

GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Bobby Schuller

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning. (AUDIENCE – good morning) Who's ready to rejoice and be glad in it today? This is a good day. The Lord's house. When we gather like this, something really special can happen here. I think too many Christians today have discounted the power of worship, and especially corporate worship. Some of the greatest moves and miracles of the Lord have happened when faith people. Are you a faith person? (AUDIENCE – yes) When faith people get together and lift up the name of the Lord. When we lift up a bad report, it gets a lot of power in our life. When we lift up a good report, when we lift up the victory and the Word and we lift up the Lord, it gets a lot of power in our life. Isn't that right?

So we're going to draw near to the Lord now. We're going to bring our praise to Him. And let's just become, as David said, even more undignified than this, right? Let's just give it to the Lord. Let's rejoice today.

And let's begin with a word of prayer. Lift your hands with me. Father, we come into your house with praise and thanksgiving. Thank you, Lord that your Holy Spirit is here. Thank you that you can break any chain, that you can deliver us from any spirit; that you can bring us to every victory. And we trust in the name of the Lord, and we thank you, Lord, and we love you, it's in Jesus name we pray, amen.

Turn around to your neighbor, welcome him, greet him in the name of the Lord. Say, God loves you and so do I.

SCRIPTURE – Jonah 2:1-10 - Bruce Cramer

BC: Take your Bibles and turn with me to Jonah. Jonah's a little bit hard to find. It's right there with all the great books; the names you wanted to use for your kids, maybe Josiah, Obadiah. All those popular names today.

Jonah, chapter two. And again, most of us know this story, but we're going to share the powerful prayer of Jonah. Jonah, chapter two, starting in verse one.

“From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord, his God. And he said, in my distress, I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave, I called for help and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas. The currents swirled around me. The waves and the breakers swept over me. And I said, I have been banished from your sight. Yet I will look again toward the holy temple.

The engulfed waters, they threatened me. The deep surrounded me. Seaweed wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down, to the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you brought up my life from the pit, O Lord, my God. When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord. And my prayer rose to you in your holy temple. To those who cling to worthless idols, they forfeit the grace that could have been theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good because salvation comes from the Lord. And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto the dry land.”

This is the word of the Lord.

MESSAGE/PRAYER – Bobby Schuller

“The Holy Spirit Will Lead You to Your Calling”

BS: If you have your Bibles, open with me to John, chapter four. John, chapter four. It goes Matthew, Mark, Luke, and then John. All right. In John 4, Jesus has been talking to a Samaritan woman. Samaritans are already kind of like enemies of the Jews. They're sort of like half Jewish, half Assyrian, and the Jews and Samaritans hate each other. So Jesus is talking to a Samaritan woman. He's not supposed to be talking to a woman by Himself, since He's a rabbi; it's a lot of cultural things. And He's been ministering to her and blessing her and helping her.

And through this conversation, this woman, her life has completely changed, so she runs into town to tell everybody about this great prophet she found, Jesus. And just as that happens, His disciples return. And they've noticed that He hasn't been eating and He hasn't been drinking. And they say to Him, rabbi, will you please just eat something? Will you please just like have a meal and have a glass of water?

And Jesus response is interesting. He says to them, I have food that you don't know of and drink that you don't know about. And then He describes it to them. If you look John, chapter 4, verse 34, He says this to them, "My food, said Jesus, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." Who knows, Jesus has a food and a drink that the disciples didn't have. Man cannot live on bread alone, but on what? (AUDIENCE – every word) Every word that flows from the mouth of God.

And here, the word that is flowing from the mouth of God is what? Work, direction, something to accomplish. Who here knows that when you're doing what God has called you to do, it nourishes you in a way that bread and water don't even sound good anymore. Even the good stuff, even Evian and.. I don't know, what's a good bread? The bread my sister makes.

Okay? So His nourishment.. so if the Spirit of Christ lives in you, then that's true for you, too. You have a food and you have a drink that the world doesn't know about. What is your food and your drink? It is to do the work of Him who sent you and to finish what He called you to accomplish. Is that right? If it's true, say amen (AUDIENCE – amen). This is your nourishment - to go where the Holy Spirit goes, to do what the Holy Spirit asks you to do, to become who the Holy Spirit has asked you to become. When you don't go where He wants you to go, you're starving.

