Jimmy Fisher:

[Music begins]

We want to teach you a little praise song. It's called Holy. Holy. Holy holy. Holy is the lamb holy is the lamb. It goes like this.

[Jimmy Fisher and Biola Gospel Choir sing “Holy is the Lamb”]

You guys can clap with us

[Music ends]

Jimmy Fisher:

They've got a hand clap. We may be seated

[Applause]

My name is Jimmy Fisher and there's the Bible a gospel choir in front of you.

[Applause]
And we just thank God for being here another semester. This next song that we're about to sing says take it away from me. The words go if you find anything that's not like you I asked you Lord you know what to do. Wash me Lord cleanse me through and through. Take it away from me lord take it away from me.

[Music begins]

[Jimmy Fisher and the Biola Gospel Choir sing “Take it Away From Me”]

[Music Ends]

[Applause]

[Music Begins “Holy is the Lamb”]

We're gonna sing this as we leave Holy.

[Jimmy Fisher and the Biola Gospel Choir sing “Holy is the Lamb”]

[Music ends]
Lord you are holy and because of your holiness. That's why we cry. Take away the sin in our lives Lord we really appreciate the chance to be here this morning. We appreciate the chance to be with your holy people who you have sanctified who you've cleansed with your blood and you put joy our hearts that we can sing we can we can shout we can pray we can lean upon you we can thank you throughout the day and so we pray today Lord that this chapel will inspire us and that you would use it to remind us of your holiness and of our salvation. Amen Good morning.

Good morning. There you go.

I have a reminder to all of you who signed up for the Big Brother Big Sister program. We're have a meeting tomorrow night at 9:00 pm. B 32 bluff housing. This will be information an orientation meeting. And if you are interested in that program if you've heard about it you're interested. Feel free to stop by the student ministry Center sometime today and we'll be glad to fill you in on that.

For those of you who haven't found a Christian service want to remind you the deadline is coming up soon to register that if you need some ideas you can call our Christian service hotline which is really neat. Its extension 5 1 1 5. Not too hard remember if you've got a guy rad coming up or you know you just have a free Saturday. You're thinking man what can I do to serve the Lord. Go ahead call our hotline. We put on new ministry opportunities all the time. And if you really need some help come into the student ministry Center we glad to help you. Now Matt Randolph has an important announcement

Matt Randolph:

I just have a little reminder intramurals all of you are interested in playing. We have an information meeting which will be Wednesday night this Wednesday at 9:00 in the student union
building up there. This year we're going to have coed volleyball six man. We'll have guys and girls individual softball and guys and girls basketball. So if you're interested in any of those likely to come to the meeting which is Wednesday at 9:00 in the SUB

Announcer:

this morning we have the privilege of having one of the most requested speakers here Biola year after year he is popular for sharing his deep convictions about God's word his dedication seeing people grow and Christ and his commitment to seeing those lost in the community come to know our Lord currently serves as the pastor of First Marinatha community church. He's a former student Biola. He's in the Biola basketball Hall Fame but more importantly he changes our lives when he speaks us. Let's welcome Dr. Billy Ingram.

[Applause]

Billy Ingram:

I am happy to be here God bless you and I am not only honored at the privilege of being able to share with you again today but I'm honored in that when I walked in I saw some people who listened to me all the time three times a week year after year and they found out that I was going to be speaking here today they are members of my church and they have come to hear me again. I just want them to stand. God bless you and thank you for being here

[Applause]
When we think about certain names in the world today. For example Hosni Mubarak or F.W. de Klerk Nelson Mandela. Prime Minister John Majors President George Bush General Colin Powell what comes to your mind when you think of those string of names probably greatness probably power more than likely influence and I would wager to say that there's no one under the sound of my voice who has as his or her life's aspiration to be a nobody. When they leave Biola I doubt that anyone under the sound of my voice is pursuing failure. Now it may be a difficult thing for some of us to admit but some of us deep down inside are really aspiring for greatness. Anyone have the courage to admit that they really would like to be great do something great in the kingdom of God.

One day there is a very interesting story found that the Gospel of Matthew chapter 20 that will be our focus. The Gospel of Matthew chapter 20 and we'll begin reading at verse 20 as well Matthew Chapter 20 verse number 20 then came to him. The mother of Zebedee these children with her sons. That is the mother of James and John worshiping him and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said to her what will thou. She sayeth unto him. Grant that these my two sons may sit the one on thy right hand and the other on thy left in thy kingdom but Jesus answered it and said ye know not what. Ye ask. Are you able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of. And to be baptized with the baptism that I should be baptized with. They said unto him we are able. And he sayeth unto them you shall drink. Indeed of my cup and be baptized with the baptism. I am baptized with. But to sit on my right hand and on my left is not mine to give. But it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my father and when the ten heard it they were moved with indignation against the two brethren but Jesus called them unto him and said you know that the princes of the Gentiles exercised dominion over them. They that are great exercise authority
upon them but it shall not be so among you but whosoever will be great among you let him be your minister and whosoever will be chief among you let him be your servant. Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give himself a ransom for many.

