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**Love Like Confetti**  
**Part 5 – Serve One Another**  
Shay Robbins

Today, we are talking about service. To kind of open up the conversation, I want to share about the Robbins Family Spring Break. Does anybody want to hear some Robbins family stories? To celebrate and to get away on spring break, I rented a 30 ft RV. That's right. It was epic. It was like a born-again Chevy Chase behind the wheel rolling down the road; it was dangerous.

I picked up the RV and drove it down and surprised the little ones at Mimi and Papa's. Then we went to school and we picked up our two big girls. Dad pulls up in a 30-footer and their minds are blown. They get in and we just start heading south. We had an absolute blast.

We went down to Texas. I have some pictures. We put in 2,300 miles in one week and our final destination was Big Bend National Park. If you've never been, I highly encourage it. We were so blown away at how magnificent this park is. The park itself, it's expanse is greater than that of the Houston Metropolitan Area. It takes you over an hour just to drive from one side of the park to the next. Within the park, there are three different eco systems. There is a beautiful dry, arid desert that is surrounded by mountains. It's almost like it's in a bowl of mountains. Then you go down the Rio Grande River and there's a green belt that follows the river through there and it offers another eco system. It is just the coolest place and we had so much fun.

I have some pictures I want to show you. That's Piper June, she's sitting in the Rio Grande and she is sucking algae off all the rocks, one at a time. That's right. #fifthchildproblems. With our first kids, we were kind of all over it, but with this one, you know, she's the fifth kid. We knocked a couple down and, granted, her head tilts to the left, but she's fine. It's all good.

This is called the Boquillas Canyon. We hike, so one of our first big hikes... We woke up in the morning- I think it was on Tuesday morning. We were super excited to get out and explore. We went on a long hike down Boquillas Canyon. They call it the second Grand Canyon. It is surprisingly massive and awe-inspiring. We hiked down the canyon and we got to the end of the trail. We sat down, and I was whipping together some peanut butter and honeys and feeding the kids and they were all in there playing and we had so much fun.

This next picture is of my wife and some of the kids escaping to Mexico. That's right. Fortunately, they ran into a big wall and they came back. Phenomenal; I couldn't believe it. I'm really thankful they did. The Rio Grande River is... I don't know why, but I guess in my head I just pictured this massive river, like

the Mississippi River type river. It really isn't. I would say it's as small as the Buffalo or maybe smaller; you can just walk right across it.

While we were on that little rock bar, this genuine Mexican cowboy comes riding down, on the Mexico side, on his horse, down into the water. Part of the canyon you can kind of hike along, but then it closes off and it's just sheer rock faces on either side of the river. This cowboy rides down in there and he kicks up his boots and he kind of like bounces himself on the back of his horse and the water comes up within like three inches of his rear. I'm thinking, *Oh my gosh! This is like a legit cowboy!* It was inspired, it was awesome.

Here's the next picture. This is Piper with her whale spout as they call it. We drove all over and our kids are in the RV and we just had so many awesome memories and insanity and it was just almost utter chaos at all times. There's another picture. I just want to gobble her up.

Then the final picture is us in the desert. You can see here that in the Robbins family, if at least 57% of the family is not crying, it's a win; we're really doing good. You see here in this family photo that Belle is crying, Lulu is less than enthused... She won't even touch me. But, Max has a smile, Ashley's smiling, and Piper is eating Ashley's hair, so that counts as a smile and there's Tess and dad. That's over 57%. We're were doing really well right there. That's real life. We even tried to do the Instagram thing and make things look better than they were and that's as good as we could make it. It's all good.

A funny story... We went down that Boquillas Canyon hike and we were energized in the morning and we did really well on that hike in and out. Then, we headed to another hike that goes down through the desert to another part of the Rio Grande. At that point, there are hot springs, like legit hot springs. They kind of made a pool around them and you can get in them. We headed down in the RV. Much of the trails and things that are out there are just dust in the desert. We had to get off the pavement and we went as far as we could in the RV. It got to the point that we couldn't go any further or I was just going to end up stuck.

I pulled off at this stopping spot, in the middle of the desert. I was thinking, *Ok, we've got about a half mile to get from the RV to the springs.* We sat out on our hike. Ashley and I were backpacking kids in and the big ones are walking. We made our way in and we got to the entrance where we found out we've got another quarter mile. So, three quarters of a mile, no big deal. We got in there and we had a great time. We played and laughed and were in and out of the springs and jumping in the water and all this, having a blast. This is classic Shay Robbins: we pushed it too far. We stuck around and had fun until we started to unravel just a little bit. That was a mistake, right? You want to leave when you're still energized and wanting more. I wanted to maximize it.

