

## **WELCOME – Michael Mauldin**

Welcome, Shepherd's Grove. Are you guys ready to worship? I don't know about you, but I don't always want to worship. Sometimes my flesh is like, I don't know if I'm in the mood for this. But there's something about our spirit, man; I think our spirit actually always does want to worship, but our flesh doesn't and we have to override that sometimes.

And one time I learned this, I was with my wife. We were having an argument in our apartment. I know, no married couples have arguments at all, right? We don't do that. We're just feeling frustrated. I'm on the couch, I'm like, just all in my feels. And I needed something to soothe the way I was feeling at the moment. I was like, 'you want to just go get some ice cream?' Because I knew that would make me feel better than what I was feeling at the moment.

And she goes, 'we should probably just praise the Lord.' In my flesh, I'm like, we should probably just praise the Lord, you know, I didn't say that, though. I was smart enough as a husband not to say that to my wife. But I go, you know what? That's the last thing I want to do. Let's do that! And we just jumped up off our couch and we began to praise God. Like God, I thank you that you are the way, the truth, and the life. You are the prince of peace who can bring peace into this situation. And we just started praising top of our lungs, looking totally foolish. And it actually felt foolish.

But then all of a sudden, it was like God dropped a bomb on us. His presence came in, and we both went silent at the exact same moment. We start journaling. I'm getting revelation of how bad I am as a husband, and all these things. No, not really. And she was doing the same thing. And it was like the presence of God just came on us. But we had to override what we were feeling in the moment.

And this is really what King David does when he says, come, let's magnify the Lord together. Or he would say he would strengthen himself in the Lord. And this first song is really based out of Psalm 103, and so I want to read Psalm 103 to you because it's David speaking to his own flesh, okay? He says this: "Bless the Lord, O my soul and bless all that is within me. Bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of his benefits. Who forgives all your iniquity, heals all your diseases, redeems your life from the pit, crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. Who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagles." I don't know about you, that sounds pretty good to me. Do it with me. We're going to speak to our own soul, like David does, and tell our soul to bless the Lord. You with me? So repeat after me: Bless the Lord, O my soul (AUDIENCE – bless the Lord, O my soul) and all that is within me (AUDIENCE – and all that is within me). Bless the Lord, O my soul (AUDIENCE – bless the Lord, O my soul) and forget none of His benefits (AUDIENCE – and forget none of His benefits).

He forgives my iniquity (AUDIENCE – He forgives my iniquity), He heals all my diseases (AUDIENCE – He heals all my diseases). He redeems my life from the pit (AUDIENCE – He redeems my life from the pit). He satisfies me with good (AUDIENCE – He satisfies me with good) so that my youth is renewed like the eagles (AUDIENCE – so that my youth is renewed like the eagles). In Jesus name, let's worship.

## **DECLARATION/SCRIPTURE – Joshua 1 – Bobby Schuller**

Now today, before we do the reading of the Word, we have a profession of the scripture. I felt on my heart, we're going to be reading from Joshua. So let's read from Joshua, chapter one. Stand with me. We're going to say this together, and we're not going to say this like Westerners, we're going to say this like first century Jews with all our heart, all our soul. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) Who loves the Lord? (AUDIENCE - I do) I love the Lord! All right, let's say this. Come on:

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you. Do not turn from it to the right or to the left that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this book of the law always on your lips.

Meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Someone say hallelujah (AUDIENCE – hallelujah). Praise the Lord. We thank God. You may be seated. God bless you.

### **MESSAGE/PRAYER – Bobby Schuller "Walking Into Dangerous Rivers"**

We're ready for the Word. Now if you keep this book of the lips all.. if you keep this book of the lips.. keep this book of the law always on your lips, you're going to be successful, you're going to be prosperous, you're going to have victory. Is that right? Is this Word worth knowing?

Then open your Bibles to Joshua, chapter three. We need the presence of the Lord more than anything. We need our traditions, but we need the presence more. We need our songs, but we need the presence more. We need our buildings. We need the presence more. We need the presence more than anything. And I just feel a strong conviction in my heart, this young generation, Gen Z, has recently become the most attending generation in America. Is that a good thing or a bad thing? Isn't that a great thing? There is a mandate. There is a mandate on this generation to do something powerful in America, and it is up to us who are not Gen Z, no matter where we are, to give to them what our ancestors gave to us. We walk in this faith and in this gospel because our mothers and fathers, our grandmothers and grandfathers gave it to us. They curated it for us. You go back far enough on that chain and there are some links that are covered in the blood of martyrs, of men and women and children, and teenagers who died so this gospel could be with us today. And we have no desire in this building to hurry through the preaching of the Word or through our prayers. Amen? But rather to curate and care for this message and this presence and this grace so that that generation can fulfill their mandate, and so that we can fulfill ours. Amen? They need spiritual parents. Praise God.

