

GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Hannah Schuller

This is the day the Lord has made and we will rejoice and be glad in it. Thank you so much for being here today. We love being with you.

Don't let this time be wasted as we go into worship. I love to mentally try to unplug. Anything that you have going on in your head, we know you probably have a lot of things going on in your head right now. I like to unplug; unplug, whatever to do list you have. I like to unplug my mom plug. Unplug every plug that you have right now and let it be you before your living God entering in. There is power as one body. We enter into the presence together.

Let's do that this today. Would you join me in prayer? Lord Father, we thank you that you are in this place; that you are with us, Lord. And God, we say, we are so hungry for you. We hunger and thirst for you, our living God. We thank you that you are so good to us; that you are the good, good Shepherd and that we lack nothing in you. Hallelujah!

We come before you now, Father. I ask for a blessing upon those speaking today. Give all the pastors speaking today in the church's utterance in the Spirit that your word may go forth and break chains, that we may have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to understand. Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord.

We lay ourselves before you now, in the powerful and holy name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray, amen (AUDIENCE – amen) amen.

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

WELCOME/YOUTUBE - Bobby

I want to welcome all of those who are watching on YouTube, and we realized that a lot of people are watching on YouTube that live nearby and are looking for a church. Come down to Shepherd's Grove. We'd love to meet you. We're in Irvine. Now if you don't know where Irvine is, you're not close enough to come to church, but if you do know where it is, come on down. We'd love to see you.

And to all of you who have been watching and supporting us, we don't have a lot of donors, but we're thankful for you, especially those who give a monthly gift to our online ministry. It helps us with all of our cameras and editing. I just want to say thank you so much. And if you feel led to do that and want to support this church, there's a link in the description below. It would mean a lot to our community if you did help us. Thank you so much.

PRAYER FOR OFFERING – Michael Mauldin

Beautiful. Thank you. Ushers, if you can come down so we can pray for the offering. Absolutely beautiful.

Father, we thank you for these gifts that your bride is bringing to the church to see your work fulfilled in the earth. And so, Lord, we just ask that those who gave, that you'd pour back in abundance upon them, not only financial blessings, but spiritual blessings, and you'd fill their cup full, over-running; fill them full of joy this week as they go forth, in Jesus' mighty name, amen.

WELCOME – Michael Mauldin

Thank you. Hello, Shepherd's Grove. I'm Pastor Michael Mauldin. I'm the new guy around here. I have the privilege and honor of bringing the word to you guys today, so I've got something burning in my heart.

MESSAGE – Michael Mauldin "Advance: The Call and the Cost of Following Jesus"

All right, ready for the message? Here we go. Father, I thank you for today. Thank you for your Word. I pray that it goes forth and impacts people's lives in a way that just draws them near to you. May they know you more, in Jesus name.

The title of my message is "Advance: The Call and the Cost of Following Jesus." Turn to your neighbor real quick and just tell them, it's time to advance. It's time to advance.

I look holistically at the church and the messages that a pastor's bringing to the church, and over the last few months, Bobby's been talking a lot about faith and authority, right? If the message coming from the church is about faith and authority, faith is so that you can hear God's voice and then do something about it, which is advancing the kingdom of God in the earth, right? Faith comes by hearing, right? And hearing by the Word of God. I like to.. what's that, Hebrews.. Romans 12:1? No, Hebrews 11:1. I'm so bad with numbers. Romans 10:17. Like I said. Romans 10:17. One of the things I like to do is I like to look at the inverse of scripture. Sometimes it helps me to see it clearer. So the inverse of this scripture I'm calling Mauldin's 10:17. So then fear comes by hearing, hearing by the word of the enemy. Both come by hearing, but it depends on which voice you're listening to, right? Both will lead you forth somewhere. So be careful how you listen.

Faith is the assurance of what we hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen. Right? Hebrews 11:1. That's the scripture I was thinking of. But there's something off into your future that's full of hope. It's like there's a destination, there's a promised land, I know God's got something good for me, and there's these little evidences that we pick up along the way. We hear His voice through a scripture, through a friend. Something's speaking to us that's drawing us to this hopeful future.