How many here know that there are a lot of good Bible-believing, Jesus-loving Christians who are starving. They're starving because they don't hear from the Lord. They don't know where the Lord is going. They don't know what it is that God wants them to do next. They're not led of the Holy Spirit. But not us, amen? We don't need to be spiritually starving and spiritually thirsty. We have food and water that the world doesn't know it, and the food is to do the work of Him who sent us.

Okay, declare this with me. Let's say this together: My food (AUDIENCE – my food) is to do (AUDIENCE – is to do) the will of Him (AUDIENCE – the will of Him) who sent me (AUDIENCE – who sent me) and to finish (AUDIENCE – and to finish) His work (AUDIENCE – His work).

Now that was messy, wasn't it, because you can read it. Okay, we're going to say it again together, let's say it at the same time: (AUDIENCE & BOBBY - My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work). If you take that with you today, if you hold onto that today, I promise your life will change. I promise, it'll change.

So a quick review. This is a continuation of a sermon I've been giving for, like, four weeks. I guess you'd call it a series. I don't know. We're just following the Holy Spirit. And what the Spirit taught us is that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is what? (AUDIENCE – freedom) Freedom. Where! Where the Spirit of the Lord is. If the Spirit is there and I'm over there, I'm in bondage. If the Spirit is over there and I go there, I am what? (AUDIENCE – free) Free.

And last week, we looked at the story, as a quick review, of the Israelites. The Israelites leave Egypt, they leave with gold and plunder and clothes, and they leave at the leading of a fire by night and a cloud by day that feeds them manna that keeps them physically healthy and full. Just to get them across the desert. Incredible miracles.

And in the midst of that, God says to them, I have wells you didn't dig, houses you didn't build. I've got groves and vineyards you didn't plant ready for you ripe with grapes. And I got cattle you didn't raise. I've got herds you didn't gather. And they're all ready for you in a land flowing, somebody say flowing. (AUDIENCE – flowing) That's more than just having, right? It's flowing with milk and honey. You could stand on that, right?

So the Israelites, they get to the border of the Promised Land and they believe the report of the ten. Everything the ten say is true. They say there's walled cities, they say there's giants. Everything they say is true, and the scripture calls it an evil, evil report. Not a bad.. not just like.. not a negative, an evil report. Evil. In fact, the word there in Hebrew is slander. That they slandered, slandered God like they insulted God.

And that evil, wicked report spread through the whole camp and everybody except two people, of the two million in that Israelite camp, only two live, and the two that live were the two that had faith and believed the word of God. That's a review.

And what we learned from that, a big part of what we learned from that is that miracles will not build faith in your life. Maybe in the short term they might convince you to take a step, but long term, you cannot build your faith of God on seeing miracles. You build it on the Word. If you want faith in your life, it doesn't even come by asking for it, it doesn't come from worship, although that's a wonderful thing, it doesn't come from prayer, and it certainly doesn't come from miracles. Faith comes by (AUDIENCE – hearing) hearing and hearing by what (AUDIENCE – the Word of God). The Word of God. Believing God's Word is what increases our faith.

Okay, so that's a review. And that sometimes this idea, the destructive power of a word and the life-giving power of a word, that the word you choose is your future. You believe the evil report, you're going to die, if you believe the word of faith, you're going to live. You believe the evil report, you're going to get sick, you believe the word of faith, you're going to get well. You believe the evil report, you're going to lose everything, you believe the word of God, you're going to thrive. You believe the word of God, you go to heaven. You don't believe the word of God, you don't go to heaven. It's that simple. We believe the word. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

Okay, that's a little heavy. Can I go heavier? (AUDIENCE – yes) Okay. It is important to understand that if you're following the Holy Spirit, it's not always easy. Canaan was scary, but that's where the Holy Spirit, that's where the Spirit of the Lord was. It wasn't anywhere else. And they missed out on where the Spirit of the Lord is. So they died in bondage.

Amen?

And I remember, in fact, I was talking to Hannah about this yesterday. I regret, I said, I regret all of the big decisions in my life that I did not earnestly bring before the Lord in prayer. There's a lot of big decisions you make in life and you go, well, that's a good thing, that's a godly thing. That's probably a good thing to do. Wrong. That's not how we walk.