I want to say that the presence of the Lord is not easy. It's heavy. We're going to look at the ark here in a bit, in Joshua 3. The ark is a heavy thing. It weighs a lot, and not only one person can carry it. It takes many people to carry it and it's dangerous. That's what we carry.

Some churches don't carry the ark. It's too dangerous, it's too heavy; it takes too long. Is that right? (AUDIENCE – yes) We want to carry the ark. We want to carry the gospel, and we want to carry this message to as many people as we can. I don't want diet gospel, you know what I mean? Okay.

Today, in fact, some of you here are, I believe, called into some really dangerous waters. Not everyone here is. Some of you have already been there and you've done what you've been called to do and your time of peace has come for a season. Some of you, though, are called to walk into a dangerous river during flood season. And many of you are saying, well, I can't do it right now. This is the worst time. This is the very worst time. How many of you know that's God's favorite time to do it? His favorite time, it's like one of the few things you can count on from God is His annoying timing that He likes to do things at the worst time. Why is that? Because for Him it doesn't matter. God loves to give us the most impossible goals and dreams, the ones that we couldn't do on our own. Why is that? So that we don't become prideful and hard hearted. And that we say, oh, I did it in my own strength and we build an idol. He doesn't want to kill us and destroy us.

There are many people here today called to these dangerous waters that say, I don't feel ready. Yes, you never will be! You'll never be ready for that. Here's how you be ready: you obey the Word of God, whether it's written to you or spoken to your heart. Many say I don't have enough. Praise God. Just like in Luke chapter nine and 10, he said, go out, don't bring anything with you. And boy, did they have power.

They said, even the demons submitted to us. Amen?

And here's how you know whether or not God is calling you into some dangerous new water is that there's a nagging that won't go away. There's a nagging, a nagging, a nagging. And if you turn, if your heart becomes hard towards that nagging long enough, it will go away along with the calling. And that's why when you can't sleep at night, when it nags at you, when it pesters you and it bothers you, you really need to obey that calling, even though I'm not ready, it's the worst time, I don't have enough. Just do it. Just obey the Lord.

As we mature in Christ, and this is what we're going to see in Joshua 3. As we mature in Christ, our capacity for faith grows. It's like a cup. Imagine a cup. This is a strange analogy. It's the only thing I can think of. A cup is a living thing and it just grows over time. You can pour out more from that cup, but it also needs more. As your capacity for faith grows, you also have a greater need for God's presence and God's oil and God's life. It's not a new believer who needs to go to church more, it's a mature believer. It's not the new believer who needs to pray more, it's the one who's been a believer for a long time. Because as we live out our faith, that cup grows, but we need more. And if that cup doesn't get filled, we begin to think, God abandoned me. And why is there no God? And why? And all this stuff that comes from the enemy. No, you got to fill the cup. Amen?

As the capacity goes up, the need goes up. Just like a linebacker needs more fuel than the nine-year-old who just got on the team, an NFL player needs more than a baby, needs more food, needs.. Needs more water because he can do more. The more power you have, the more of the presence you need. Praise the Lord.

In fact, we are seeing this in real time in our church. We are seeing that the power in this church is increasing and our desire is increasing. And if the power goes up and not the desire, the power is not from God. If the power is increasing and the outflow, the miracles, the reach is going up, but not our desire for more of Him, it's not from the Lord.

The way we know what we're doing is God's calling is our desire to pray goes up. Our desire to read the Word goes up. When your power goes up, that's because your capacity goes up. If your capacity goes up, there's more room in the cup, but we need to be filled for it to overflow. Takes longer. There's a reason our church services are going longer, because our power is going up. It's not legalism, it's not religiosity. Sometimes it'll go shorter, but who knows? There may be a service in the next couple months we go a long time. I am not in a hurry to pray. I'm not in a hurry to get out of God's presence. I'm not a hurry to get lunch. I want spiritual bread. Amen?