Tragically we're living in the day of celebrity Christendom. We're living in a day of big names people who can draw because of who they are. And it's a sad commentary because the one central truth that Christ enunciated regarding greatness in the kingdom of God has nothing to do with our perceived reputation. That is God is not requiring that you and I have a big name in order to do something big and great for him. Now it's been some time since I was a student here at Biola but I recall when I was here that we were required to go to chapel every day and I remember specifically in addition to the workload in terms of classes we had to fulfill certain practical service somewhere in the community in a church or a local mission or whatever we had to apply what we were learning and not just consume a bunch of information become sponge heads and by the way I hope that you're not a sponge head but what is interesting is that there are a lot of people who are in the service of God but are not servants there's a difference policy. Paul in the classic chapter on love in first Corinthians 13 verse three said even if I give my body to be burned and give all my goods to feed the poor and have not love it does not profit me anything. In other words Paul is saying I can do the right thing but if it's with the wrong motive or for the wrong reason it doesn't count. I don't know what the average here on this campus in terms of the ratio of service but I do know that in most churches in America there's the 80 20 syndrome 20 percent of the people do all the service for the local church or in the body of Christ.
I would think at Biola there's probably 80 percent of you who are actually serving God and 20 percent of you who probably aren't quite possibly some of you aren't serving God at all. I have a very important question to ask you if you are racing through this campus consuming all of the information that you can and you're not serving God now. What benefit are you to the kingdom of God. They say you don't have to wait until you're out of school to serve God and impact lives whose feet are you washing on this campus whose books are you carrying whose burdens are you lifting. Whose life are you serving?

Most of us admitted a moment ago we want to be great but when we think of greatness we think of being Billy Graham junior having a worldwide ministry and international renown. Are you aware that there are greater people in the body of Christ than Billy Graham who probably will never be mentioned by name many of them little old ladies who had been praying for him for years and years and years many of them behind the scenes have been opening his mail and handling his correspondence will never go mention in the public but they're serving God and see that's what Christ was after because he recognized quite interestingly I don't know if you noticed the context but Christ had just announced to his disciples I'm going to be crucified. And after three days I will be betrayed into the hands of Chief Priest and sinners and they shall crucify me.

The third day I will rise again you would think that on the heels of words that are somber and sorrowful as those the disciples would have supported and empathized with Christ but it was as soon as the announced the statement he's going to be crucified. Then they pursued him Lord we want to be great in your kingdom it's like your professor pouring his heart out to you that his wife has cancer and upon hearing that you ask Well do I make the dean's list the disciples were
just like we are insensitive, callous, selfish, and self-centered, we want our own thing and I guess the height of irony is the fact that so many of us who have been touched by God in very real and legitimate ways refuse to serve him. You see, if you're only serving because the school requires it, what a tragedy, a real waste. Say, a real servant as one who does not get offended when he is treated like a servant, a real servant does not serve because he will be appreciated or recognized and or even acknowledge he serves because he loves God and he recognizes that if it were not for the mercy of God, he would not be here, having life or energy or strength to serve God. So many of us are holding back from God when what if when you prayed your next prayer, God decided to hold back on you. Why where somebody could see amen, God has given us his all. Romans 8:32 he that spare not his own son but delivered him up for us all how shall we not also with him freely give to us all things. Now, God has given us his best. Are we in return giving him our best? You really want to be great in the kingdom of God? It has nothing to do with how much money you have, how much power you can attain. How much clout or prestige has to do with your being a servant for Christ. Thank you for that amen. God bless you. It is just that simple.

On one occasion, the disciples were in a certain home with our Lord, and the Bible says that as they were dining, Jesus rose up, removed his garments took a pail and began to wash the disciples' feet. Now, now get this folks. This is God doing what the servants and the attendants should have been doing; it was God washing the feet of the lessers. Then he now you're telling me you want to be great in the kingdom of God. You want to make an impact for God but you're too big to wash someone's feet. If you are too big to be small then you're too big for God.
Amen you're too big to do the smallest of things because you love God. Then you're too big for God because God does not need people who are big. He needs people who have emptied themselves here. Am I Lord use me. I'm yours Lord everything I've got everything I have everything I'm not. Try me now and see see if I can be completely yours. When will we get to a point where we are totally at God's disposal? When will we ever dare say and mean God. Whatever you want to do with my life. Have your way. That's a pretty scary thing.