Yes, we want to do good and not evil, but we are led of the Holy Spirit and we ought to bring big decisions, we ought to bring little decisions to the Lord. We ought to pray about it. We ought to earnestly hear from the Lord. If it's His kingdom and not my kingdom, I need to know what the king says. If He's the boss, not me, I need to know what my boss wants me to do. He will tell me. He will tell you, if you ask Him. He will. He will. He'll speak to you if you listen and you ask Him, but it can't be just a blip all the time. Sometimes you have to really, really seek His face. But if you seek His face and if you act in faith, I'm telling you, even the biggest business things and risks and all this stuff, if He tells you to go and you know it was Him, it's just like peace the whole way. You're not worried. The door opens, the victory comes. Is that right? (AUDIENCE – amen) Can I get an amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

And so I never want to make any big or small decisions, whether I get Chipotle honey chicken or regular chicken. I want to hear from the Lord. I know that sounds ridiculous. I want to hear from the Lord all the time. I want to be constantly having a line. When I'm talking to people in church, when I'm sharing anything, I want to be in a spirit of prayer, listening to the Lord. Amen? Not doing it in my strength. We do it by the power of the Holy Spirit.

That review was almost just the same sermon, and it gobbled up a ton of time, but I'm not worried about it, are you? All right, let's drill down.

So the principle is this: sometimes the Holy Spirit will lead you to scary places. Nobody gets out of this. If you follow the Holy Spirit, everybody is going to have to do scary things sometimes. Nobody's getting out of that. Everybody's going to have to look at a Canaan full of giants and walled cities and go.

And so let's talk about that. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who are Hebrews that love the Lord and were faithful to God. King Nebuchadnezzar says to them, I'm building this 90-foot statue of myself, and whenever the music plays, everyone has to bow. They're in this crowd of people. The music plays. Everybody goes down except for these three guys. And Nebuchadnezzar, in his rage, right, angry, says, you're going into the fire. I'm going to cook you alive.

And this is their response in Daniel 3:17. They say, "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from your majesty's hand." Is that a faith response or a fear response? (AUDIENCE – faith) Is that a faith response or a fear response? (AUDIENCE – faith) That's a faith response. Can we talk that way? (AUDIENCE – yes) See, the Holy Spirit doesn't lead these men into the fire, He leads them into obedience. The fire is just a consequence. They're not out looking for a fire. They're out looking to obey God. And sometimes there's a consequence to that.

And when they go to the fire, what do they see when they look in? Three men unharmed, but not just three men, what do they see? A fourth man, right? There's a fourth man in the fire. There's a fourth man in the fire. His name is Jesus Christ. Who here knows that the safest place those three men could be was in a blazing fire with that fourth man. Not anywhere else. Somebody say, where the Spirit of the Lord is (AUDIENCE – where the Spirit of the Lord is), there is victory (AUDIENCE – there is victory).

Same thing with Daniel. Daniel's faithfully praying to God three times a day. His political enemies tell King Darius, a different king, who loves Daniel. They tell the king, hey, people should only bow to you for the next 30 days, and anybody that doesn't bow to you gets eaten by lions. Do you agree to that? And Darius, probably busy with something, says, sure. And just as he always did, Daniel does in obedience what the Holy Spirit leads him to do. He prays morning, noon and night. But the law is not breakable.

Daniel is arrested, to the chagrin of the king, and thrown into the lion's den and a stone is rolled over the entrance to block him in overnight. Jesus' burial is an homage to Daniel, by the way. Next morning, the stone is rolled back and there is the prophet Daniel sleeping with starving lions. Is that right? Who here knows Daniel was not in the lion's den, the lions were in the Daniel den. The lions were in the Daniel den. The safest place Daniel could have been was in that den. Why? Because the Holy Spirit was there. Somebody say, where? (AUDIENCE – where) Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, lions sleep. Where the Spirit of the Lord is fire doesn't burn, unless you want it to. Thank you, Lord.

Declare with me: where the Spirit of the Lord is (AUDIENCE – where the Spirit of the Lord is). Come on, y' all. There is victory (AUDIENCE – there is victory). There's a fourth man in the fire (AUDIENCE – there's a fourth man in the fire). Come on! I sleep in the lion's den (AUDIENCE – I sleep in the lion's den). Where the Spirit of the Lord is (AUDIENCE – where the Spirit of the Lord is), there is peace (AUDIENCE – there is peace), there's provision (AUDIENCE – there's provision), there's health (AUDIENCE – there's health), there's freedom (AUDIENCE – there's freedom). Amen! (AUDIENCE – amen). Good word. Thank you, Lord.