So conversely, in the book of Mauldin's 10:17, now, fear is the substance of things dreaded, the evidence of things not yet seen. So the idea that you're looking off into the future and it's not full of hope, it's full of dread. And you see these evidences of it all around you, you're like, I believe this. This thing happened to me in the past. This doesn't look good, blah, blah, blah. And so when you see that and you experience dread, all of a sudden, anxiety hits your heart. Anybody feel anxiety ever? Anxiety hits your heart, and then what does it cause you to do it? It causes you to shrink back. To dim your light. Play small.

But in the same way, if you can have an anxiety attack, I believe you can have a faith attack. How much more so should we be having faith attacks? Faith is the assurance of what we hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen. But it takes risk to step into what God has for us. I've heard John Wimber say this: faith is spelled like this: R-I-S-K. Anybody ever heard that? Faith is a risk.

This past week, I've been really dipping into the history and looking at the foundations of this church and looking at the faith of Dr. Schuller, a man of great faith. Man, he believed in risky ways. And I mean, he was such an innovator. In the 50's, started his church in a drive in movie theater. I mean, who does that, right? Super innovative. The church grows. They get their first building and then just kept growing.

Then they had this vision to do this thing called the Crystal Cathedral. And the first cost estimate of it was around seven million dollars. That's a big risk. They didn't have the money. But he's like, we need this first. We need, like, the first million dollars. He just believed that he should go visit this man named John Crean. Didn't even know him. Goes to him and asks him for a million dollars. That takes faith.

John Crean goes, well, I would like to give you the money, but I just don't know how I'm going to do it. And right then, Dr. Schuller goes, well, Lord, I thank you that he wants to give us the money. Would you please show him how?

And so the next day, John Crean calls him back and says, hey, I'm going to give you that million dollars. I don't know how I'm going to do it, but I'm going to do it. Within five weeks, gives him the million dollars, and all of a sudden, the evidence of that thing that he hopes for is getting clearer. It starts to come into view.

But then after they get the plans for it, all of a sudden, inflation hits and the cost of the Cathedral doubles. Goes to almost fifteen million dollars. The contractors told Dr. Schuller, this is what's going to happen. And all of a sudden, fear hits his heart.

The evidence of the thing that he dreads starts to appear before him, and it says he ran off and he began to cry. He began to weep. Go, God, I don't know what's going to happen. We can't build this. We can't do it.

He goes to John Crean and said, look, I don't think we're going to be able to do this. The cost of this thing has doubled. I need to give you your million dollars back. And John was a man of faith himself. He goes, dig the hole. Dig the hole. God's going to fill it. That takes faith, right? So he starts to see evidence going the other direction.

And later that same day, he gets a letter in the mail from this nun who has a hospital, and she goes, because of your faith believing for this building, I'm believing God for an extra wing in our hospital. And so he sees extra. More evidence coming in of other faith. And he realizes, he goes, if I give up on my dream, it's going to cause other people to give up on their dreams. So all of a sudden, faith hits his heart and the rest is history.

But faith is the assurance of what we hope for, the evidence of things not yet seen. Fear is the evidence of what we dread, the evidence of things not yet seen. Both are faith. Same function. One's in the kingdom of God, one's in the kingdom of the enemy. Both will lead you to your future, but one's God's future, and one is not the future of your destiny or your promised land, so to speak. Amen?

It's interesting because the more that I look back at the history of this church, the more faith I have for the future because I look at the faith of Dr. Schuller and what was, and I'm like, God takes His people from glory to glory and strength to strength. And He talks about the glory of the latter house to be greater than the former house. And so I look back and I was like, man, if you did that, then God, what can you do again?

It's the same way we look at the Bible. We look at the fathers of our faith. We go, that's what happened then, what can God do for us now? It gives us faith to look forward. But faith, what I've understood about faith, and the more that I've studied it, the more I've experienced it, when God's leading His people to advance into the promises of God, He's always leading us into enemy territory. Don't get scared. Don't get scared because the enemy territory He might be leading you into actually might be in your own mind and in your own heart where you believe lies, where there's bitterness, un-forgiveness in your own heart. And by moving forward, God wants to remove the faith; remove the unbelief and the fear.

