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Hour of Power - 21.04.2025

GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Bobby & Hannah

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning.

HS: It is a good morning, and we are so happy you're here. A reminder whatever impossible thing you may be facing, is possible with God. All things, okay? Not ninety-nine percent of things, all things are possible with God, and He is on your side, and He loves you.

BS: Yes, it's important that we recognize what we're about to do. That when we come into this house, we are worshipping the Lord, and worship is not something that we do for ourselves; it benefits us, but worship is something we're doing for the Lord; for an audience of one. Is that right? And when we do that, the Holy Spirit enters the physical space around us, He enters the house with us, He speaks to us, and who knows that wherever God is, chains are broken. Is that right? Is that right, Cohen? What are you stoked about? Oh, they're going to play some music. All right. So we're going to receive from the Lord and remember that as we worship, it's something we do with our body, it's something we do with our heart, there's something we can do where we open our spirit to the Lord. We're going to do that today and receive something good. Right? So we're doing it just for Him. So Lord, we come into your house. We are your people, your sons and your daughters. And we thank you that you've called us by name to be here now. And so we have responded to that invitation, and we come to lift up Jesus Christ, the Son of God, crucified Lamb of the Father who was sent as a working atonement for our sin, for our healing, and for our deliverance, and we stand today in faith believing that what He said is true for us. It's true for me, and it's true for the person standing next to me. Lord, we thank you and we love you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said, amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – John 13,34-35 – Hannah Schuller

Would you open your Bibles with me to John 13:34-35. Let's feed our faith this morning with John 13:34-35. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Thank you, Lord.

MESSAGE/PRAYER – What a Beautiful Name

All right, here we go. There is power, tremendous, wonder-working, life-giving, chain-breaking power when saints are in agreement. There is power in saints in agreement. And I don't just mean that we all say and do the same stuff, but that we agree with the word of God for each other by faith; that we pray with authority and power in agreement. Is that right? When we love one another, when we encourage each other a lot of good comes out of something like that.

There's incredible power in the people in our lives. Notice how in the Bible, with all their training, and all that they were able to do, when Jesus sends out His disciples, He has no problem sending them with, say, no money. He has no problem sending them without a sword or any kind of weapons to protect themselves. He has no problem sending them out without extra clothes or even a bag to like pack their stuff. Somebody tell my wife and daughter. Just kidding.

Here's what He never does: He never sends them alone. It's always two by two or more. This is important to God, that when we go in His name, when we are doing what He's called us to do, that we're not doing it alone. And this is frankly kind of like an anti-American culture thing. We are lone rangers. We love to do our own thing, don't we? But God says no. Doesn't matter how much faith, how much power, how much whatever, don't go alone. It is important we understand that there is power when saints are in agreement.

What a Beautiful Name

And there's power in understanding the impact of the communities that we're in: our friends, people we're hanging with, online communities. This stuff is always impacting us and affecting us.

Here's why there is power in communities, at least for human beings. You've probably heard this a lot: more is caught than is taught. I don't know who said that, but I've heard it my whole life, and the longer I live, the more I know it to be true. More is caught than is taught.

Okay, we're going to play a game. You ready? I'm going to describe a person to you. Let me see if you can get this person. Okay? A teenage girl with a ponytail. Pom poms. A uniform that has big "W" on it for Woodbridge. Very enthusiastic. What am I describing? (AUDIENCE – cheerleader) A cheerleader! That's right.

Now, this is a broad statement, it's not always true, but they kind of look the same, they kind of talk the same, they like to say things like 'actually,' or put the word 'like' every third word, right. They're full of joy, enthusiasm. They're into the team. Now, is that taught to them? Probably not. Is it caught? It's caught, isn't it? How do they catch it? By being around other cheerleaders. Okay? You're one for one. That's pretty good.