So if you follow the Spirit, the Spirit will take you to some scary places, but those scary places are good for you. The Lord has called us all to share our faith and evangelize. It's not a spiritual gift given only to some, it's a command to all believers. It's called The Great Commission. It's a big deal, right? Is there a heaven and hell? Do we need to share our faith? Okay, who here knows, for most Christians, sharing our faith is scary. Is that scary? How about with your professor, your atheist professor? That's scary.

We are called to pray for the sick. Who knows that can be scary if the Holy Spirit leads you to pray for a sick person, and then if you really want to pray, like the way Hannah prays, you tell them to do the thing they couldn't do before. Who knows that's even scarier? God might call you to prophesy. He might call you to say no to the world's standard in a room full of people that love the world's standard. God might call you to confess a sin to somebody you love. God might call you to start something that you've never started, including a business or a ministry or a class or whatever. He might ask you, and He will ask you to forgive that monster, whoever that is, that hurt you. You know He's calling you to do that. That's scary. Doesn't mean you have to bring the person back into your life. You probably shouldn't. And it doesn't mean a lot of things, but you still have to let it go and forgive them.

Some of us are called to give to a neighbor or someone in need, or to a church or whatever in a way that stretches. That's scary. And these are just some of the routine things that those of us who are led by the Spirit are called to do. And it's scary and kind of hard every single time, but is it worth it? It's worth it. Okay.

If that's where the Holy Spirit is, that's where you want to be because it's the safest, best place. That's where the freedom is. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

Okay, if you have your Bibles, and I'm going to give you a heads up, open to Jonah, chapter two. This is going to take you a while because Jonah is literally one leafy page like this. Okay? So don't try to be a hero, all right? Just go to the concordance at the front of your Bible, find the page number and go. Don't start at Malachi and go back 100 pages. You're not going to find it. Does anybody find it? All right, you defied me. Brilliant.

We're going to read Jonah chapter 2. And while you're flipping there, in your Bible at home, if you happen to hit that subscribe button, I'll just let you know, my heart will sing. I know I debase myself by constantly asking for subscriptions, but our subscriptions are going up, so I'm going to keep doing it. Really, thank you for subscribing. We appreciate it. Okay. Okay, we want to answer this question: what about when I'm not obedient and I act in fear, when I know the Holy Spirit has called me to talk to a person, to do a thing, to start a thing, and I get butterflies, I don't do it, or I delay and it's too late? Is that a mistake? Yes. Somebody say, yes (AUDIENCE – yes), that's a mistake. And very often those types of big mistakes can mess up our lives. So what do we do? And we're going to turn to the story of Jonah. I'm going to do my best not to nerd out too much, but in Jonah, God tells the prophet, go to Nineveh.

Now the contemporary readers of the story would have totally gotten that sentence. We are divorced from it. Nineveh is the capital city of the Akkadian Assyrian Empire. It's the oldest and longest running empire in human history. Depending on how you measure it, it's somewhere between 2000 and 2500 years old, that one empire. Keep in mind, that's a long time. That would be as if Alexander the Great's empire were still going today. That's a long time.

And the way that they were able to keep that empire in power was by killing, maiming and torturing lots of people. They did it through fear. Just to give you some insight, the city of Nineveh, the walls were 150-ft high. Now, the ceiling in our sanctuary is 35-ft high, okay. So it's 150-ft high. So 15 stories. The walls were 50-ft wide, so about the width of the 5 freeway. Okay? Just one side, not two. And the wall was 18 miles in circumference. They used to race horses on it, on top of it. That's a scary place when they hate God.

The king, who was likely the king during Jonah's day, Sennacherib, did horrible things, things that are so horrible you can't talk about them because YouTube will ban our thing. Don't forget to like and subscribe. No, but really, it's nasty, nasty stuff. You can't talk about it in church. And just the most hideous.

One of the things the king would do is he would kill kings who defied him, put their head in a jar on a mantle, and then take their wives so that it was though the king watched him being with their wife. When he destroyed..

I'm not saying that to be cute, I know it's a little inappropriate, but just to give you an idea of how gnarly these people are.

Here's one account from Sennacherib when he destroyed the other great city of Babylonia. He says, "As a hurricane proceeds, I attacked it, and like a storm, I overthrew it. Its inhabitants, young and old, children I did not spare. And with their corpses I filled the streets of the city. The town itself and its houses, from their foundations to the roofs, I devastated, I destroyed. By fire, I overthrew in order that in future even the soil of its temples would be forgotten. By water I ravaged it. I turned it into a pasture." God says, go preach to them. Go tell that guy to repent.