Jesus said, I have food that the world doesn't know about. My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work. That's what we want. Who knows that can take a long time, and it's worth it. Declare with me: I want (AUDIENCE – I want) the presence of the Lord (AUDIENCE – the presence of the Lord). Declare with me: Lord (AUDIENCE – Lord), I need the oil (AUDIENCE – I need the oil). I need the wind (AUDIENCE – I need the wind). I need the fire (AUDIENCE – I need the fire). I obey you (AUDIENCE – I obey you) and I love your presence (AUDIENCE – and I love your presence) in Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name).

It's like a house that's being built. Maybe it starts out as a cottage. C.S. Lewis used this model. He said that it's like at first, when the Lord comes into your life, He begins to fix little things that need to be fixed. The shutters and this. He changes the door or this or that. And then He starts tearing things down and moving all of this stuff. And He's putting up whole wings and walls and gardens, and it hurts abominably. But then He says to you, well, it's not your house, it's my house. I intend to live there. How many of you know, as God grows the house of your life, it's going to require.. what do big houses require that small houses don't? How about money? Everything costs more. Everything. It needs more food, it needs more air conditioning, it needs more electricity, it needs more water. If it gets big enough, it needs servants and cleaners.

If it gets real big, if it's like a hotel, it needs a staff. It needs a cook. It needs more, more, more.

Some of you have been believer for a long time. You remember this time when your life was so aflame with God's presence, you're like, where has He gone? He hasn't gone anywhere. You've gotten lazy. We need to press, press. I'm saying this out of love because this is a mirror I'm talking to. You need it. You need it. There needs to be a point where you're like, I just don't care about anything anymore except the presence of the Lord.

All right, you opened your Bible to Joshua 3, right? Joshua 3 verse 12, "Now then, choose 12 men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. And as soon as the priests who carry the Ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, set foot in the Jordan." When does it happen? When does a miracle happen? When they do what? When they set foot. So no miracle until they step in it. It's waters, okay, "set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand in a heap. So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them."

Just one second. This Ark of the Covenant, do you know how much it weighs? 800 pounds. It's like they're carrying a grand piano. Okay, so they're carrying a grand piano. And by the way, if you touch it, you die. So it has to be held on poles. Picture a giant golden box with angels on top, and this is the throne of God. His actual presence is upon the ark. And as they're carrying it, they have to step into a flowing river carrying this very heavy thing that can kill them. That takes some faith.

I lost my place. Can you believe it? "As soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan. While the water flowing down to the Sea of Arabah, that is, the Dead Sea, was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. The priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground."

Keep in mind so they're in the middle and these people are crossing. So they're like a bridge of faith. They're standing, holding the water back. How many people were in the assembly of Israel? Do you remember? The Bible says 800,000 men, so we estimate about 2 million men, women and children. Does it take a long time for 2 million men, women and children to cross while they're like holding an 800-pound box that carries the presence of God? Okay. "While Israel passed until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry land." It takes a long time for a nation to cross a river.

The Ark of the Covenant. Let's look at the story. There's a story that appears before it that the writer wants us to see. It's the crossing of the Red Sea. What is difference about this crossing of water and that crossing? Anybody come to mind that wasn't here in the first service? In the crossing of the Red Sea, the miracle happens, then they cross. And they're escaping.. they have no choice. They're escaping the Egyptian military. In the crossing of the Red Sea, if they want their miracle, they have to act out in faith. This is the direct symbol of the exact thing that I'm talking about. This nation has gone - I'm talking about the nation of Israel - has gone from one in which, like baby Christians, God does the miracle for them and delivers them, but now, in order to earn the promise to receive the Promised Land, they have to step into a river at the worst time. Flood season. If you've been to Israel, you probably know the Jordan River is about 50 to 100-feet across, most of the time. But during flood season in certain parts, it can get a mile across and the water's moving even faster. And God says, you need to believe that if you carry my presence, that when you obey my Word, it will be done for you. And they step in the river and it parts. Amen? You got to step in first.

The Ark of the Presence had three things in it. Do you remember what they were? I know the choir does. Choir, you can say something. Oh my gosh. That's right.

It had tablets, which is the Word of God, had a jar of manna, which is God's provision, and it had the budding rod of Aaron, which is a sign of the priestly life in the presence of God. And the ark itself was the throne of God. I already said that, but it's like God was sitting upon it, and actually other parts of the scripture say it's the footstool of God so that, like, when a king steps down from his throne or out of, like, a carriage, there's a footstool where it's like he steps down and then goes like. The ark is literally like God's on His throne in heaven and the Israelites are holding it, and so God from heaven can step on the ark and land and be among them. Whoa. Is that cool? Praise the Lord.

