

## HOUR OF POWER OF 24.05.2009

### PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

VO: Today on the Hour of Power: Are you struggling in this economy? Then stay tuned as financial expert Ron Blue, with over two billion dollars in assets under management, shares advice from a biblical perspective.

RHS: You know, we say everything that has a problem is an opportunity. What positive values, if any, do you see in these economic times?

RON: Oh I think this is the greatest opportunity that the body of Christ has ever had in my lifetime, and I'm 67, to demonstrate the provision of God.

VO: Also today, wonderful recording artist Kevin LeVar.

KEVIN: I want a heart that forgives, a heart full of love, one with compassion just like Yours above, one that overcomes evil.

VO: Then New York Times best selling author and Pastor John Maxwell continues with part two of his series, "Put Your Dream to the Test."

JOHN: In fact, the title of the message is "How to Survive the Surprise," because when you and I begin to pursue our dream, trust me, we're going to have some negative surprises on our journey.

VO: Join us today for the best hour on television, the Hour of Power from the Crystal Cathedral.

### HYMN - "Joyful, Joyful.."

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day. Amen! Amen! Amen!

### GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION - RHS

RHS: Good morning. The key word is open. Open your heart, open your mind, open your consciousness, open the doors that you always keep locked; opened and God will come in. And you will have a terrific experience with Jesus. Hallelujah.

Turn around now and shake hands with somebody, give them a blessing.

Well now what do I say, Lord? Oh thank You for being there before we got to church. Oh and thank You that we made it through the week and we had miracles that we didn't even know were miracles but the accident never happened. And thank You God that we're changeable, thank You for we're not perfect. And thank You that we'll leave the church wiser, brighter, more tender in heart, closer to Jesus, Amen.

### HYMN - "Medley – Come Christians/Turn Your Eyes"

Come Christians, join to sing alleluia! Amen! Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen! Let all with heart and voice before Him now rejoice; praise is His gracious choice alleluia! Amen!

Come lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen! Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen! He is our guide and friend; His goodness He does send; His love shall never end alleluia! Amen!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

SCRIPTURE – Luke 6 - RHS

RHS: You may be seated. Now hear these powerful words that continue to transform the world today when they are spoken.

But I tell you, Jesus said, you who hear Me love your enemies. Wow. No one had ever taught that before. It's been picked up by other religions and other cults but no one had ever said before Jesus said it. Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. You know this is now recognized universally in psychology and psychiatry as positive reactions to ill experiences. He taught us. He was divine.

Give to everyone who asks you. And if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Wow. Do to others as you would have them do to you. Be merciful just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.

This is the word of God out of the lips of His Son Jesus.

SOLO – KEVIN LEVAR – “A Heart that Forgives”

I want a heart that forgives; a heart full of love, one with compassion just like Yours above. One that overcomes evil with goodness and love like it never happened, never holding a grudge.

I want a heart that forgives, that lives and let's live. One that keeps loving over and over again. One that men can't offend because Your word is deep within. One that loves without price like You Lord Jesus Christ.

I want a heart that loves everybody, Father, even my enemies. I want to love like You, be like You, just like You did Lord Jesus. Father, I want a heart that forgives. Father, I want a heart, Father give me the heart.

I want a heart that forgives when the ones that are closest, that I've known the longest they hurt me the most. I still want to love them just like You loved me even though I'm hurting, God You know they hurt me deep.

I want a heart that forgives when the pain is so deep and it's so hard for me to speak about it to anyone. And just like Your son I give up my right to hold it against them with hatred inside. I want a heart that loves everybody, Father, even my enemies. I want to love like You, be like You, just like You did Lord Jesus. Father, I want a heart, the heart that forgives is the heart that will live, totally free from the pain of the past. And the heart that lets go, that's the heart that will know so much freedom, give me a heart that forgives.

I want a heart that forgives. Give me the heart that forgives.

RHS THANK YOU TO KEVIN LEVAR

RHS: Thank you Kevin.

KL: Pleasure.