But there's also exploits that God wants to do for you and in your life, maybe in your business, maybe in your home, maybe your community. Maybe it's in this state, this region, maybe this nation, depending on what God has given you faith for.

You go back to the beginning of the Bible, this theme of not being safe, full of risk and into enemy territory begins to appear because you have God creating Adam and Eve from the dust of the earth, the first men on the earth, creates them on the earth. And who is already here? Satan. Satan was already here. Enemy territory. That doesn't seem like a safe plan for your kids. Let's put them on the earth with the devil's here. Why would He do that?

Think about Moses. It's time to send the deliverer to the earth. The people of God have been in bondage for 400 years. God decides to send the deliverer to the earth at a time when they're killing all the babies. There was an edict to kill the children. God's like, that's the time we're going to send the deliverer. It doesn't seem like the right time to send the deliverer to the earth. Right? And then it said, Moses' mother had faith to resist the edict of the king. She didn't allow her baby to be killed. She raised him up, then sends him down a river in a basket; down a river to be picked up in Pharaoh's house. Then the deliverer gets raised inside, basically the spirit of the Antichrist. And that was God's plans to raise up the deliverer. And we're afraid to put our kids in public school. Right? God's plans are not safe. He is safe. He's our strong tower. But there's a risk element to faith.

What about Joshua and Caleb? Joshua and Caleb were to lead the people of God from the wilderness into the place of promise, into the Promised Land. I can almost hear God talking to Joshua and Caleb, and He's telling them, all right, guys, you ready?

We're going to do this thing. It's time for you to enter the place of your promise. I've prepared the place for you. It's filled with milk and honey. It's got big grapes. The land has tilled. It's beautiful. I've prepared it for you. But there's giants in the land. There's Amalekites. All the ites are in the land. Be safe out there, guys. You can just imagine. He's just like telling. Now he doesn't tell them, be safe.

There was a season and we went through, my wife and I were doing ministry, and every time we would travel out somewhere around the world, people would tell us before we leave, just, hey, guys, be safe out there. Just be safe where you're going. I was doing some ministry stuff in northern Iraq. It wasn't the safest place, but everybody's like, be safe out there, guys. Be safe. And it started to agitate me after a while. And I was like, why am I agitated by this? They mean well, it's well meaning, right? We tell people, be safe all the time, but you know there's no command in the Bible that says to be safe? It's not in there. He says, be strong and courageous. Right? That's the command. Be strong and courageous.

The command to Joshua and Caleb wasn't be safe, guys. It was be strong and courageous. He's leading you into the place of promise. Yes, there's giants before you, but you're made to fell giants. The giants in your own life might be your own limited thinking. It might be the lie that you believe about this or that. It might be in your business that's before you. The thing that's before you in your business. It could be a family member, I don't know. We all have those giants in our lives from time to time.

What about David? Do you think about David? Think about that psalm we were just singing during the offering. It was Psalm 23 was being sung. Beautiful psalm. Everybody loves the first part of that psalm says, the Lord's my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. It's so nice, right? We love that part. Leads me in paths of righteousness. But then it kind of shifts. He goes, even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, this is walking with God. Where is He leading you? Through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil, for you are with me. For your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me – where? (AUDIENCE – in the presence of my enemies) in the presence of my enemies. Jesus leads us right into the middle of that.

Then what happens? It says, you anoint my head with oil and my cup overflows. So what He's saying is, I'm taking you into a place, into the midst of your enemies, and it's going to be great for you. I'm going to anoint your head. Your thoughts are going to be so clear that your head's going to be thinking my thoughts. You're going to be thinking faith. It's going to be hope, it's going to be a future, all these things. Even though what's around you is the evidence of the enemy all around you. And it says, surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. The real Hebrew word of surely is actually only. Only goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. Anybody like that promise? I like that promise.