So, we start to unravel, and I knew it was time to go. Ashley and I packed up and we started heading out on our three quarters of a mile hike. Not that big of a deal. We got out in the desert and it's so crusty dry out there that when you walk on the ground, it just like pulverizes underneath your feet and when you step up, it blows away. We get out there I began thinking to myself, *Wow, I could see how you could die out here.* The kids start further unraveling and Ashley and I were emotionally unraveling too, but we were faking it. "Oh, this is great! Amazing experience, kids, we're so proud of you."

They're crying, "I can't walk any further." Their feet are getting blistered and their like, "I'm so thirsty, dad, carry me." So, we were just doing our best. We came around the last corner and we saw the RV and I was think to myself, *Lord, please don't let it be a mirage.*

We got to the RV and we started passing out bottles of water and they were chugging them down. I was just thinking, *Goodness. All of the sudden, my value of a cold glass of water has probably been put where it should be.* It's essential to survive. I don't know if you knew that. I had forgotten. It's essential to survive. As we drove away from that and made our trek home, I was pondering this message and I was reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 10 when he's talking about the concept of service. With this idea in mind, I want to read this to you.

Luke 10 – **40** ***"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."*** Jesus is talking about how if you accept him, you're accepting God, you're entering back into relationship with him. He's saying that if anyone wishes to come after him, he must deny himself, pick up his cross daily, and follow Jesus. He says that not only that, as you do that, you're going to live a life of service for other people. Your service won't go without reward in God's economy.

He says, **41** ***"The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward..."*** In other words, if there's a godly figure or a spokesman or a leader in the community, if you care for them, you'll receive a reward. He goes on to the next example, ***"and the one who receives a righteous person..."*** He brings it down a notch. This is just a good guy or a good gal. If you receive them ***"because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward."*** He's like, "That's great, I want you to do that, I'm going to encourage you in that." Then he brings it down another rung. **42** ***"And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."***

So, we know how Jesus felt about children. Children were the least of these in society. It's the same now in our culture, but he's saying, "If you honor these, if you just bring them a cold cup of water, I'm not going to miss that. That will be rewarded."

In the context of walking through the desert, I'm thinking about that cold glass of water and the value of it; the value of a simple act of service is put into perspective.

Two weeks ago, speaking of cold glasses of water, my mom called me and said that one of our dear church family members, Denice Boerema, was on her death bed. Denice, if you guys know her, has been fighting cancer for nine years now. Her husband, Tom, has been by her side, relentlessly serving her. Two weeks ago, her health took a turn for the worse and we knew that she was in her final days.

She's my mom's best friend, so mom called me and said, "Hey, do you want to come visit?" I jumped in the car with mom and we went to their house over in Stone County. We went up in her room and I don't pretend to be like super comfortable or even knowledgeable in these situations, I just... I don't even know what to do. But, we walked in there and immediately there was this peace hanging in the room.

They were jovial and they were laughing and joking and telling stories. Denice was sitting there, and her body was broken down. She couldn't speak any longer, but she could still communicate through liping and the kids could kind of understand what she was saying, her two daughters, Julie and Melissa.

We were in this environment and a woman was in her very last days on this earth. Through Melissa, Denice explained that she had a desire to be baptized before she died. Both Tom and Denice spent their entire lives in a religious upbringing. Three and a half years ago, they started attending Woodland Hills Family Church and they discovered, for the first time in their lives, a relationship with Jesus and it completely transformed their family.

Denice had a desire to be baptized at Woodland Hills, but, because of all her sores and the things she was managing, it just wasn't possible. So, there, sitting on her death bed, she asked to be baptized. Together, as a family, we baptized her right there in her bed. And, though her body was broken down and you could tell she was in a lot of pain, we baptized her and sang and prayed over her. When we finished, there was a little smirk smile on her face. I thought it was so just true. In her last moments there wasn't conversation about her accomplishments, what she had done in her life as a business woman, no mention of her accolades. In her last days, her heartbeat was to worship Jesus. Isn't that something?