INTERVIEW – RON BLUE

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RHS: ROBERT H. SCHULLER      RB: RON BLUE

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RHS: My guest today is Ron Blue. Never met him until today but I've known about him and that's why he is here. Today the entire world is experiencing a financial meltdown of historic proportions. Individuals with secure retirement accounts and pensions have watched their accounts cut in half or in some cases vanish entirely right before their eyes. Well we're in need of some sound financial advice more than ever before and I've wondered who do I know that can help?

My guest today is internationally recognized financial planner and consultant Ron Blue, founder of one of the fifty largest CPA firms in the United States. Well he left that company to develop biblically based leadership seminars across the country. He understood that Christians would do a better job of handling their personal finances if they were counseled objectively with a highest technical expertise from a biblical perspective. He was right! This new firm grew to manage over two billion dollars in assets with more than five thousand clients. He's the author of this fantastic book, Surviving Financial Meltdown. So welcome with me, Ron Blue.

RB: Thank you sir, thank you.

RHS: Wow - what sense do you make of the economic crisis that grips the world right now?

RB: You know I've been a financial counselor and advisor for about forty years and I've counseled people from crisis debt situations to multi billionaires and I've never seen anything like what we're experiencing right now. It is pervasive, it's worldwide but when I look at what is really going on, I think it is symptomatic of the violation of some biblical principles. God's word said the wicked man borrows and does not repay and what has happened is that we have tried to borrow our way into prosperity and God says if you're going to borrow, you've got to repay and that's true for the family and it's true for businesses and it's true for our government. You can't borrow your way to prosperity.

He also says, in Revelation chapter three He's talking to the church at Laodicea and He said you know you think you're rich? You think you're wealthy? But let Me show you something. So I would say that this is not new and it's not unusual and I think it's symptomatic of violating biblical principles and I think that what has happened is that we have put money and possessions in the place of God being the provider and the protector and He said I'm not going to allow that to happen. You're going to have to turn back to Me. So this is a wake up call, I believe.

RHS: How can you get, you get that message to the right people in government?

RB: That presumes they'd be willing to listen. And I testified before a congressional sub committee a number of years ago now and Senator Dodd, who's been in the news recently, was the questioner and he said 'what would you tell the American family?' And I said, 'Senator I would tell them,' so I have told Washington this, I said, 'live within your income, avoid borrowing, set aside some savings and some liquidity, some margin so that you can meet emergencies when they come up, and fourth set some long term goals so that you prioritize your spending' and he looked at me and he wrote them down.

RHS: When?

RB: Right then he wrote them down.

RHS: When was that?

RB: This has been about fifteen years ago. He didn't listen but he wrote them down and then he said 'well it seems to me that that would work at any income level' and I said 'you're right, senator, including the United States Government.'

RHS: And what did he say?

RB: Well think about that. We had a conversation. I said you know those are biblical principles that work for the family, they work for businesses, they work for churches, they work for ministries, they work for the government and God doesn't have to rewrite this when we have a stock market decline. So they don't listen because we are attempting to live beyond our means in the government. I am not a prophet, the Old Testament penalty for missing a prophecy was death by stoning, so nothing I say is prophetic. But I say that if you don't follow God's principles of finance, you can't make it work. And God loves us so much that He's not going to allow us to avoid following His principles.

RHS: How does that apply to your life?

RB: My life?

RHS: Yeah, are you living it?

RB: You know Judy and I, my wife, we've been married forty-four years and we have the biggest trouble talking about money as anything and the reason is, is because I like to use spreadsheets and she doesn't like spreadsheets. But what I know is that we, like everybody else, have taken a look at our budget; we said you know what? We can cut out spending here, here, here and here. We can pay off some debt, we can do a lot of things that are living within our income and getting out of debt and setting aside some emergency monies and we're doing the same thing as I'm suggesting to everybody else. It all works.

RHS: You know we say everything that has a problem is an opportunity. What positive values, if any, do you see in these economic times?