Okay, I'm going to describe another person for you. Get ready. A gentleman with a big beard, tattoos, bandana, sunglasses, a Harley Davidson and a leather jacket. Did I say leather jacket twice? I'm not sure. What am I? Santa Claus? Close. What am I describing? Just say it together: (AUDIENCE – biker) It's a biker. Now, did he go to a biker class? Maybe to get his license, but they all kind of.. it's a broad stroke, but a lot of them kind of look the same and talk the same and listen to the same music. Did somebody teach it to him or did he catch it? He caught it. Because more is caught than is taught. Teaching's important. We're doing it right now, right? This is important. But it's reinforcing a community, and we'd even say a spirit; it's reinforcing a spirit that when people come, they start to catch it, even without necessarily hearing all the sermons that have ever been preached. Is that right? More is caught than is taught.

And one of the most important questions we can ask as Christians of ourselves is, what do I want to catch? What do I want to catch? If you want to catch a cold, do you read a book about catching a cold? What do you do if you want to catch a cold? You get around my son Cohen. Is that right? You go to a preschool and you rub your face on some toys. Somebody got an image of me doing that. If you want to catch something, you got to get around it. You got to get around it. You got to get around the spirit.

And what do we want to catch? We want to catch, in this church, we want to catch faith, which is so lacking in the church in the West. We want to catch faith, belief, trusting in what God's word says about everything. We want to catch that, and you can catch it and it is catchable. We want to get around people that are full of faith. We want to practice our faith. We want to be faith people all the time, even when we're not here. Is that right? So we want to catch that. That's good.

Okay, so that brings us to community. So think about how, yes, Jesus does commend the faith of individuals and He does speak to people about their faith, but very often the great moves of the Lord are actually happening in communities, in cities, in areas. Very often in the Old Testament, whole groups and cities are punished as a whole. Is that right? So this idea that a city, a tribe, a community has a thing about it that is either good or bad, and that either lifts it up or brings it down.

Think about Capernaum. In the Bible, Capernaum is full of faith, and everywhere Jesus goes in Capernaum, there's an incredible wonder, working power. That's where the majority of Jesus miracles happen. They had great faith. So did the Decapolis. Great miracles in the Decapolis. What about Nazareth, for those of you who are students in the house. How did Nazareth do? Not so good, right? Not great. And why? Because Nazareth is Jesus' hometown. We believe, most likely, Jesus didn't really perform much in the way of miracles before His baptism. When the Holy Spirit came upon Him and He was anointed, we traditionally believe the first miracle Jesus ever did, at least publicly, was turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana, right? When His mother was like, just do what He says. And He probably only did it because His mother was pestering Him. Right, Mom? (LINDA – yeah) That's why He did it. So when Jesus comes back to Nazareth, He's the local carpenter, right? He's just Jesus. We've known Him His whole life. Isn't this Mary's son? Isn't this Joseph's son? Like, this is the great prophet? This is the Messiah? I don't think so.

If you have your Bibles, turn with me to Mark, chapter six. You brought your Bible to church, didn't you? If you didn't bring your Bible, no problem. That's what phones are for. You can either pull it up on your phone, or we encourage you to take a picture of the screen when you see something, you can review it later. You can also take notes on your phone.

What a Beautiful Name

In Nazareth, Jesus is frustrated because His will is not coming to pass in this town. It is His will that the sick are healed, that the sinners are set free, and yet it's not coming to pass. Does that shock you that I'm saying that? Let's read it together. Mark, chapter six. "Jesus said to them, a prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives, and in his own home. He could not do any miracles there." Couldn't? Wouldn't? Which one? Wouldn't or couldn't?

Okay, I'm going to ask this one more time. This is not Bobby. I'm just asking what does the scripture say. He wouldn't do miracles or couldn't do miracles? (AUDIENCE – couldn't) Could not. Could not. Did He want to do it? Did He try to do it? Somebody say, yes. (AUDIENCE – yes) Did it happen? No, He could not. This is a revelation to the church. This is the word of God - could not.

And then I love this part: "except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them." Now, that line, too, is great because it just shows how incredible the ministry of Jesus was that He just healed a couple people of blindness and deafness. Actually, John says that if a record of all of His great miracles were recorded, that there wouldn't be enough books in the world to contain them all. How many of you know that's a lot of miracles?