Now she is standing in the throne room, as of Tuesday. She is with Jesus in a glorified body. Yet, before she made that trip into eternity, she wanted to worship Jesus. I can't even tell you how much it ministered to me and provided me this perspective. You see, over nine years, as Tom cared for his wife... He always calls her "my beautiful wife." He even texted me a day or two ago. He said, "my beautiful wife..." As he served her, he had an agenda. His agenda was that he would breathe life, he would have life-sustaining service. As he brought her a cold cup of water after cold cup of water for nine years, he had an agenda.

It's not so different for you and me as we serve others. As followers of Jesus, we should have an agenda. That's our first takeaway today: **Followers of Jesus serve with a heavenly agenda.** The title of the series is *Love Like Confetti*. If we truly love people, the most loving thing that you can do or care for about somebody's life is their eternity. Too many times, we're worry about what is ailing them or consuming them or what they might think of us right now, but true love has an agenda and it is one of eternal value. Followers of Jesus serve with a heavenly agenda.

The second takeaway is this: **Followers of Jesus serve with heavenly power.** For those of us who have a relationship with Christ, we have power that flows straight from the Throne Room of God in and through our lives. We have access to a power that the world knows nothing of; they don't have that access. But, you and I, as followers of Jesus, do. So, not only do we serve with an agenda, but also serve with power that comes from the Throne Room.

Watch what Jesus says in John 7. **37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."** Now these are people who lived in an arid desert, like where I came from in Big Bend. That's their life, so you better believe they understand this analogy because they have a healthy perspective of the value of water.

**38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

So, these rivers of living water are welling up in the hearts of believers. They come from the Throne Room of God and you and I have access to them. But, as followers of Jesus, we also have the wrestling match of either accessing them or leaving them to lay stagnant, unused. The scripture categorizes people into three different categories. The three categories are this:

**1) The natural man.** You're born a natural man or natural woman and naturally, you have sin in your life. That means that you are separated from a holy God and that apart from him, if you die, you'll spend eternity in hell, paying for your sins. That's the way a just God operates. So, a natural man or woman places self on the throne of their heart and Christ is left outside of their life.

**2) A spiritual man and a 3) carnal man** have one thing in common. The thing that they have in common is that they have surrendered their life to Christ and the Holy Spirit has come inside, indwelt them and sealed them as a guarantee of their inheritance of heaven. So, the spiritual and the carnal man, when they die, they are going to the same place, they are going to heaven.

But, on this earth, those of us who have a relationship with Jesus can live in one of two different modes. The **spiritual man** places Christ on the throne of their life and they place themselves humbly splayed before the throne and they allow Jesus to sit where he belongs. As a result, that power that we talked about, that supernatural power can flow through the life of a believer. That makes you a spiritual man or woman.

Now, on the other hand, what we can do is we can live in our **carnal nature**. Carnal means our flesh. If we choose to live in our flesh, we can remove Christ from the driver's seat or from the throne in our heart and then we place ourselves there. It doesn't change our eternal destination, but what it does is it separates us from the power that flows from the Throne Room because we have foolishly placed ourselves in that seat.

How many of you guys out there have said something stupid to your wife in the car? Yeah, be honest. So, when I say something stupid to my wife, her reaction is to turn and look out the passenger side window and give me the cold shoulder. That's what we do in our carnal nature with God. We turn a cold shoulder to God. So, even though we are in relationship with him and we have all the blessings that God has to offer available to us, for whatever reason, we turn a cold shoulder to God. Now, this analogy is imperfect. Some of you guys are thinking, *Well, I was right*. And I'm telling you no, you were stupid. But, in this relationship, God is perfect, he doesn't mess up. There's only one imperfect half to this relationship and when we are not tapped into the power of God, guess whose fault it is. It's ours. We've turned a cold shoulder to our God.

So, here's the way I kind of see it in my mind and I think it helps me understand the nature of the trinity – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and how they work together. Jesus comes to a broken, sinful world with his arms open and he says, "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you

rest.” And those who are willing to run into his arms are in Christ and their sins are forgiven and their eternity is safe and sealed and you have access to the power of God; you’re in Christ. In the scriptures, there are all kinds of awesome promises that are attached to that concept of being in Christ. The Holy Spirit that comes in and seals the believer as you’re in Christ, that gives you the access to the Throne Room of God and God himself is the source of power. So, power can flow from the Throne Room, through the Holy Spirit, and then through your life so long as you are clinging to your relationship with Jesus.