First century Jews and Christians would use the Hebrew word midrash. What's the midrash in the story? What do we learn from this scripture? It's not just a story, it tells us something about God and His nature and our relationship to Him.

Here's the first one: as your capacity for faith grows, so does your responsibility to do greater works. To do greater works. If you're evangelical, you might be allergic to that word - works. But was it not the Lord who said to us, even greater works than these shall you do? He did. And that is more of a command than a promise. You shall do it. Even greater works than these you shall do. That's a command. Thou shalt do greater works than these. What a responsibility.

As your capacity for faith grows, as you mature in the faith, so does your call to do greater works, to do greater things, to take bigger risk. To stop talking like a baby Christian and saying, it's a bad time, I don't have enough money. Think about our father, David, the king of Israel. When he was a young lad, his brothers didn't respect him. He was the youngest and his father said to him, 'keep the flock safe.' And David faithfully did all that his father Jesse asked him to do. I often picture in my own mind, it doesn't say this, but that he probably started with, like, little things as a little guy. Making sure the pens were clean, making sure the food was good, protecting the sheep from rats and then snakes and then lions and tigers and bears, and then Goliath. David had to serve in obscurity and just be faithful to his command before his whole life would tip; before he would face a Goliath. And yet at the same time, he was called to face Goliath.

How many of you know it takes a Goliath to reveal a David? Hello! I said it takes a Goliath to reveal a David. It takes a Jordan River at the flood moments to reveal an ark. Is that right? It takes a Pharaoh to reveal a Moses. It takes a betrayal to reveal a Joseph. It takes a flood to reveal a Noah. And if you're standing at the shores, this might be that moment. And if it's not, be ready to serve faithfully in obscurity, to be a faithful person. Faithfulness. Faithfulness. What does that sound like? Faith full. Full of faith. You get it. Just do what God says. If God says it, just do it. Don't go on what you feel and what you see, if He says it, do it.

Noah built for a hundred years with no rain in sight. He didn't do it because he saw, he did it because God said. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) God said it, do it. Alright, that's the first one.

Second, if God tells you to go into the water with the ark, don't go into the water without the ark. Don't go into the river without the ark. Don't go into whatever it is you're facing without a prayer life, without the presence, without the oil, without the worship, without the church. Who knows you can't carry an ark by yourself. You need at least four people, probably more. Its eight hundred pounds. The presence of God is heavy. Is that right? Don't go in without His life.

Bethany and Michael and I were talking and she said, what is it you want for this church? And I just blurted it out and then she sent it back to us in an email, and I don't even really remember saying it, but I want the presence of the Lord at any cost. I don't care. Right? I don't care how much time it takes, I don't care; I don't know, how much dignity I lose. I don't care anymore. I have seen the presence of the Lord. I have seen the face of Jesus. I've actually seen an angel in this church. I have seen God, and having been there, I never want to go back. I don't want anything else.

Everything the world has.. and what I mean by that is I don't want anything else, is I don't want anything else for you, the sheep under my care. If you can get that, everything else pretty much goes in line. If you can see the face of Christ, everything else gets better. To live for the age to come rather than this age, to live for the world to come rather than this world makes this world so much better. Isn't that such an irony? To look to the age to come, to desire the bread of heaven makes bread on earth taste better. To desire the oil of heaven makes oil here taste better. To desire the communion of the saints makes the presence of friends in this world better. How many worldly people are so afraid of death? If you know Christ, you should have no fear of death. It's nothing. It's nothing. It's like waking up more than it is falling asleep. Nothing.

We desire God. We desire the presence of the Lord. We desire to be in His presence. And we desire to bring as many people with us as we can. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) Satan wants people to be fixed on being famous in this world, and doing all these things and yolo. Yeah, it's true, you only live once, but you live forever, right?