Then what about Jesus. Think about Jesus coming to the earth. When Jesus comes to the earth, He comes on a rescue mission to save His kids, to get His kids back into family, right? And I can almost hear God talking to Jesus beforehand. He's like, all right Jesus, we're about to do this thing. Are you ready? It's about time for the rescue mission. I'm sending you to earth, down to the earth, and it's just like the days of Moses. They're going to be killing all the babies again. The devil never thought I'd do this twice. We're going to send you right at that time, he's never going to expect you coming. And then you're going to be born right in a manger. It's not a hospital. It's not clean. It's not a sterile place. It's messy. It's a messy place. And that's where God is born, in the mess. He's the Messiah of our mess. He wants to come right into your mess, whatever the mess is, whether it's with your kids or your marriage or your business, whatever it is, God wants to be with you in the mess. He wants to author faith in your mess. He wants to lead you to the place of promise and creativity and joy and fruitfulness and blessing in the midst of your mess.

That's our God. He's the Messiah of the mess.

And then Jesus carries the theme on with His disciples. You know, He gets them full of the Spirit, trains them up. He'd already led them besides the still waters part. Now it's time to send them into the presence of His enemies. And this is what He says to them: Behold, I'm going to send you out as lambs amongst wolves. I can almost hear the disciples going, hey, Jesus, now you're tripping. You mean wolves amongst lambs, right? He's like, no, no, no. Lambs amongst wolves. No, no, no, you mean the wolves.. like wolves amongst lambs. And He's like, no, no, no, no. Lambs amongst wolves. Because that way I get credit for what you do. You can't do it on your own. What I have for you, you have to depend on me. That's faith. If you're comfortable, you don't need God. You don't. You can do it yourself, but God wants to show up in your life. The reason He wants to lead you into a place of risk and fear is because He wants to be with you, and He wants to do it with you. He wants to reveal Himself to you. He's a personal God, but you see Him in the risk and in the faith of moving forward.

One of the names of the Holy Spirit is the comforter. He's there to comfort us. If you're comfortable, you don't need a comforter. You don't. But if you're in the place of advancing the kingdom of God, you're walking into the places where your fear is, you need a comforter.

First time I began to learn this is when I was a new believer, and I was just kind of on this new journey of faith. My wife and I, we had just moved to Los Angeles to be lights in the entertainment industry, and we were going to take on the entertainment industry young, full of zeal, and we ended up meeting some friends that had done.. I was studying for.. I was looking for Bible schools to study the Bible and all the schools around, I just didn't have time to get into. Timing was off. I met some friends who had done this program called Youth with a Mission that had this discipleship training program, they had them all over the world, and I saw that they had one in Jerusalem. And I was like, what better place to study the gospel in the Bible than where Jesus walked with God, right? Jerusalem.

I sent an email off to the school inquiring about the program because they didn't give a lot of information because missions programs are illegal in Jerusalem. I sent an email off to the school, and we just kind of throw off this, like, Hail Mary prayer. Like, all right, God, if you want us to go to this program, you got to take care of our apartment. I was a personal trainer. You got to take care of my clients, and you got to pay for it because we don't have enough money to do this thing. We just kind of throw out this prayer.

The next morning, I'm checking my email, and it's this old Yahoo email, and it says, "mailer Damon," which I'm reading is mailer demon. Failure to deliver message. I'm like, oh, dang, maybe I'm not supposed to go. The email demon got my email. And then a few minutes later, I get this email pop in from the school, and it says, hey, thank you for inquiring about our program. We received your email. And I'm kind of confused. I'm like, I thought the mailer demon got my email, but somehow my email got through. And so my faith was kind of stirred. I go, okay.

Then all of a sudden, the phone rings. Phone rings. Meredith's brother calls from Dallas and goes, hey, guys, I'm thinking about moving to Los Angeles. Do you know if there's a place I can stay? We're like, huh? Yes, I think so. So then our faith level starts to rise. The evidence of what we hope for is starting to show up a little bit.