Paul charges Timothy, in 2 Timothy 2: 1. He says, ***Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*** The way I picture that is just simply holding onto that relationship with the Lord, just hugging him and making sure that he is a part of everything that you do. But, in our carnal nature, when we make the mistake, what we do is we kind of pry ourselves loose from that grip and we turn that cold shoulder to Jesus and we disrupt that flow from the Throne. Y’all tracking with me that far? So, that’s how supernatural power can flow through the life of a believer as we serve people.

Watch what Lewis Chafer says. *“Spirituality is a work of God for His child:”* In other words, the power and the gifts that come with the Spirit is a blessing, a gift from God for us. Spiritual gifts, fruit of the Spirit, your testimony and your story being used, those are all a gift that God has given you. And watch this: *“...service is a work of the child for his God which can be accomplished only in the power of the indwelling Spirit.”*

So, you think about it this way. God has given us a gift of all the individual things that make up who you are: your personality, your experiences, your story, your gifting passions, your spiritual gifts, all of those things are given to you as a gift and our responsibility... Service is a work to take those gifts and then essential just give them back to God. Isn’t that a cool way to think about it? So, as I serve other people through my various gifts, every time I do that, I’m being a blessing to the Gift Giver.

**A follower of Jesus’ service to the church builds up the body of Christ.** When we serve, there are two bodies of people that will receive our service and they receive them in two different ways. When I serve as a member of this body of Christ, as I serve you, there is a strengthening or a building up or a maturing process that I can aid in our church body and likewise you can do the same.

Paul writes in Ephesians... He explains it simply. ***15 But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up on all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up itself in love.***

So, as I look back... And you can do the same. As you look back at your faith journey, think about the people who have played significant roles in your life in helping you mature in your faith. I think of my mom and my dad, Joe White, Ted Cunningham, Keith Chancey, and the list goes on and on of these influencers that have been part of my life and have helped in my growth and maturity. They all served me in different ways. That’s how it works within this body. Whatever gift you’ve been given, do not minimize it. Don’t minimize your role in the body of Christ.

According to Ephesians 4, it says that every ligament, every body part has an essential role in the building up of the body.

Years ago, Adrian Peterson played for the Minnesota Vikings. He was a freak of nature, one of the most amazing running backs. He was 235 pounds, extremely athletic, extremely gifted. He just ran away with the ball. This huge strapping man tore his ACL and an ACL in the 235 pounds... It's a ligament that about an inch and half long and about a quarter inch wide; it weighs just grams. The loss of that ligament took Adrian Peterson completely out of the game. Now isn't that something?

Paul is using that analogy to show us that every single one of you has a specific role and your role matters. It's important, in fact, it's actually essential to the building up of the body of believers around you. You are absolutely essential. That's why we get so passionate about the opportunities to serve here. Right now, we've got a tent set up outside that's called The Sweet Spot because we believe that everybody here has a specific spot where they can serve the body of Christ. We want to help you discover that. Some of you in the maturity of your faith know exactly what your gift is. It took me years to kind of figure that out and it will take me years to really grow in that. The church exists here to help you find that and then give you opportunities to plug you in to serve and help grow up the body of Christ. You've got a responsibility.

So, on the other hand, when we serve those outside the church, so unbelievers, it looks like this. **A follower of Jesus' service to unbelievers gives them a seat at the table of influence.** So, as you serve those who don't have faith in Jesus, you're earning the right to influence their life. For me, one of the ways, which is kind of my love language, is food. If you were to give me a steak, I would love you forever.

I'm reminded, and this is funny... Twenty years ago, I was landscaping in the summer in Southeastern Iowa and it was super-hot and I was working really hard. It was 10:00 am, about the time I get hungry for lunch every day, and the owner of this house walks out with three Dilly Bars. Do y'all know what Dilly Bars are? It's just ice cream with chocolate on it. He brings out three Dilly Bars. He hands me that Dilly Bar and, at that point, I would have died for him. He had won over my loyalty. I remember it 20 years later. Isn't that something? But that guy could have told me to do anything and I would have been like, "Yes sir. What can I do for you?" That's the way it works as we serve people. It provides us the opportunity to influence.

I want to challenge our church today. I want to challenge you to think about your life and the people that you interact with. I want you to think about your favorite restaurant and I want to challenge you to seek out the same waiter or waitress every time you go and build a friendship with them. When you tip... I want to flip our thought process. Many times, when we tip, we tip based on the quality of service that we receive. I want to flip that on its head. As a church body, I want to challenge us to begin tipping based on the quality of service in my heart. Tipping doesn't have anything to do with their performance. It has everything to do with my heart to serve them. Think about your mechanic. No matter how bad he is or fowl mouthed, go to your mechanic and be loyal to him. Get to know them over the years. Make an investment in their life.