RB: Oh I think this is the greatest opportunity that the body of Christ has ever had in my lifetime, and I'm sixty-seven, to demonstrate the provision of God. And I don't mean necessarily in wealth but I mean in praying for one another. I've been on fifty radio programs probably in the last ninety days and when people have said I'm out of a job, I'm hurting, I say you know what you need, is you need a friend and that friend should be found in church. Somebody sitting next to you may be hurting and we need to put our arms around people and say can I pray for you? Can I help you? What can I do to help you? This is an opportunity for the body of Christ to step forward and show and demonstrate the love and the grace and the generosity of our Lord and Savior.

RHS: Now finally how have these tough times affected you and your faith?

RB: You know it says in the bible do not fear, you know this probably, eighty times and it's in every book of the bible it says do not fear. And how it's affected me is when I experience fear I realize that fear and faith cannot coexist. But what it does mean is that I need then to turn to God's word and say Lord what would You have me to do? What would You have me to believe? And so it's affected me by driving me deeper into God's word and I've gotten great comfort. I've probably never been closer to the Lord as in tough economic times so it's driven me back into His word.

RHS: Almost tempts me to say thank you for giving him all these troubles. But truly it is the positive faith.

RB: Absolutely.

RHS: You have this book, I've been reading it with great interest, Surviving Financial Meltdown, and in the couple of pages I thought you could change the title to, you know, Surviving to Thriving..

RB: Thriving.

RHS: ..Thriving in a Financial Meltdown. That's what you are doing.

RB: I think that we have hope and encouragement and I hope this book is a real hope and encouragement to thousands of people.

RHS: It will be.

RB: Thank you.

RHS: And they can get it in any bookstore in America or in our bookstore right here. Thank you very much.

RB: Thank you, Dr. Schuller.

RHS: God loves you.

RB: Thank you.

#### ANTHEM - "Surely He Has Borne our Grief"

Surely, surely, surely, surely, surely, surely He has borne our grief and carried our sorrows. He was wounded, He was wounded, He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquity. The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed, and by His wounds we are healed, by His wounds we are healed, we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way. Each of us has turned to his own way and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Surely, surely, surely, surely, surely, surely He has borne; He has borne our grief and carried our sorrows. He was wounded; He was wounded, He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquity. The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, upon Him. And by His wounds we are healed, and by His wounds we are healed, by His wounds we are healed, we are healed. We are healed, we are healed.

#### INTRODUCTION TO JOHN MAXWELL - RHS

RHS: Now my guest pastor today is John C. Maxwell. I first met him about 40 years ago when I started an Institute for Successful Church Leadership, and they were young men there that were dreaming the dream of a great church. Bill Hybels was one and he has often said there'd be no Willow Creek Community Church if it hadn't been for that Schuller Institute. And oh gosh the list is long of names you'd know. But one of those was John Maxwell.

And after that, he devoted his attention to maximizing the delivery of the message to people. John Maxwell followed his father's footsteps in the local church ministry, first getting a Master of Divinity degree at Azusa Pacific University, and a Doctor of Ministry degree at Fuller Theological Seminary. And after 25 years of successful church leadership, God called John to devote himself full time to speaking and writing.

Each year he speaks to Fortune 500 companies, international government leaders, the NFL, Ambassadors at the United Nations, and churches around the country. And he's back to share his message series "The Dream Journey of Joseph," based upon his new book, Put Your Dream to the Test. He gave us his first message last Sunday, so let's give a warm Crystal Cathedral welcome to John Maxwell. Thank you, John.

#### MESSAGE – JOHN MAXWELL

"The Dream Journey of Joseph II – How to Survive the Surprise"

JM: Good morning. I turned 62 and I've come to the conclusion that the life cycle is backwards. I think you should die first, get it out of the way. Then live 20 years in an old age home and then get kicked out because you're too young. Get a gold watch and then you go to work. You work 40 years until you're young enough to enjoy your retirement. You go to college and you party until you're ready for high school. Then you go to grade school, you become a little kid, you play, you have no responsibilities, you become a little baby, you go back into the womb and you spend the last ten months floating and finish off as a gleam in somebody's eye.

I am so delighted, so delighted to be back with you at the Crystal Cathedral, and be with Dr. Schuller. My newest book, Put Your Dream to the Test has just come out, in fact I'm so honored because the Hour of Power has made this a very special edition and they have it available for you here, they have it also available for the television audience.