We decide, all right, let's just sign up in faith. We signed up for the school in faith. And my wife had been reading some books by Corrie ten Boom, Brother Andrew about just radical faith, and this whole idea that the themes that were coming out of that book was like, if you need something from God, you don't have to ask anybody else. Just ask God. He's your dad. He's a good father. He'll provide for you.

We were like, all right, let's just ask God. We're not going to ask anybody for the money. Let's just do it. Signed up for the school in faith. I remember calling my parents. I called my dad. I go, hey, dad, we're going to do this program in the Middle East.

Just taking my blonde wife there. He's like, you're going to do what? And mind you, I'm a brand new believer. I've got no history with God. I've got history of crazy, not history with God at this point in my life.

He's like, you're going to do what? You're going to take your blonde wife where? I was like, Jerusalem? He's like, how are you going to pay for this? I go, well, God's going to provide. I kid you not, he goes, you're delusional. I want you to get yourself checked out in a mental institution tomorrow. No joke. The funny thing was, I was just reading the scripture that says that if you're persecuted for your faith, you're being blessed. And so I was like, babe! Hung up the phone, I go, I got my first Christian persecution! I'm being blessed. And she's like, oh, my gosh, your parents are going to kill me, because she'd been walking with God her whole life. She gave her life to the Lord at two. She rededicated at four because she'd been backsliding at the age of three, pillow fighting with her brothers. She'd been walking this walk her whole life. Me, I was the exact opposite. I didn't really walk with.. yes, you get it? The opposite.

We signed up for the school in faith, get my first Christian persecution. And a little backstory about my wife, her father had passed away when she was two years old from a hunting accident. Tragic accident. And she had gotten Social Security checks from the government up until she was 18-years-old. They stop when you're 18 because you're an adult at that point. At this point in our life, she's 25-years-old that we signed up for this school. All of a sudden, a week after we signed up for the school, I kid you not, a letter arrives in the mail from Social Security. It said, we found a glitch in the system. We didn't pay you enough money over the years, and \$15,000 shows up at our house. Yes, yes, you can give God a clap for that. It gets better. Her brother moves out. I was a personal trainer. I'd built all these clients up at Gold's Gym Hollywood. He was a personal trainer. He stepped into my job, took over all my clients. Everything was just smooth. And the Lord, boom, launched us off into the Middle East.

Not everybody's called the Middle East so don't freak out by these stories, but what's interesting about this is I had given my life to the Lord. When I gave my life to the Lord a year prior, I had made a deal with God. Anybody ever make a deal with God? Usually don't work out too well. So my deal with God was, all right, God, I'm going to walk with you. I'm going to follow you. Anywhere you want to go, I'm down. I'll do anything. I'm going to lay down my life. But there's two places on the planet I don't want to go. One is Sudan, because there was war in Sudan at the time. The other is the west bank of Israel. And I thought west bank because there's a bunch of Muslims there, and I was living in New York for 9/11, and I was like, they're all terrorists. I'm going to go there. They're going to die. They're going to blow me up. I'm going to die. That was my thought, right? It was the evidence of the thing that I dreaded. So I had fear in that area.

We land in Tel Aviv, we drive to Jerusalem. It's our first day there. We're driving by the old city. You can see the Temple Mount, the wall, Damascus Gate, this beautiful old city, Jerusalem. We just keep driving right past it. I'm like, where are we going? And they didn't tell us much about the program, like I said. I thought I was going to go minister amongst the Jewish people. My stepmother's Jewish, I love the Jewish people. I got Jewish family. But we just kind of keep going past the old city of Jerusalem and all of a sudden we end up at this big wall, this massive, like 20-foot gray wall, and I'm like, what's this? They're like, this is the wall of the West Bank. And I was like, huh? The what?

And then they just take.. there's this massive gate there, they open the gate, we go through the west bank and they drop us off at our apartment, and wouldn't you know that I'm living in the west bank of Israel within a year of giving my life to Jesus and saying, there's two places on the planet I don't want to go.