I was actually convicted a couple of days ago. I'm sitting in a coffee shop I like to go to when I prepare messages. I know the young guy who started this coffee shop from years ago in K-Life, but my interactions with him have just kind of been shallow to be honest with you. I began thinking that if I came in here and I asked him one good question every time I came in here, just one good question like "What are you fired up about right now?" "What's your best-selling drink?" "Why do you like it?" "What's making you anxious right now?" I mean just one question at a time. I could strategically earn more influence in his life. It's not rocket science. We can serve people by caring enough to get to know them. Do you know that is rare today? Do you know that asking great questions will fling open doors of opportunity to serve people?

Every interaction... Where there are people, there is opportunity. Let's not miss those opportunities to serve those who are lost. If we truly love as we follow Jesus, we care and we serve them with an agenda.

As I think about serving... If you're anything like me, just reflectively thinking about your Christian life, you probably want to make a difference. That's kind of the way I am. With my life, I want to make a difference, I want to impact people. As I look back at the people in my life who impacted me, I can't tell them enough, "You don't understand how much you've meant in my life." I want to be that for other people, but to stand there and think about how you want to accomplish these types of things in your lifetime, it's a little bit overwhelming and it's hard to know where to even start. I want to argue today that just by offering cold glasses of water that are supercharged by the Holy Spirit, you can love people in extravagant ways that you never imagined.

There's a story from King David's Mighty Men. I really look for every opportunity to weave them into messages and I found a way today. King David's mighty men were his elite fighting force. They numbered 30 at any time. When one would die, another one would be ready to step up into their ranks. These guys were bad mama jamas. They were crazy passionate about serving their captain and they were fearless regardless of the cost. The story goes, from 2 Samuel 23, that David, while he on the run in the wilderness, which a good part of his life he spent in that kind of condition, was hid out in a place called the Cave of Adullam, which was a safe place for him. He referred to it as his stronghold. It was as cave that was in the hill country around Bethlehem, where he was a shepherd growing up. So, he was ultra familiar with this territory.

They were hiding out because the enemies, the Philistines, were camped out in the Valley of Rephaim and they had set up garrisons within Bethlehem. It was this rinky dink little country town that David was from. He's up in this cave and I just think about him probably huddled around a fire at night in the back of the cave, bumming. Probably sad for his town, trying to figure out what to do, how to help his kin's people, reminiscing about his childhood. You imagine all these thoughts flying through his head.

As he's seated around the camp fire, he mutters something. He says, "Oh how I wish I could have a drink from the well of Bethlehem." I think he just said it kind of at random, just a longing that came out in that way. Three of his mighty men heard this and they got together. They're like, "Let's go get him a drink." They go out of that cave, down that mountain, sneak through the valley, and break through the garrison, the lines at Bethlehem. They take the time to draw up a drink from the well of Bethlehem.

They break back through the lines, climb back up the mountain, go back in the cave, and there sits David – he hasn't moved an inch – and they offer him a drink from the well of Bethlehem.

Can you imagine what he was thinking in that moment? *You knuckle heads! What are you doing?* But, when he holds the drink... The mighty men could not imagine what he was thinking emotionally and what this represents. Number one, the act of valor, the loyalty when his back is up against the wall. The childhood memories of all the times where he freely drank from the well, where he drew up water after a long walk through the desert when he was desperate. They couldn't possibly know what that was doing for him emotionally.

He takes that water and rather than drinking it, he pours it out as a drink offering to the Lord. I believe the reason he did that was because the water was too valuable for him to consume. So, David, being a man after God's own heart says, "This water is too valuable for me to drink; I'm going to pour it out to you, Lord, to honor you because it's just too valuable."

I believe that in a lifetime of simply offering a cold glass of water... Listen, when people are walking through the desert... Tom is in the desert right now. It's not our job to pull him out of the desert; it's our responsibility to offer him a cold glass of water. As we spend a lifetime of practicing that and doing that, the Holy Spirit, the power from the throne room will create influence and movement and ministry and encouragement that we cannot fathom because the power is beyond ourselves. How fun is it to think about that? Truly it is more blessed to give than to receive.