So some power happened, some good happened, but it was effectively squelched because why? It says "He was amazed at" what? Their lack of faith. So it clearly is important that the environment, the atmosphere, the spirit of a place is important. And the reason it's important is because God gave us authority. From the beginning, Adam and Eve, He gave us authority. When God says something or ascribes something into the universe, it cannot be undone. It doesn't get undone. This is why God just can't, at the wave of a hand, forgive everybody's sin. Christ had to die. Someone has to pay because it was written. Does that make sense? So even though, yes, God is all powerful and all this stuff, when He says something that is what remains true. And it is important that we understand that our faith or our lack of faith has an impact, doesn't it?

Let's see another one. If you just go back a page, Mark chapter five, just before that. I'm starting to believe that some miracles require more faith than others. I don't know if that's a thing or not, but it seems to me that if it were true that raising someone from the dead would require more faith than healing someone of a head cold. Do you agree with that? You need a lot of faith.

In Mark chapter five, towards the end, we're going to be reading in just a minute from verse 35, Jesus was asked by Jairus to heal his daughter, his 12-year-old teenage daughter. She's on her deathbed and Jairus probably has to travel some distance to get to Him. Jesus is on the way, but there's a crowd and there's all these distractions and things in His way and He's going slowly. He's unhurried because He's in control. He's not worried.

And while this is happening, someone is healed and some good things happen, but then it says in verse 35 of Mark chapter 5, "While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. Your daughter is dead, they said. Why bother the teacher anymore?" What a crazy thing to say to somebody right after you say 'your daughter is dead.' What kind of people are these? Good people or not good people? Somebody say not good, (AUDIENCE – not good) right? Just to be like, 'your daughter is dead. Don't bother the teacher anymore.' He didn't even know his daughter was dead. Total lack of faith, lack of empathy or love or anything.

"Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him," Jairus, the father whose daughter has just died, He tells him, him, not them, him. And if you're at home right now or you watching here, this is the word of God for you. "Don't be afraid. Just believe." Don't be afraid, just believe. Fear is evil. Fear is evil. Don't be afraid. Just believe in who? Jesus Christ.

Okay, and then it says, "He did not let anyone follow him." Who's anyone? All of those faithless jerks. You don't get to come. We're going to Jairus' daughter, stay. Except three people who get to come with them: Peter, James and John. People who are full of faith, people who believe that the Master can do what the Master will do. So immediately notice how He separates the group that's going to pray for Jairus' daughter from the unbelievers, from these rotten people.

"And when they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion with people crying and wailing." In the other version we see.. in Matthew, we see that these are the paid mourners. So believe it or not, back in those days, if somebody passed away, you could pay people to come in and basically pretend and cry and weep and wail. How many of you know it takes a certain kind of person that when they're a little kid, they're like, you know what I want to be when I grow up? You know what I've always dreamed of doing? Okay, these are also not good people, and these are also not people full of faith. We know that because they're crying and they're wailing aloud.

In verse 39, "He went and he said to them, why is there all this commotion? Why all this wailing? The child is not dead, but asleep." Now it's been a long time since this child has been dead.

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People back then were not stupid. They knew what dead meant. They knew what it was to have a pulse or not have a pulse. The girl has been dead for hours or days. She's cold. Her eyes are open. Her mouth is open. She's a shell. She's a body, right? She's dead. And Jesus does what the scripture says here. "He calls things that be not as though they were." Is that right? She's not dead. She's not dead. She's asleep. A proclamation of faith from God. She's not dead. She's asleep.

And then what did they do? What did all those professional mourners do? They laughed at Him. In Greek, you can also translate that word for jeered. They jeered at Him. Almost likely they're under some kind of demonic.. I've noticed that demonic manifestation is often coupled with laughter or jeering and cussing. Like, ha ha ha ha. I've noticed that. Who knows? That's just Bobby. That's not what it says. It's just.. they jeered at Him.

So what's He do? He what? After He put them all out. He put them out. That's a strong verb there, which is effectively like, get out. Right? He says, she's not dead. She's asleep. They laugh and jeered him. Get out. Get out. Now just a moment here. If I'm about to raise somebody from the dead and people have just been jeering at me, do I want them in or out? I want them in. I want to be like, right, check that out. Check out what I can do.