Don't tell God what you're not going to do unless I think I'm trying this one out: I'm like, God, I'm never going to be a billionaire. Just never. This hasn't worked yet, but I'm trying. I don't think it works, but anyway.

We end up in the west bank, the place of one of my greatest fears. I ended up having so much favor amongst the Palestinian people, it was crazy. I would walk around and every person I would see in the West Bank I would just pray for. Because the Bible says to love your enemies, right? To bless those that persecute you, do good to those that harm you. And so I just began to pray for them. And all of a sudden my heart began to break for those people that I was afraid of, and I felt God's heart for them, that they were bound in darkness the same way I was bound in darkness; that God wanted to rescue them the same way He wanted to rescue me. And then as I would pray for them, I would begin to weep because God would share His heart with me for them. And then it was like, game over. Fear is gone because perfect love does what? (AUDIENCE – casts) It casts out fear! Perfect love casts out.. then I fell in love with the people that were supposed to be my enemies. And what? What can you do to me then?

Prayer is one of the greatest keys for us to overcome our fears. And what I learned in that season, because I had one of the most amazing times of my life, I learned that my destiny lies on the other side of my fears. So the enemy can see, I believe, oftentimes what our calling is in our destinies, because we are knit together in our mother's womb. There's this calling, this destiny over your life, God wants to lead you to the place of promise that will blow your mind. That's His heart. That's who He is. And so the enemy, really, when you're on track, about to step into that place of faith, the enemy launches an attack of fear against your life. Fear, insecurity, anxiety, all this stuff to get you to shrink back from what God has for you.

And so now for me, when I begin to experience fear, to me, that's my launch pad into the presence of God. I was like, oh, you're sending fear towards me? Oh, it's on. God, I thank you. Say it's around finances, fear of.. Oh, God, I thank you that you're never strapped for cash. Thank you, God. You own a cattle on a thousand hills. The world is yours. Like, I could go fishing and pull a coin out of mouth. Like, whatever it is, you're not worried about my financial situation. Then all of a sudden, I start to get faith because I see God is way bigger than my problem. You all with me? And I also realized this, that the enemy territory that the Lord was taking me into, enemy territory, was actually the fear and insecurity in my own heart and my own mind. He wanted to possess that land so I could walk in faith and not fear.

Pull up Hebrews 13 verse 12. Actually, don't pull it up just yet. I'm not there yet. You can go back. Just a sec. I just was reminded of this. I think some of the hindrances towards us going after the promises of God, obviously, is fear, but I think sometimes there's these mindsets of like maybe God doesn't want to use me. Maybe I've done too much wrong in my life that God can't use me. I'm not good enough, in some ways, right?

And a lot of us, the enemy will try to put these lies towards you, like, I've done too much wrong, whatever. And at the end of the day, what you're saying, unfortunately, is you're saying, my sin, what I've done, is bigger than what Jesus did on the cross. Because what He did covers all of it. All of it.

And ultimately what the enemy's hitting at is your personal value. Like, what are you worth? Are you really worth God using? And how do you determine the value for something? You determine the value by what you're willing to pay for it. One of the most expensive photographs in the world is a photograph of a grass field with a river going through it. It's the most basic photo you've ever seen in your life. Someone paid seventeen million dollars for it. So now this ugly basic photo is worth seventeen million dollars because someone's willing to pay for it.

What is your life worth? What's the value of what was paid for your life? The Son of God coming to the earth, the most valuable creation ever made on planet earth. A perfect man came to the earth and laid down His life for your life to say you have ultimate, perfect value. God can use all of us, all of us, every one of us. We all have value.

I also want to encourage you, some of you old timers, God's not done with you.

It's about to be on. Think about this. There's this mindset in America. You get to a certain age. I'm looking at you too, dad. You get to a certain age, and it's like, okay, I got to retire. I got to take it easy. I got to take less risks. Got to do this. Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. That's the mindset, right?

But what if your latter years are greater than your former years? What if instead of retirement, God wants to bring you into re-fire-ment? He wants to fire you back up? What if in your older age, you actually have more wisdom and more resources to do exploits? Maybe that's the time of some of your greatest calling, is actually later in life. I think it's true.