And so what you're living now in this little window, this little space here is going to go like forever. And we're all worried about this little gap right here. Will I have enough of this little sliver right here. Somebody say no. Declare after me: no (AUDIENCE – no). I turn my back (AUDIENCE – I turn my back) on the world (AUDIENCE – on the world) and I turn my eyes (AUDIENCE – and I turn my eyes) to Christ (AUDIENCE – to Christ). I love Christ (AUDIENCE – I love Christ). He loves this world (AUDIENCE – He loves this world). I love Christ (AUDIENCE – I love Christ) in Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name), amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

In a way, we have to love the world, but in another way, we have to hate the world. I heard somebody say that book is a book of hate. I said, that's right. That's right. A lot of things that book hates. It hates like a mother hates. It hates destruction, it hates death, it hates sin. It hates being lost. It hates thinking that this is all there is. Here's what it loves – it loves worship. It loves fear. It loves God's Word, it loves God's presence, and it loves its enemies. Praise the Lord. There's this weird part of the Christian world which is like, the less we care about this world, the more this world is a blessing to us. How many celebrities and rich people need to commit suicide before we stop desiring what they have? That's a good question, isn't it? We say, I'd like to learn the hard way. I'd like to get rich and famous. Nothing wrong with being rich and famous, but very often God will make people who have their eyes fixed on heaven rich and famous. I think Billy Graham was probably rich and famous, but he didn't care about it. What an irony. Praise the Lord.

Can I go a little longer? (AUDIENCE – yes) I know you've never heard me ask you this question before. This will be the first time any of you have ever heard it, but how much did Jesus pray? (AUDIENCE – a lot) A lot. I know I ask that question a lot. How much did Jesus pray? (AUDIENCE – all the time) A lot.

Now this is Jesus, literally God, perfect, in the flesh, prayed a lot. And actually, the irony is when He went to the sick; He never prays for the sick. He probably prayed for them in His private time. But when He gets to the sick, He's so full of oil and life that even if they touch Him, and He doesn't know it, and they do it in faith, they get healed. Anybody want to be that full? Then you have to pay the price.

Jesus tells us that the oil has a price. You have to buy the oil. There is a price for the oil. You can't have a lot of fire if you don't have a lot of fuel. You can't have a lot of fire if you don't have a lot of oil. The fire runs out if the oil runs out. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) You can hear my Oklahoma when I keep saying 'ol. I'm trying to say oil. 'Ol.

In fact, your desire to pray is probably equal to your calling. The more you want to pray and the greater you desire God's presence is probably equal to what the world would call the size of your calling. The more you pray, the more you want to be in God's presence, the more you want to get to church, the more you want to hear the Word, those are all signs that you're a kingdom woman, a kingdom man. That you just desire God.

And that's not a judgment. You might go, I don't desire to pray at all. Ask God to make you hungry. I think when you don't pray, when you don't pray a lot, it's hard to pray. When you don't read the Bible a lot, it's hard to read it a lot. But the more you read, the more you are like really hungry for it. The more you pray, the more you desire it. Amen? We need to know God.

One more question and one more metaphor. Next question: why was Jesus baptized? This is a really important question. Most of us, when we're baptized, we see it as the outward sign of an inward working of salvation, and it is that. We see it as the forgiveness of sins, and it is that. But if that's what it is for us, then why did Jesus, who was perfect and never sinned, why did He get baptized? Obedience to the law? That is a good answer, but not really, because the law only required a mikveh. It didn't really require.. Jesus wasn't a convert. He was born Jewish. He was circumcised on the 8th day, so why? And the answer is to experience God's grace.

Now, if that answer offends you, it's really important that you take a new understanding of grace. Many Christians equate grace with mercy, but those are different words. Who knows what grace means literally? Charis in Greek, what does it mean? Meredith? Unmerited favor. It's favor. Grace means favor. He needed to experience God's favor before being deployed into ministry. And, boy, did He experience it. There was a booming voice from heaven, and the Holy Spirit fell upon Him like a dove. And what did it say? This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And like a bottle rocket (BOOSH), He shot off. Do we need that? We need that as much as we need mercy. We can't be saved without Christ crucified and without a baptism, without a confession of faith, without repentance. But when they asked Peter on Pentecost, how might we be saved? He doesn't say one thing, he says three things. He says, repent, be baptized, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Let's not get two out of three.

Some of you are one out of three. You need to get baptized. You really are in disobedience. And we're having a baptism on November 2nd. That's not a judgment. Just get baptized. It'll help you. I'll do it. Do you want me to baptize you, talk to this guy right here, who's, I think taking my picture, for some reason. It's funny. We need oil.