In the life of Joseph, we begin to find out very early that the dream is free but the journey isn't. That's true of all of us, is it not? Do you remember when you first had maybe your first dream as a child and it was so enjoyable and it was so wonderful to think about. And yet very quickly, as we begin the dream journey, we realize there's a price to pay. The dream is free. That's why I think we like it so much in the beginning. But then the journey has a great price to it. In my book Put Your Dream to the Test, I talk about ten questions you need to ask yourself to make sure that your dream comes true. One of those ten questions is the cost question. The cost question just simply asks: Am I willing to pay the price for my dream?

Perhaps you've heard of the.. if you go to a little side shows once in awhile, there'll be a canister jar with fleas in it and they're just kind of jumping up and down and there's no lid on it and you look at these fleas in the jar and you ask why don't they just jump out. They certainly have the ability to do this, why don't they jump out of the jar? Well it's very simple. When they put the fleas in the jar, they put a lid on it. And those fleas, as they start to, obviously, want to get out of the jar, they start jumping up and every time they smash their little flea brains against the lid. And after a while they say to them self, self oh that's better. Wow, that just feels so much better. If I only jump this high, I won't get hurt again. Happens with all of us.

Every one of us as we have had a dream, and as we've started out on this wonderful dream journey, we've had high expectations, we've had wonderful thoughts about what's going to happen in our life, only to find out that as we journey in the dream, there is a cost. There is a price and Joseph, he's about to find this out, too. As a very young man, he begins to have a dream of being a ruler. But Joseph very quickly is going to find out that there's a price to be paid and in his life, the price to be paid is sooner than he thought. It was much higher than he thought and he was going to pay the price more than once.

And I would like to take you on that journey now for a few moments and as we follow the path of Joseph, we're going to discover the surprises he had in his life. In fact the title of the message is "How to Survive the Surprise" because when you and I begin to pursue our dream, trust me, we're going to have some negative surprises on our journey. Joseph had four.

First of all, the first surprise he came was the fact that his family reacted negatively to his dream. As a teenager, as he began to share with his family what he sensed that had been birthed in himself by God and as he began to share his dream, they began to look upon him in a very negative way and talked to him about it in a negative way. In fact, in Genesis chapter 37, let me just read a couple

of paragraphs. When Joseph, who was sent out by his father to go out to his brothers who were watching the sheep, when Joseph reached his brothers, because they were jealous of the dream, they ripped off his fancy coat, they grabbed him and they threw him into a cistern and the cistern went dry and there wasn't any water in it. Then his brothers sat down to eat their supper and looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelite's on their way from Gilead, their camels loaded with spices, ointments and perfumes to sell to Egypt, and Judas said, brothers, what are we going to get out of killing our brother and concealing the evidence. You see they'd already had a plot to kill him, and this next phrase, I have a sense of humor, this always brings a smile to my face, the brothers are there talking and they said let's sell him to the Ishmaelite's but lets not kill him, he is after all our brother. Nice family. How would you like to have brothers like that, huh? Let's not kill him, I mean after all, he is our brother. Let's just sell him to be a slave. Now already, already Joseph, who had this amazing dream of being a ruler, is finding a very negative surprise and the surprise is the fact that his family has reacted in a very difficult, negative way to his dream. We know what its like if somebody close to us, a family member, if we share something that is important to us, perhaps an idea, a thought, or a dream we know what its like if they disapprove of it. Maybe disagree.

My father's been very important in my life and when I had my call into the ministry, I was so blessed by the fact that he was affirmative to that call and when I was wanting to change and make an important decision of going from one organization to another and I got his affirmation; I thought to myself how wonderful, how wonderful is a son to get the affirmation of a father.

My wife Margaret is here today and we've been married now for 40 years. And Margaret has been my best friend and she's my wife and when I share ideas, I can tell you if everybody else is against the idea, but she's for it, then I'm okay. In fact I've always said to God, if there's going to be any major change in my life, He doesn't have to talk to a lot of people; He just has to talk to two: me and Margaret. I want her affirmation, I want her support. And when the dream begins, it is very fragile. And so that fragile dream in the birthing, in the beginning of it, if the people that are closest to us don't affirm the dream as in Joseph's life, it's a negative surprise.