Moses, you know when he started his ministry? Eighty-five. That's when he started leading the people out of bondage.. I think it was 80 or 85. Abraham, the father of our faith, you know how old he was when he started his ministry? Seventy-five. Seventy-five. Some of you all are just getting warmed up. You all are just getting warmed up. God's not done. He's got great plans for advancing the kingdom of God. Not all of us are called to do crazy exploits like going to the West Bank. Some of us are called to support those that are called to go. But we all need each other in the body of Christ. I believe there's great exploits and great things ahead for this community. Amen.

Hebrews 13. You can pull it up now. Hebrews 13 verse 12 through 15. It says Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore, let's go to him. Let's go to who? Let's go where? But to who? To him. To Jesus. Where is he? Outside the camp. He wants to meet us there. He wants to set a table before you in the presence of your enemies so your head and your cup is overflowing with oil and bear the reproach he endured for here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that's to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God that is the fruit of our lips that acknowledge his name.

This is one of the cheat codes to it right here. When you're advancing is the sacrifice of praise. Because when you're advancing and you're going forward and doing something that's taking great risk, the fear and insecurities come. The problems, they all come, every single time, right? And when the problems come, just like Dr. Schuller, the cost goes from seven million to fifteen million, that's a big problem. The problem just gets way magnified. That's a big problem.

The problem gets really big and when your problem's really big in your eyes, God is really small in your eyes. So the sacrifice of praise is giving thanks to God and praising Him in the midst of your situations. A sacrifice because your flesh doesn't want to do it. But when you do that, you're like God, I thank you that you're the God of all provision, whatever it is, you begin to see Him bigger than all of a sudden, your problem gets smaller and you're ready to advance the kingdom of God because your heart and your mind is filled with oil because you're thinking His thoughts, you're feeling His feelings and His perfect love, when it comes for you for your situation, it casts out all fear. You guys want to start playing? It would be great.

Before we wrap up, I don't want to assume everybody in here knows the Lord. If you've never fully given your life to Jesus, and you're provoked and stirred by faith and you want to walk with God, you're like, you know there's God, but you've never fully surrendered your life to Him, I want to first acknowledge it's a scary thing to do, and the enemy will come with fear towards your life.

When I was giving my life to the Lord, I was like, all this fear was coming inside me like, don't go, don't go, don't go, don't do it, don't.. If that fear, if you're feeling fear in the midst of wanting to give your life to Jesus, that's probably when you should go because your destiny lies on the other side of your fears. And so if you've never given your life to Jesus today, and you want to go all in for Jesus, would you just stand up with me? Everybody's a believer in here? Promise you, when you give your life to God, everything starts to fall into place. It's not that you don't go through trials and tribulations, but He leads you through it.

Want to give it a couple more seconds in case there's anybody that really wants to give their life to Jesus. We're all believers? Good. Amen.

Let's stand. Just sing with us, then I want to pray for us to close this out.

He wants to be with you. He wants to be with you. It's why He's leading you.

Would you grab the person's hands next to you and pray this with me over them. Say God has good plans for you (AUDIENCE – God has good plans for you) to lead you through your fears (AUDIENCE – to lead you through your fears) into the place of promise (AUDIENCE – into the place of promise). He wants to go with you (AUDIENCE – He wants to go with you) so it's time to advance (AUDIENCE – so it's time to advance) and be with God (AUDIENCE – and be with God).

I pray that you have courage (AUDIENCE – I pray that you have courage) and know that God is with you wherever you go (AUDIENCE – and know that God is with you wherever you go). In Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name) amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

God, I thank you for your people. I pray that you speak to us in this season. When we hear fear, we turn to you. You would author faith in our hearts that we get lit up excited about what you're doing, even in the face of the valley of the shadow of death. In every situation we go through, let it be a springboard into your presence and into your Word. Give us dreams that you dream. Give us visions that you see how we see our family members, how we see our businesses, how we see our schools, our situations. Give us the eyes of faith to go forth in courage, in Jesus mighty name, amen.