I remember making such a commitment. Oh many many years ago I didn't know what I was getting myself into but I committed because I felt deeply that God deserved my best. So it was an evening service in Eugene Oregon at the first Baptist Church a minister I don't recall his name gave an invitation for those who wanted to serve God for the rest of their lives I felt like that's me I felt like God had waited on me long enough and now it was God's turn to have my time and I remember saying Lord I'm willing to do whatever you want me to do go wherever you want me to go even if it means having nowhere to live and nothing to eat. Be careful about that kind of promise because I promise you God will let you eat those words so I got married in August of 1975 strange thing happened. I didn't make it in the NBA and I got married right after the tryout camp. I didn't have any money. I just graduated from Biola.

[Applause]

Actually. There was no pun intended on that. I just finished school. I hadn't really worked a full time job because my folks supported me all the way. So now I have a wife. I have responsibilities. I have to my very words nowhere to go. Nowhere to live and nothing to eat. God
reminded me of the promise I made regarding my service to him. Tell you some of the most powerful lessons about my relationship to God and my dependence upon him were learned as I struggled to find my way. But from that day to this day I meant and mean those words. To some of us are like Jonah. We will preach the gospel we will serve people but we will serve according to our own convenience. We'll stay on our own turf. We'll stay in our own area. But certain areas we have decided before God.

Lord I will not serve there. Wherever that might be. Let me ask you a question. Who do you think you are. You little peanut. How dare you determine where and how and when you're going to serve God when God is the one we should be submitting ourselves to So Jesus said you know that the Gentiles exercise dominion and authority upon them. That is they wield their power. But he said among you it shall not be so. The great one in my kingdom will be the one who stoops the lowest so listen between me and you. You want to go up aim down. Why. Because down as far as God is concerned is the way up he who humbles himself. What be exalted he who exalts himself shall be humbled I'm convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Listen listen carefully. If there is anything God wants to do with you listen there's nothing and there's no one who can't prevent that from happening. So that means you know you don't have to con people you don't have to manipulate people you don't have to jockey for position you don't have to get to know all the right people who can open doors for you simply have to faithfully walk with God because the Bible says a man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men. It's a very strange phenomena that has happened in my life. I have preached before
kings and prime ministers recently when the prime minister of Israel was here. Yitzhak Shamir I was invited to a special meeting with him who am I. Who am I they told me in the 10th grade I'd never amount to anything. Never be anybody never do anything.

And God keep opening these unbelievable doors to meet with great men and I'm not suggesting to you that if you serve God that everything will be great in your life because there've been times that I have met with people that I wouldn't want to meet with twice but if we are serving from the love of God in our hearts then it doesn't matter if a person smells because they haven't bathed in weeks the matter of their homeless poor uneducated doesn't matter if they are sick or imprisoned because Christ said inasmuch as you served these the lowly social reject and outcasts as you have served them he says You've served me hey listen you want to be powerful in the kingdom of God develop the art of servanthood find out what small things you can do find out what you can do where you can go unnoticed the scriptures say and Luke sixteen ten he that is faithful and little will be faithful in much but he that is unjust in the little will be also be unjust in much you see it boils down simply to this the choice is ours we can decide before God we will serve him with our might we will serve him with our time will serve him with our talent or we can allow the school to force us to do it some of you are in that situation where you're serving not because you really love God you're not serving because you love the people you serve of the service that you are involved with your serving out of obligation out of duty out of do rest and the joy you're missing in the process the thrill of being a blessing you're missing out on I'll tell you there's no greater thrill for me than to be a blessing to a person one on one there's a young man I have recently become friends with who is a drug dealer not far from our church and he'll only talk to me for some reason he believes that I'm someone who will listen to him and he's constantly
interacting with people doing deals big time I remember one evening after the evening service it was about ten thirty My wife was scared to death.

She says don't go over there but I felt compelled by God to go. Ten thirty at night. People coming and going seeking to make deals. This young man stood with me on the corner and gave his heart and his life to Jesus Christ and it's a continual struggle because it's never over I mean how do you tell a person give up five thousand dollars a day to work at McDonald's for five bucks an hour but yet if we could serve to such a degree that people whom we don't even know and would not normally affiliate with could sense we care could sense a friendship a bond a concern you realize the impact we could make. The Bible says Let us consider one another to provoke and to love and good works. Whose life Are you provoking who's being stimulated and strengthened and challenged because you exists. It's one thing to get all the Bible knowledge that you can it's another thing to apply it so that your life influences other lives. I decided man I want my life to count. I want my life to touch someone else's life in a positive way.

And it reminds me of the words of King Solomon. He says that iron sharpens iron so a man sharpen in the countenance of his friend whose life of service are you sharpening so that they're better servants for Christ because you serve him who have you considered on this campus who have you considered outside of this campus. Whose life or you're touching. Who are you impacting? Do you even care Christ says? If you want to be great you count the cost you pay the price. And you serve and you become a minister. An attendant a waiter a servant is then my estimation of you.
To be greatness Let's pray our Heavenly Father we come to you today with Thanksgiving in our hearts that you have summons us toward holy

[Audio fades out]