Here's what I think is happening here, in both cases. The first, you've got to raise somebody from the dead. It requires a lot of faith. The first group, you don't get to come. The second group, you for sure do not get to come. Who's in that room? Mom, dad, Jesus, James, John, Peter. Six people. We need six people who believe. We need six people who believe. This is important. We're talking about community today. Again, we're talking about the importance of being around people who believe, and especially not being around people who don't believe. Both are important.

Just for our own edification, we'll finish this story. "He took her by the hand. He said to her, 'talitha kum,' (which means little girl, I say to you, get up). Immediately, the girl stood up and began to walk around. She was 12-years-old. At this, they were completely astonished." We just thank you, Jesus, that you raise people from the dead. And we thank you that we do not serve the great I was. We serve the great I Am. He has not changed. This is His domain, this church right here. The presence of the Lord is in the house, and He's looking for faith. Will He find it? Will He find it? (AUDIENCE – yes) Amen.

If you need a big miracle, you need to get around big faith people. That's just the truth. If you need a big miracle, you need to get around big faith people, and big faith people are here. Somebody says to me, Bobby, I have a lot of faith. Bobby, I've been on missionary trips. Bobby, I've laid hands on the sick, and they were healed. Bobby, I've received the oracles from God. That's wonderful. But I would say to you how blessed you are if you get in a community of more people like that and you create an environment of faith.

Somebody says.. that same person, I'm full of faith, I believe God, I believe His word. I don't walk by sight, I walk by faith, et cetera. And then you get into a community with no faith. Good luck. Good luck. That's the kind of community that you go in and you say something like, by His stripes, we are healed. And they say to you, "well." See this is what Christians say when they don't believe the Bible. When the Bible said, "It is my will that you prosper and be in good health even as your soul prospers." And they say, "well." The Bible says, if I say to this mountain, move and be cast into the sea and believe and not doubt, they say "well." The Bible says, if I believe it, I will receive it. "Well." The Bible says, you're the head and not the tail, above and not beneath. And that church says, what? "Well." They're going to well you to death. They're going to well you to death. And the problem is, they're Christians. They love Jesus Christ. They're going to heaven. They're doing good work. They're helping the poor. They've got great programs, right? But they have no (AUDIENCE – faith) faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Faith means you believe what it says. Amen? And we believe. We believe. And when people who believe get around other people who believe, the Holy Spirit begins to move in incredible and profound ways. That community of believers is like a fire. It's like coals in an oven. When you get one coal and another coal and you put them together, it makes more heat than two coals. When you get a horse and another horse and you put it together, you don't get two horsepower, you get a lot more than that. And I have seen that when you get a room full of people who are full of faith, something special happens. Something really powerful and really special happens. It's not just hot, it's like the surface of the sun. And when people leave an environment like that, they bring that heat, that power and that spirit with them. And it's like wherever they go, chains just break and evil things just melt away because the presence of the Spirit is so densely and powerfully upon them that wickedness and the kingdom of darkness simply can't abide them. Is that right?

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Here's some kingdom math for you. In the natural, one plus one equals two. In the kingdom of God, one plus one equals ten. One person who believes in another. And in the world we live in, one plus one plus one equals three. But in the kingdom of God, one plus one plus one equals 100. And this is why this multiplicative effect of faith is so important to have in a community that gathers.

I remember we were in a Bible study, and one of these guys that was in the early part of the Vineyard movement that started here in Orange County, was an outflow of the Jesus movement, and they just wanted to see God's miracles happen. And it was interesting, he said that they only had enough faith to believe for elbows to get healed. And all of a sudden, nothing else would get answered but elbows. Kind of funny, right? And then it was like elbows and shoulders. Oh! We get the shoulders and elbows. And then after a year or so, it was like elbows and shoulders and like feet that were not even, or something like that. And pretty soon it was head, shoulders, knees and toes, whatever, I don't know. But of course, we know the great works that came out of the Vineyard movement, but it wasn't an overnight thing. It was like the faith of the community itself had to increase. Had to increase, didn't it?