The second negative surprise in Joseph's life as he began this dream journey was that he was going to live and grow up in a strange country. He always thought that he would be close to his family, always thought that the culture, the customs, the people that he knew, the things that he felt comfortable with, he always had felt that that's where I'll live, that's where I'll grow up. That's what I will experience. But very early in this dream, we find him leaving the people he knows and the culture and the custom that he loves and he goes to another country.

The third surprise that he had in this dream journey was that he had more downs than ups. You see we like to talk of life as being full of ups and downs. We have our good days, we have our bad days. We have our days that just seems like everything's kind of doing really well and going our way, we have those days when we're kind of set back and taken by surprise. And we talk about having ups and downs and ups and downs. Joseph didn't have ups and downs. He had downs, and ups. In fact he had a lot more downs than he had ups. When you begin to follow his dream journey, first of all, he was misunderstood by his family that would tempt you to give up. Then he was sold into slavery. Again I think you'd be tempted to give up. Then he was in a strange country, well that would be enough for you to want to give up your dream. But then a good thing happened.

He was put in charge of the household of Potiphar. Well now I think Joseph wants to go on. But then he's wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife, I'm sure Joseph said I'm going to give up. And then he was put in prison, well that's a give up. And then he was put in charge of the prisoners. Well okay, now he can go on. And then he spends two years in prison. Well that's a give up. And the cup bearer, after interpreting his dream, doesn't remember him before Pharaoh, well that's a give up and then finally Pharaoh does call him to interpret his dream and that's a go on and then he became ruler of the country, well that's a go on but if you look at Joseph's life, he had a lot more give ups than go on's and in your dream and in my dream, as I teach in my book Put Your Dream to the Test, is it not true that we have a lot more give ups than go on's? That we have more downs than ups?

You see another question I ask in the Put Your Dream to the Test, is the passion question. Do I have enough passion, does my passion compel me to hold onto and keep the dream that I have, because passion has a tendency to pull us up. It pulls us up above the crowd, it pulls us up above average, it pulls us up above ordinary. And passion pushes us onward. When everything else would say stop, when everything else would say give up, when everything else and everyone else would say quit, passion pushes us on.

Let me share with you where I learned that. I call passion the great energizer. Passion gives you energy. A person that has passion has energy. Just as a person who doesn't have passion lacks energy. I've never known a person that lacked passion that was full of energy. Basically as life comes, they're ready to take a nap. And I've never known person that had passion that lacked energy. It pushes us out and when I was a young pastor in our first church in Southern Indiana, small country rural church the building that we had was an old country building, over a hundred years old, roof sagged, walls bowed, got the picture? Seated about 85 people. Just a handful going to the church when I began and I had a dream of building a great church for God and so I'd been there for about a year and I remember one Sunday in summer, standing up in front of the congregation and saying in October, the first Sunday, we're going to have three hundred people in attendance. Now you have to understand, Southern Indiana, poorest county in the state. And when I said 300, it was way beyond anything they could imagine. And most of them hadn't seen 300 people. The little town we were in was Hillham: eleven houses, two garages, one country store. We were a suburb of French Lick, if that makes you feel better.

And when I said we were going to have 300 people, these wonderful farmers came up afterwards and said pastor, it's a wonderful goal; it's a wonderful dream but it's just too much. And I said will you help me? They said well we'll help you but it's just too many people. We just can't have 300. It's more than what we could ever reach. And for the next three months, we worked hard, I kid you not. Everybody worked hard. In fact, everybody asked everybody and there's not a lot of bodies so everybody asked everybody to come to church. In fact everybody asked everybody to come to church and by September, when somebody would see one of our church people coming, they'd just throw their hands in the air and say I'm coming, I'm coming. I'm coming. No more, no more, I'll be there, I'll be there.