Let's bring up the map. Here's where Jonah is, and he says, go to Nineveh and talk to that guy, and Jonah goes, nope, I'm going to Spain. So this is where Tarshish is. He decides instead of going to Nineveh, he's going to go on vacation, have some tapas. Enjoy some music. Who here knows Jonah's scared? Is Nineveh a scary place? (AUDIENCE – yes) Are the Assyrians scary people? Can we trust the Lord if He says to go to Nineveh? We can, and we should.

The story of Jonah continues. You see it in the Hebrew. I saw this from Wes Huff, a really brilliant insight. In Hebrew, you see that Jonah just goes down, down, down, down. He goes from his hometown down to Joppa, then from Joppa, he goes down to the harbor, then from the harbor, he goes down under the deck of the ship.

And then, as you know the story, many of you, there's this massive storm, and the sailors, by Jonah's request, throw him overboard, and he goes down into the depths of the sea. Then he's swallowed by this sea monster fish who takes him down into the depths of shale, which is the depths of the underworld, in his worldview. To the bottom of the ocean, to the roots of the mountains, it says. So it goes down, down, down to a sort of literary hell, a literary Hades, land of the dead.

And while he's there, he says this famous prayer, Jonah, chapter two, verse one, says, "From the inside of the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord, his God. He said, in my distress, I called the Lord, and he answered me from deep in the realm of the dead." The realm of the dead. "I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled around me. All your waves, and breakers swept over me. I said, I have been banished from your sight, yet I will look again toward your holy temple." Is that a faith statement or a fear statement? (AUDIENCE – faith) He's in shale. He's in Hades. He's at the bottom of the ocean in a sea monster, and he declares, I will look again toward your holy temple. That's a good confession, isn't it? "The engulfing waters threatened me. The deep surrounded me. Seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down. The earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, O Lord, my God, brought my life up from the pit. When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, salvation comes from the Lord. And the Lord commanded the fish." God talked to a fish, isn't that cool? "The Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land."

I want to look at my favorite line from this. It really comes through in the King James. King James is so beautiful, the way they frame things. It says, "they who observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy." They who observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. If Jonah is in a giant sea monster fish at the bottom of the ocean, is there any light at all? (AUDIENCE – no) Its pitch black. It's wet. It's scary. You don't know where you are in this digestive tract. He calls the whale. He calls the fish. Whatever it is, he calls it. Listen, guys. He calls it lying vanities. This fish thing, it's a lie. The water surrounding me, it's a lie. The seaweed, that's a lie. Sheol, the realm of the dead, that's a lie. It's all a lie.

Where is this coming from? It's coming from a place where he's hearing from God again. He's a prophet. He knows the voice of the Lord. He's hearing from God again.

He's got this thing that I have and that you have that you know when you're with the Spirit and you know when you're not with the Spirit. You know when you're hearing from God and when you're not hearing from God. And when you've been running from God and you start hearing from God again, it doesn't matter if you're in shale at the bottom of a fish, life is good. You just know things are going to be okay.

And so when the Lord says to him, I'm saving you, he's like, this fish thing is a lie, a lying vanity. Is that right? I'm going to be all right. Because where. Because where. Because where. Where. Where God is, where the Holy Spirit is there's freedom, there's victory. Stay close to the Lord.

And another translation says, and this is the one, NIV, we just read, lying vanity is translated as worthless idols. Worthless idols. What makes a good thing an idol? And this is the answer. A worthless idol, I might even say, is sometimes a good thing, but anything you put your trust in, that you put your trust in.

Now, I trust my wife, Hannah. I trust her, but I don't put my trust in my wife. Is that right? I trust my children. I don't put my trust in my children. When I get on an airplane, I trust the airplane and I trust the pilot, but I don't put my trust in an airplane. Where do I put my trust? (AUDIENCE – in God) In God. You trust your pew or your seat where you're sitting right now, right, or you wouldn't have sat there. But you don't put your trust in a seat. Seats break. You put your trust in God. He'll never fail you.

So this is what it looks like. If I succeed, and all of you have experienced success in life; many of you are experiencing it right now, this is what you say: if I succeed, I'm grateful for this, Lord, but I don't put my trust in success. I put my trust in the Lord. If you say something like that, are you more likely or less likely to be successful in your life?