And okay, this is Bobby, not the Bible, just as long as you take that with a grain of salt. I've come to realize that I think that faith is like strength and the spirit is like a muscle. And so for many of us, we pray in faith, but we don't have enough faith to raise the dead. But we have enough faith for an elbow, and that's pretty good. And so part of growing in strength, just like any other training, is putting the faith into practice, whether it's in prayer or good service or whatever it is that you're called to do that, whatever it is, that there is a training aspect to the spirit that the more you do it.. you understand what I'm saying? The more you do it, the stronger you get. The more you practice your faith, the more your faith increases because your spiritual muscles get stronger.

And so a church is like a gym, actually, in a lot of ways. And there's all kinds of gyms out there. There's good gyms and bad gyms, aren't there? Who here knows about Planet Fitness? Let me say, who here does not know about Planet Fitness? Most popular gym in the world. Planet Fitness's business model is hilarious. Their goal is to get as many people as possible that won't go. So what they realized is that people who go to the gym are expensive. But a lot of people will sign up for a gym membership and never go, and can never bring themselves to cancel a ten dollar a month subscription because, well, it's just ten bucks a month and I'll go next week.

So if you were to look at the Planet Fitness model, they shame people who work out. So in the weights section, for example, they have this thing called a lunk alarm that if you drop weights, which you have to do if you're working out with weights, this alarm goes off. They serve pizza. They really do. And they do all this stuff to basically say, we want lazy exercise people who like the idea of the gym. Somebody say they got a lot of members (AUDIENCE – they got a lot of members). Say it. They got a lot of money (AUDIENCE – a lot of money). They've got no strength (AUDIENCE – no strength). One more time. They got a lot of members (AUDIENCE – a lot of members), they got a lot of money (AUDIENCE – a lot of money). They've got no strength (AUDIENCE – no strength). That's Planet Fitness, right?

Okay, there's another gym called Gold's Gym. And you go into Gold's Gym, you might run into Arnold Schwarzenegger. Everything there is duct tape, rusty iron, chalk, big beefy guys stomping around, stinking up the place. But are they strong? (AUDIENCE – yes) Now they're the opposite. See? They're the opposite.

And the temptation for the church today is to focus on members, which is good, money, which is good, but not strength, not strength. And if you want to move something, you want to go to a place that believes in strength more than members and money. Is that right? God cares. God wants big Christians, not big churches. Big churches are great, but big Christians first. I think Gold's Gym has a lot of members and a lot of money. Not as much as Planet Fitness, but what matters to them is strength. Power. Power.

Okay, let's declare something together. I am a faith person. Say it with me: I am a faith person (AUDIENCE – I am a faith person). This is a faith community (AUDIENCE – this is a faith community). We believe in miracles (AUDIENCE – we believe in miracles). One more time, and we're going to do it even more because that was a little Planet Fitness-y. We're going Gold's Gym.

One more time: I am a faith person (AUDIENCE – I am a faith person). This is a faith community (AUDIENCE – this is a faith community). We believe in miracles (AUDIENCE – we believe in miracles). Amen. And we do believe. We believe it. I want to say to all you, too, many people who are watching on television or online, we think of you, too. We think you are a part of this community, and we're grateful that you're a part of this, and we pray for you. Isn't that right, church?

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(AUDIENCE – yes) So we're grateful that you're a part of this community. And I encourage you, too, if you keep watching, please subscribe. I know I always do that, but please subscribe.

The Son of Man is looking for faith on the earth, the scripture says. The Son of Man will look for faith on the earth. And then it asks, will He find it? Somebody say, He will find it here. (AUDIENCE - He will find it here) Amen.

So you can gather rightly and you can gather wrongly. Psalm 1 tells us how to gather wrongly, doesn't it? Blessed is he who does not. "Blessed is he who does not walk in the way of wicked, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers." Is it behind me? It is, isn't me. Yes, I'm doing ESV. That's NIV. That's why it looks different. "But his delight is on the law of the Lord, and on his law, he meditates day and night." Right? Notice how it's not just the meditation on the Word, it's also not being in the company of sinners and of mockers. This is important.

There is an aspect of the church that's missional, and we want to invite people to the table, and we love everybody, but at the end of the day, we don't walk in the way. We don't sit in the seat. And notice how mockers is the worst one. Okay.