The Sunday arrived. We not only had the church full but we had the basement full, we had rented a house beside it and put sound over there, we had it full. And then people were all around the outside and it was a beautiful October day so the windows were up so they could hear from the outside and we were so excited. It was the biggest crowd we'd ever had and I was getting ready to preach the

message and the elder of the church stood up and told the congregation this is the largest attendance we've ever had. He said I just want you to know that today we had 299 people. Immediately I stood up. And I said it's wonderful to have 299 people but what is our goal? They all said 300. I said absolutely. And I've made a decision that I'm not preaching till we get 300. So I'm going to ask the worship leader to come up and lead the singing, I'm going to go outside, I'm going to find one more person, I'm going to bring them to church and when we have 300 I will preach the message. I'm telling you, when I walked off of that stage and I went back that middle aisle, those farmers were patting me on the back. They're saying go get them preacher, go get them! Go get them, preacher. By the time I got to the back I was so excited, I was pumped! And then I went outside and I thought now what am I going to do? I have to go find one.

I looked across the street and at the old service station there was Sandy Burton, who owned the station, old man, never been to church, never been to church. And with him was Benny Harris or his brother Glenn and I went across the street and I saw them and of course they knew that we were trying to have 300. Everybody knew. Everybody knew; you didn't have a chance not to know. They said well preacher, it looks like a big crowd over there. Did you get your 300? I smiled and I said not yet. But I have a question to ask you. We have 299 over there. I need one of you to go to church with me. So the question is, which one of you wants to be a hero for the entire valley? You just got to learn to ask the question right. And as soon as I asked which one of you wanted to be a hero for the entire valley, they looked at each other, they both smiled and they said we both want to be heroes. Old Sandy Burton put a closed sign on the filling station, Glenn was on one side, Sandy was on the other, I walked across the street, I opened up that church door, those people were singing but I promise you as they were singing, they were watching the door. And when I came in with two people, they threw the hymn books in the air, they clapped, they applauded, I went down to the front row, kicked two members off, set Sandy, Glenn there and I preached the message. Three hundred and one.

That night, as we all do with something that was a dream, as I was reliving the dream, all of a sudden it hit me. Passion is what made it happen. Who in their right mind would stand up in front of people and say I'm going to get one more person. You keep singing till I'm back. Who in their right mind would keep on singing! Waiting for the preacher to get back with the other one! What happened? What caused the dream to be a reality? It was passion. It pulls us up. It pushes us out.

You see Joseph in his dream journey, he had the surprise of his family reacting negatively to the dream, he had the surprise of going up in a strange country, had the surprise of having more downs than ups, and fourthly, he was surprised that God was with him in tough times.

This is probably the most important part of the lesson. He was surprised that God was with him during the dark days. Now it talks continually throughout the dream journey of Joseph, how God was with him. For example, when Joseph was put in charge of Potiphar's home, and he became kind of the manager of the household, the bible says and it turned out that God was with Joseph and things went very well with him. Well when things go very well with us, we want to say well look what God's done for me. Look at how God is good to me. When things go very well, of course we say well thank you God. Thank you for my blessings, thank you for helping me, thank you for what You've given me. But in chapter 39, after he was wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife and he was put in jail, notice this. But there in jail God was still with Joseph. He was still with him. He wasn't just with

him when he was kind of leading and managing and running Potiphar's household, but when he was in jail, when he was wrongly accused, when things went bad. And one of the surprises that we have in our dream journey its not only that God is with us in the good times, but God is with us in the difficult times. In fact I think that's where in the dream journey, we become closely attached to God because we see that He loves us when things are going good and He loves us when things are going bad. In our good days, in our bad days, that He is the same yesterday, today and forever, and that He is a constant companion who never leaves us nor does He ever forsake us and the moment that we begin to understand and realize that God is with us through our ups and downs, it's an amazing beautiful surprise.