(AUDIENCE – more) More. More. That's the irony of the whole thing. The less you care, the more God wants to bless you with it. Isn't that weird? It's frustrating. It's like a Chinese finger trap; you remember those? You try and pull your fingers out, it gets tighter.

So you say, I'm grateful for this job, Lord. I don't put my trust in it. I'm grateful for provision God, but I don't put my trust in it. I put my trust in you. I know where it comes from. I'm grateful for my growing ministry. I don't put my trust in it. I put my trust in you. Amen?

(AUDIENCE – amen)

Alright, declare this with me: I don't trust in lying vanities (AUDIENCE – I don't trust in lying vanities). I trust in God (AUDIENCE – I trust in God). Thank you, Lord (AUDIENCE – thank you, Lord). Amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

All right, final thought. For those of you who have not heard the Jonah story, Jonah begins to just start praising God like crazy. Isn't it interesting, that's the last thing that happens before the victory? He just is thanking God in advance. Christians are divorced.. I said this at the beginning, from how powerful praise and worship and glorifying God is. It is the big unlock for a lot of believers. To do that, we have to humble ourselves, but anyway. He just begins to praise and worship the Lord, and the fish spits him out.

But here's the important thing, can you bring that map back up? God does not tell the fish to spit him out in Spain. No tapas for Jonah. Here's where he gets spit out, right? Where does he get spit out? (AUDIENCE – Nineveh) Nineveh. If you run from God, He's not going to say you tried your hardest. I see that was really traumatic and hard for you. Time to go to Hawaii. No, you are going back. You're going back to Nineveh. You have to defeat that thing. You can avoid Nineveh your whole life. That's your choice, but I'm telling you, Nineveh, if that's where the Holy Spirit is, is where the freedom is.

The lion's den, if that's where the Spirit is, is where it is. If the fire, if that's where the Holy Spirit is, that's where you want to be. That's where you want to be. That's where you want to be. Way better than anything you'll get in Hawaii, believe it or not, I love Hawaii. Where. And sometimes the Holy Spirit will say, brother, you need a break. Go to Hawaii. Then you go! Is that right? He's so good, isn't He? We just thank you, God. You are so good to us. You love us.

I think that's enough. Stand with me. Who here knows that Nineveh turned? That was the last thing I was going to say. Jonah preaches, Nineveh turns. Crazy. They repent. Nineveh was ready to receive the Word.

Many of us here today say, I've never heard from God in my life. I can't hear from the Holy Spirit. This sermon is no good for me. I can't be led by God. Somebody say, hogwash. (AUDIENCE – hogwash) That's not what the Bible said. That's not what the Word said. We don't believe what we observe. We believe what the Scripture says.

Jesus said, my sheep hear my voice. Who here is a sheep of Jesus? I am. If you are a sheep, you hear His voice. So one of the great unlocks for many people in breakthroughs is that we need to start declaring in the same way that you make a declaration and then you're saved. Romans 8, 9 and 10. The same way you make a declaration for your healing, a declaration for your deliverance, a declaration for your provision. Even when you don't see it in the natural, you make a declaration to hear from God.

And I just want to challenge you guys and you who are watching, start making a declaration for the next 40 days. If you don't hear from God very much, or at all, or never have, don't declare that. Start declaring - I hear from God. I hear from God. I know His voice. He talks to me. I'm listening. I do what He wants me to do. I follow where He wants me to go. That does something in the Spirit. It does something. It changes things.

So begin. I want somebody here to make a commitment in their heart the next 40 days, I'm just going to say, maybe once a day, I'm going to say, I hear from God, and you watch as your spiritual ears turn on. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

Let's declare it together. Lift your hands with me like this. Declare after me: I hear from God (AUDIENCE – I hear from God). He talks to me (AUDIENCE – He talks to me). I go where He wants me to go (AUDIENCE – I go where He wants me to go). I say what He wants me to say (AUDIENCE – I say what He wants me to say). I am a friend of the Holy Spirit (AUDIENCE – I am a friend of the Holy Spirit). He is my friend (AUDIENCE – He is my friend). He talks to me (AUDIENCE – He talks to me). I listen (AUDIENCE – I listen). Thank you, Lord (AUDIENCE – thank you, Lord). In Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name), amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

BS: I'm so glad you guys came. God bless you. 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.