This kind of begs the question: How do I go about giving of myself day in and day out. How do you do that? I believe that **Supercharged service flows from a love affair with God**. Those mighty men loved David, they believed in him, they followed him, they had seen his character. They knew he was worth following. They cherished him. And out of that heart of love, they did an extravagant act of service and they brought him refreshment. Tom, as he has served his bride over nine years... I mean nine years fighting cancer. How many cold glasses of water has he brought to his bride? The way he always refers to her as "my beautiful wife." He did it out of this massive heart of love to bring her refreshment and encouragement and life-sustaining water on a daily basis. It's not that complicated, but ultimately, that river of life comes from a love relationship with the Lord.

Psalm 91: 1 says, ***He who dwells in the shelter of the most high will abide in the shadow of the Almighty***. He who dwells will abide. We don't have to worry so much about all the things that we have to do, feel led to do, want to do. That's not our concern. Do you know what our concern is? He who dwells. It's worship. Just like Denice in her final days. She wanted to worship Jesus. Out of that, do you know who she ministered to? In her weakest of moments in her lifetime, she ministered to me in such a powerful, magnificent way. I can't even put it into words. He who dwells will abide.

That word *abide* means remain. It's an agricultural term and I love to talk about it because I have a degree in environmental horticulture that I do nothing with. I can't even hardly pronounce it; my goodness. Horticulture – the study of plants. The idea is that you take a root stalk and you graft to it a tender shoot. As that tender shoot... The xylem and the phloem they line up... The water and the

nutrients that are taken from the ground flow up through the root stalk, up through the stem to the xylem and phloem and then it goes out into branches and it produces fruit.

If we want to produce fruit in our lives, if we want to serve people in a way that changes them, that influences them for the kingdom, our concern is not the service; our concern is dwelling with the Lord.

Let me make it really simple. Do you know how you dwell with the Lord? You just emotionally check in with him. There are all kinds of things that accompany that: spending time in his word, meditating on truth, spending time in godly community, serving others, all kinds of things. But in it's simplest form, it's just like, "I want to engage with you, Lord. I'm going to share my thoughts, my emotions, my difficulties, my sins, my temptations, it's all yours; I'm an open book." He who dwells will abide.

Last quote. This comes from John Piper and I think it's a great way to finish. *"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him."*

One of the great blessings that comes with service is that when you're serving, it's fun, it's life-giving, it's exciting. Especially when you find your wheelhouse, your gift. You like, *This is what God made me to do*. If you don't know what that is, just think about it. What makes your blood boil? What are you passionate about? What makes you pound the table? Whatever that is, you need to go get into that. You need to go be a part of that. You need to move the needle there. That's where God is going to send power from his throne through your body. What you'll find is it is life-giving and your satisfaction in him will grow and as you're satisfied in him, guess what? He's glorified through your life. There is no better way to live.

So, I challenge you, church, go find your sweet spot. Serve those around you with an agenda. Don't miss out on your opportunities because where there are people, there is purpose.

As I close... You know, when we started this five weeks ago, somehow, they backed up a dump truck on top this building and they dumped it on Ted – all that confetti. Well, this is all we have left. On our way out, we've got a tube of confetti for each one of you and we want you to grab one and take it. We want it to be either a reminder or you can dump in on somebody. Ultimately, we just want a takeaway, something you can put your hands on to be a reminder to love, encourage, forgive, pray for, serve like confetti. I'm going to have fun doing it. I'm going to enjoy this life and this opportunity that God has given us. Y'all with me on that?

Let's pray together and then we'll worship and as we do worship, I just want to encourage you that if you need prayer, if you need help, our prayer team is so excited to minister to you. We want to get involved in your life, we want to help you. If you've got stuff that you just need help with, come on down and share with our prayer team; we'd love to meet with you as we close.

Lord Jesus, we rejoice in you today. I want to pray a specific prayer over those who don't know what they are gift is and they are left wondering. I want to ask, God, that you would either just lay that on their heart and clearly tell them, "This is where I want you; this is the gift I've given you." Or, perhaps that you would use the church staff and the Sweet Spot that perhaps, as they walk forward in faith, you

would place them exactly where you want them. I expect that you will do that. I also want to pray, God, that you would mobilize this church body, that we would just be so excited to give our life away. We worship you, Lord, and we thank you for the life of Denice Boerema. We are so excited that she is with you today in glory.

In Jesus name we pray... Amen.