If you want power, you need oil. If you want fire, you need oil. You want power, you need the presence. You want to part rivers, you need to hold the ark. Amen? It's like muscles. As muscles grow, they need more fuel. Some of you are getting buff in the Lord. Praise God for that. You need more protein. You need more spiritual protein. Is that right? You need the oil. You need the presence. If you're working in power, you need the Lord.

The word for worship is the same word for work. It's avodah. How many of you know work and prayer, worship and all that, there's some work involved. Sometimes it's doing what you don't feel like doing. Scripture says, draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Who does the drawing first? You do it first. He already saved you. He did the first move, which is to save you. Now, if you want to be near to God, you got to get near to Him first. You have to honor Him. He gave you His number. He gave you everything. Come and see me anytime, He says. And you're like, will do.

This is what it's like. Imagine you're in a cabin. You're by yourself. Sleeping soundly. Two in the morning, you wake up and you realize you're surrounded by fire and you're going to die. You're coughing, there's no way out. There's fire on every wall. You think, how will I get out of this mess? And at the last minute, some big guy with an ax chops down the door, comes in with a towel wrapped around his face, picks you up, runs through the burning flames and carries you out of the building. And he takes you back to your house where he tends to your wounds, he gives you food, he cares for you. He gives you change of clothes. You take a shower, you rest there for the night. And the next morning, he drops you off back at your house, at a new house. I don't know. I'm making this up as I go along. And he says, here's my number, here's my email, here's my address. You know where I live. Come see me anytime. Give me a call anytime.

And after that point, when you say goodbye to him and you shake his hand and you give him a big hug and you thank him for saving your life, and then you never call him and never visit, never text him and never write him and never give him a gift, I would say you have been saved by a stranger.

Some people listening to my voice have been saved by a stranger. You're saved.

Absolutely. Praise God for that. But by a stranger. You've been saved by a stranger.

Worship team, come on up. If the Bible is bread and the Holy Spirit is oil, and joy is wine, and the church is a party, we want to want those things. And until heavenly bread is blessed, our earthly bread will be cursed.

Let's pray together. Holy Spirit, we're asking you, God, to reveal.. I'm feeling something kind of strong on my heart. Has nothing to do with the sermon, I don't think. I want to invite the pastors forward to pray. If you're a pastor, just come forward and stand down here.

Come on, guys. And maybe on your old prayer team, maybe a couple people here. And if you need prayer, I think that there are people here today who experienced a wound from their father, from their earthly father. And I don't even know really what to say, what God's putting on my heart, but just to simply say that if you need prayer for that, maybe you haven't forgiven, or maybe you were hurt, or maybe you were abandoned. Sometimes a wound from our earthly father creates an impediment between a relationship with our heavenly Father, and God wants to set some people free here.

Let's stand together. And if that's you and you need prayer for that, I hope it doesn't seem embarrassing, but we're not going to be looking at you. We're going to be looking to the cross. But just come forward so we can pray with you. We need at least one or two people to do that, because I think there's a couple people who want to do that but feel embarrassed. So if you feel led and especially if you're a mature Christian, please come forward and let our pastors pray.

Church, let's begin to pray. Begin to pray for these saints that are going to receive help. Come on down if you need a prayer for this. Amen. Brittany, can you come out here and pray? And Alexander, can you come pray? Simon, can you come pray? Colby, can you come pray with people? Russ, can you come down and pray with people? If you need prayer for this, come on down.

Let's begin to worship. Let's not look at the people being prayed for. We're just going to worship and give it to the Lord.

MEREDITH: I think there's one other thing that we need to pray for. If you feel like you're being called out into the waters that Pastor Bobby was talking about, the dangerous waters, you're in a new season where you're like, this is too big for me. I want to say yes, but I don't know how, then I want you to.. we're going to sing this song, but also come forward for prayer for that, too, because this is where the body comes together.

If his message of saying, we got to step out into the waters, we've got to make the first step. If He's calling you out, then I want us to respond and have a moment to respond. If that's you, if you want to come up for prayer as well, for more of Jesus, for more capacity, then come up and we'll pray for that, as well.

BS: Okay, let's be praying with the people down front. Come on, this is something we all do together. It's not a show. We're a church. We still help each other.

BS: As we continue to pray, I want to just thank you guys for being here. Let's just close in a prayer. Father, thank you. Those of you who are down here praying, just stay. It's okay. We thank you, Father, that you've invited us to your house for this moment and this time, and we're committed to you, to know your presence and your life, and we thank you, Lord, it's in the name of Jesus we pray.