So the best and most effective way to change your behavior is what? To change your community. You want to start chewing bubble gum? Get around people that chew bubble gum. That's just how it is. You want to look like a biker, get around bikers. You want to look like a cheerleader, get around cheerleaders. You want to be a person of faith, be in a community of faith. And not just a church. I'm talking about friends, I'm talking about company.

Okay, we're almost there. If you have your Bibles, turn with me to John, chapter 13. So faith is first, and then we cannot forget the second piece. This is more important, actually. And I'm going to try and finish this in five/ten minutes. John, chapter 13. In His departure sermon, Jesus is leaving them with a promise of the Holy Spirit. I'm going to just back up here because the sun.

"A new command I give you." Is it a command or a suggestion? (AUDIENCE – command) Can you do it? (AUDIENCE – yes) Can you do it? (AUDIENCE – yes) You have to do it, right? If it's a command, if He's your Lord. Okay, "a new command I give you." What's the command? "Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another." Who's He talking to? The twelve disciples. Okay? "By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." How is it a new command? He's already commanded them to love enemies, hasn't He? And He's commanded them to love their neighbor, hasn't He? That's a commandment from the Old Testament. So for sure, God wants us to love our enemies. God wants us to love people in the world. God wants you to love your boss. I'm sorry, you got to do it. God wants you to love your spouse and your kids and everybody.

But this is a new command. Who's He talking to? This is a revelation I didn't realize that in this particular command, He's actually telling disciples to love the other disciples. That's why it's a new command that as He's going, this is a command to the church, and it's not a command to Shepherd's Grove. There's one church. There's one true church. And it is the call for Christians to love other Christians in a unique and special way.

When He says it over and over in the departure sermon, this is what He's talking about. Yes, we're supposed to love other people, but there's supposed to be a special kind of love that exists among a community of believers. Is that true? Is it? (AUDIENCE – yes) If you don't know, I'm telling you it's true. You can trust me. And that there is promises that come with this.

That also means that as a small church with a small C, we love other churches, too, as much as we love this church. In fact, we love them more. Last week, we raised money to send to the churches in Palisades that burned down because they're our brothers and sisters in the Lord. We didn't send it to schools. We love schools. We didn't send it to other non-profits. We love them. We sent it to the church because there is a special kind of love that is supposed to exist between believers. And I know that that's not a popular opinion, but it's the truth.

Who here needs a miracle, or wants to live a miracle kind of life? If you need a miracle, there's another promise in here. Just go over on one more page to John, chapter 15. Jesus says in John 15, verse 9, "as the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love or abide in my love." The word there is *meno*, which means like, find your home. It's a wonderful word. "To remain in my love." And then how do we remain in His love? Now, see, this is what I thought. I always thought remaining in His love was like having a deep life of prayer and worship, and those are all wonderful, wonderful things, but Jesus defines what it means to abide in His love here.

He says in the next line, what does it say? If what? "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love." Which is first, the commands or the love? (AUDIENCE – the commands) The commands.

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That's not the only verse that says it that way. It always says it in that order. "If you keep my commands, you'll abide in my love, just as I keep the Father's commands and remain in his love." Okay, and I lost my place. Shoot. So you'll see in other places, we'll get there in just a minute. Yes, if "I've told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete," and here's the command. He just clearly says it to us. "Here's my command - love each other." Who's He talking to? Who's He talking to? (AUDIENCE – the disciples) The disciples. "Love each other as I have loved you." Okay? You got that?

Now, this love is agape love. It's not a feeling. It's the kind of love that the Father has for us and that the Father has for the Son. In Jeremiah 31, verse 3, it says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." Notice how God doesn't fall in love with us? He didn't fall in love with us, right? He didn't say, oh, Bobby, Brother Bobby, I love you. Right? Isn't that great? And then He didn't fall out of love. He didn't write me a Dear John card and say the thrill is gone. It's just what we used to have. It's just not there anymore. That's worldly love. It's a nice thing to have. It's a good thing to have in a relationship. It's not a bad thing. But that's not the kind of love that God's talking about. He's talking about agape love, which is a choice.

He loved us when we were His enemies. He loved us when we harmed Him. He loved us when we cursed His name. He loved us when we were in opposition to His good works. He loved Paul when Paul was killing Christians, okay? It's agape love. And we don't fall in and out of love. That's a lot of falling, isn't it? So we're not in the fall.

