, to learn the thing. There's so much we can accomplish, not by dedicating all that time, but just a little bit of that time to personal growth. This is, by the way, what the disciples were doing before He sent them out. They were learning. They were watching. They were copying the rabbi. They were listening to His sermons. They were writing it down. They were asking questions. They were watching Him do what He did, and they were even open to His correction and rebuke. They were self-aware. They were working on themselves. But can we say this? There is no point when any of those 70 would have felt ready to go out on their own. They had to be pushed by God. Your feelings are always, always, your negative feelings are always going to keep you from where you really need to go. I promise you. Anyone who has especially been in art knows this to be true. You face an empty canvas with paint, you go to sing a song, you go to write a book, a million and one negative emotions push against you to do that thing, and it will always be that way until you develop a new skill. A new skill. And that skill is pressing against your emotions to get to your victory. In the west, we have this thing called the knowing/doing gap where we put such a high value on learning, and we ought to, that we forget that you actually got to do the thing. That we think that learning itself is an accomplishment, and my friend, it's not. Unless you do something with it, unless you do something with it, unless you do something with it, it means nothing. We got to do and we got to go. That's number two. So learn, learn, but then you got to use it. Use it or lose it! Do and go despite your negative feelings.

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Here's one of the greatest skills you can develop in your life is to do what is required, even when your negative feelings push back. We call this heart. Heart. By the way, in the Bible, the heart is not where the emotions are, the belly is where the emotions are. The heart is where the will is. Like the word "courageous" in English that word "cour" means heart in French. Courageous. Courage means that your heart is bigger than your feelings. That your will for good is bigger than your negative emotions. That your will for love, your will for life, your will for more, your will for achievement is bigger than your fear. And boy, that is the truth. When it is time to go, you are going to feel negative things. You're going to feel fear, you're going to feel boredom, you're going to feel procrastination, you're going to feel shiny object syndrome. Anybody have that? Any other golden retrievers in the house like me? You just oh what's this? Oh what's that thing and I'll go to that thing, right? All these emotions will come at you the minute you make a decision to go, and you need to know that so that when you feel it, you go I don't care, I do what's required. Wow! If you can accomplish that, you're going to accomplish way more than everybody else. Now in the Bible, this is called "the flesh." It's referred to as the flesh. Because the flesh has those feelings, and the flesh is what's hungry, the flesh is what's sleepy, the flesh is what's bored. And it will always push against the spirit, which is the will to become more. Peter steps out of the boat to walk on water to Jesus. Moses throws his staff out down at Pharaoh to turn it into a snake. The Levites had to cross the river, even when it was rushing and dangerous. Noah had to build a boat in the middle of a field at the ridicule of his neighbors. The widow of Zarephath had to give away her last meal. Daniel had to defy the government by praying in his window. David had to face up against Goliath and Joshua had to march around Jericho seven times. I guarantee you, every single one of these heroes had negative emotions of fear, of embarrassment, of did I really hear God, of is this stupid. They had family, they had friends, they had spouses, they had neighbors who all told them not to do it, and they still did it, and God blessed them for it. Can I get an amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) Don't act on your feelings. Don't act on your feelings. Don't act on your feelings. Act on what God says. Act on the vision. Act on the mission. Go, go! Do it! Apply what you've learned and your life will never be the same. Finally, after you do, when you pray, when you share, when you invite, when you pitch, when you approach the blank canvas, when you approach the empty sheet of paper, when you start that dream, you start that goal, I guarantee sometimes you will win, and sometimes you will lose. The biggest winners in the world are also the biggest losers. The biggest winners have lost way more than you and I have. It's part of it. Setbacks, disappointments, betrayals, weather, rain, things you couldn't predict, things in the economy, it happens. So what do we do when that happens? You have a choice to get back in the saddle, or to just embrace a will to die, to give up, to procrastinate, and to watch Netflix and bury yourself on the couch. That's not you. You can do it sometimes. So here's what we do when we fail. Last thing: we build principles. Learned this from Ray Dalio. It was a very interesting idea that whenever we go through a loss or a failure, there's still an opportunity to get a treasure from that loss or negative experience, and it's a principle; a deep rooted idea that you carry with you that you can teach to others, and that will keep you from running to that same problem next time. I want to encourage you, if you hear anything, that today you can become a magnet for all that you want, but it takes the work of cutting, of noticing and believing, one, that you're God's beloved child, that He's empowered you, He's chosen you, you're alive for a reason, that that diamond is there, but it's in the rough. It looks ugly, it looks like a piece of rock. You got to chisel it, you got to chisel away, you got to clean it, and then you'll be glad with what you have in the end. All right, my last idea is this – all the achievement in the world, all the accomplishment in the world, all the wealth, everything, it means nothing if you don't have the Lord. If you're not at peace with God. I can't tell you how knowing God will carry you through the hardest things in life. So my friend, today I want to encourage you. Many of us, we have fond feelings of God, we are sort of open to religion and spirituality, enough of that. Follow Christ today. I want to encourage you make a decision. Jesus Christ laid His life on the cross so that we could be forgiven and live at peace with God. All you have to do is receive that free gift today. If you barely believe it, that's enough for God. He can use that barely belief. He can use that. Invite the Holy Spirit into your life. Ask God to forgive you of your sins. Invite Christ into your heart and you'll never be the same. And if you do that, I want you to text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen so we can pray for you. Let's pray. Father, we thank you so much for your Holy Spirit and for the gift of life itself. We thank you that every single person under the sound of my voice has been invited to be a part of the abundance that is the kingdom of God. Help us to know truly what that means, and to experience it. We love you, God, and thank you. It's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said, amen.