Now I don't know what that does for you today, but in the times that we live, where our country's in turmoil, and people don't seem to have answers to the questions of the economy, in a time where people are losing jobs and it's not the best of times for us. Isn't it kind of nice to know that during these low difficult, dark, extremely hard times that God is with us? That He's here to help you, to guide you, to support you, to strengthen you. There's a passage of scripture that says if God is for us, who can be against us. Or the Maxwell translation that says if God is for us, everyone else might as well be. And in Joseph's life, God was for him. He had birthed a dream within him. Dr. Schuller and I were talking between services of how the fact that we believe the dream that God births within you is the gift and the calling that God has for you. And Joseph, in his dream journey, discovered that God was faithful. There are things I do not understand. In the last week, I just lost a wonderful friend to pancreatic cancer. There are questions that you have. There are hurts that you experience within your life. And sometimes we wonder where is God? Can I trust Him? Is He faithful? Does He see me where I am? Can He meet my deepest need? Many years ago when going through a difficult time, I memorized this very short poem that has kind of helped me get through the tough times. God is too good to be unkind and He's too wise to be confused. If I cannot trace His hand, I can always trust His heart.

Ten years ago I had a heart attack. And while I lay in the hospital at a very difficult time for a couple of hours, I experienced something that I'd never experienced before because I was facing death. And I had an amazing peace in my life. I cannot describe to you the peace that I had in such a difficult time. I've heard of people talking about God giving you dying grace or dying strength, and here I am kind of hovering there for a couple of hours and the peace that I had, it was an amazing experience. I wouldn't trade it for anything because it was during the difficult time, it was in the down time, it was in the darkest hour that God was the closest and God really says to you, when He says to me in those darkest hours He is saying you can trust Me. See if Noah were here today, Noah would say you can trust God to send the rain. Abraham would say you can trust God to give you descendants. Moses would say you can trust God to deliver the people. Joshua can say you can trust God to give you the Promised Land and David would say you can trust God to slay the giants in your life. And John the Baptist would say you can trust God to send the Messiah. The little boy with the loaves and fish, he would say you can trust God with your lunch. The sick people can say you can trust God to bring healing, the lost people can say you can trust God to bring salvation. And Joseph, in his dream journey, would say you and I can trust God. We can trust Him to fulfill His plan and the dream that He has planted in your life and regardless of the surprises, whether it's a fact that God is with you during difficult times, or you have more downs than you have ups, or you're in a strange

country with strange land or the fact that those closest to you have been negative to you regardless of all those things, in the most difficult times, you can trust God. So I close. I close with the words of my friend S.M. Lockridge who points us all to God and I read to you the following: God can satisfy all our needs and He can do it simultaneously. He supplies strength to the weak; He's available for the tempted and tried. He sympathizes and He sees, He guards and He guides, He heals the sick, He cleanse the leper, He forgave the sinners, He discharged the debtors, He delivers the captive, He defends the feeble, He blesses the young, He regards the ages, He rewards the diligent, and He beautifies the meek. I'm trying to tell you today, you can trust God. He's the key to knowledge. He's the well spring of wisdom. He's the doorway of deliverance. He's the pathway to peace. He's the road to righteousness. He's the highway to holiness. He's the gateway to glory. Listen to me crowd. I'm telling you, you can trust Him. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes. His word is enough. His grace is sufficient. His reign is righteous. His yolk is easy but His burden is light. I wish I could describe Him to you. He's indescribable because He's incomprehensible. He's irresistible because He's invincible. Listen crowd. You can trust Him. You can't get Him off your hands, you can't get Him out of your mind, you can't outlive Him and you can't live without Him. Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him and He couldn't stop Him. The witnesses couldn't get their testimonies to agree, Herod couldn't kill Him, death couldn't handle Him and thank God the grave couldn't hold Him. There was nobody before Him. There will be nobody after Him. He had no predecessor, He'll have no successor. You can't impeach Him, and He's not going to resign. I'm telling you at the Crystal Cathedral, during your dream journey in the difficult times and the surprises come, you can trust Him. God bless you.

#### HYMN - "Rejoice, the Lord is King"

Rejoice the Lord is King: Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope! Triumph in God above: Sing we to our Redeemer King, the God of love. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His Kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heaven; The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

#### BENEDICTION - RHS

RHS: Now may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. And may God give you His peace in your going out and in your coming in, in your lying down and in your rising up, in your labor and in your leisure, in your laughter and in your tears until you come and stand before Jesus in that day which for you there will be no sunset, only eternal light and life forevermore. Happy Sunday. God bless.