Okay, second thing. John 15, verse 18. He goes on to say this. Now, "if the world hates you," so it's the other side of the ledger, right? "If the world hates you, keep in mind it hated me first. If you belong to the world, it would love you as its own." We have no right to expect the world to love us. I'll say that one one more time. We have no right to expect the world to love us. In fact, we shouldn't even want it. We shouldn't even want it. We love the world. We love everyone in the world. We love our neighbor, we love our enemies. They're not usually going to love you back. Is that okay? (AUDIENCE – yes) Why is that okay? Because we love one another. Do you see? We love one another.

And there are so many reasons that the church is in shambles, but maybe the biggest in America is that the church is desperate for worldly love. They'll understand us. We just got to say it right. It's already been said. Just say this. This is what's right. And if you say it this way, they'll hate it. Right? There's some things that we believe in the church. Right? We believe in right and wrong. We believe that there's sexual purity and sexual immorality. Does the world love that? No, they hate that. We believe there's one way to go to heaven, that is through Jesus Christ crucified, and no other way. Does the world love that? No, they hate that. And I could put a whole list of things on here that the world hates that we believe. Somebody say, so what? (AUDIENCE - so what) So what! Somebody say, so what? (AUDIENCE – so what) Turn your back on the world. Love the world, but don't look for the world's love. We got something so much better. Is that right? It got a little quiet, guys. I'm not going to be honest. It got a little quiet. That's probably because it's boring. Okay.

Somebody here still need a miracle? Okay, last Bible verse. So this is important that we love each other, and we don't look for the world to love us, even though we love them, and we do. We love the world. We love people in the world.

John 15, verse 7. This is either true or it's "well." It's one of those. Okay, John 15, verse 7. "If you remain in me and my words remain in you." So how do we do that again? We obey His command, which is to love each other. "Ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you." True or well, (AUDIENCE – true) is it true? (AUDIENCE – yes) Just in case you missed it, He says it again. Verse 16. "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. So that whatever you ask in my name, the Father will give you."

And then just to say it again, "here's my command - love each other." Love each other. You know why it is everywhere agape love is God is because God is agape love. And everywhere that the spirit of the Lord is, everything bad in your life has to flee. When the environment is saturated in agape love, chains break, fear dissipates, sick people are well, brokenness goes away. Despair, discouragement, it flees. All demonic principalities and powers, rulers of the darkness, they're gone. And this is because wherever God is, wherever the lion of Judah is, all of his enemies run. Is that right? And so when we are living in the agape love by faith and power, when the saints are in agreement on the Word, this incredible thing happens and is happening in this church. We hear it every week of lives being changed, people being delivered. And it's not by our power. It's by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ that paid the price that allows this place to be full of God's life.

What a Beautiful Name

Isn't that good news? (AUDIENCE – yes) So whenever we have agape love, we have God. Thank you, Lord. Wherever agape is, God is. Does Satan want that? (AUDIENCE – no) One of the best questions we can ask is not just what is God's will, but what's Satan's will? Does Satan want us in agreement? Does Satan want us well? Does Satan want us joyful? Does Satan want us praying for the world? The answer is no. That's right.

All right, stand with me. If you came under condemnation today, that was not the spirit of the Lord, and that was not my intent. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, but only freedom.

Lift your hands with me like this. Father, we come before you boldly and we thank you that we are set free. We are set free from all principalities and rulers of the darkness, from all sin, from all confusion, from every negative report. We don't walk by sight, we walk by faith. We believe your word. It's true for us. We stand on your word in all things, in all times.

And Lord, I just pray victory over the sound of everybody in my voice. Some people here need a miracle today. I release my faith with all the other believers in this house, and we just believe for miraculous healings in bodies. We pray for broken chains, anybody that's addicted anything. We pray that they wouldn't even want it anymore. And we commit today in covenant to love one another. We love one another. We will be there for one another, because wherever love is, you are. We thank you, God. We adore you. We cast our crowns before your throne and we lift up the great name of Jesus Christ, and it is in His name we pray, all God's people said, amen.

BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you His peace in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.