



THE SHACK

Doug Addison with Brad Cummings [Episode 11]

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Welcome to Spirit Connection. It is Doug Addison and I am so glad that you have joined us this week. I have another exciting episode for you. You are going to be encouraged. Now, many of you know that I am located in Hollywood and I have the opportunity to minister here and influence the arts and entertainment industries, the music and media industries. I have been prophesying and ministering inside. I have been releasing prophetic words also about how God is moving through music and media. We are in a time right now when ... do not be discouraged by the look of things. Things might look dark, but the darkness out there is just going to be the backdrop for what God is doing right now. There is a new anointing that is coming from Heaven on movies and music and it is going to open the Father's heart and release the Holy Spirit right into theaters.

Now, I have actually seen this starting to happen and this week we have a special guest with us ... Brad Cummings of *The Shack*—the book and the movie. Now Brad is one of the co-authors and collaborators of *The Shack*. It was turned down—I was in shock to hear this—by 26 different publishers and it ended up becoming published out of his garage and he founded Windblown Media with Wayne Jacobsen. He serves in Hollywood. I am just telling you, Brad's Hollywood credentials are amazing. I just want to say this: I am not trying to blow his horn, but I am just saying I met him a few times and we have talked and I want you to know that this is a man of God. He is the real deal, and though we have only met briefly—I was at the prescreening of *The Shack* movie in Hollywood—I felt the Lord is putting us together for a reason. It has not been revealed yet, but anyway.

Doug: Welcome, Brad!

Brad: Thank you, Doug! It is a pleasure to be here.

Doug: Yes. Well, tell us a little bit about yourself.

Brad: This is my 50th year, which is kind of fun that the movie finally comes out. I am a creative guy. I am a former pastor of some 20 years. I planted a church in Malibu—the Malibu Vineyard—and just found myself into a wonderful

space of going, you know, I think God wants to communicate far and wide and stories are some of the most powerful ways He can get into people's hearts. You know, *The Shack* was one of those unexpected best sellers. It sold 22 million copies. It has gone into 40 different languages around the world. The movie is just kind of poised to broaden from North America to the rest of the world as it starts to get launched globally. So I am kind of excited to see this as a new chapter in my life—just kind of an extension of telling stories about Jesus.

Doug: Yes, and how significant that it is a jubilee year for you and this gets released. Wow!

Brad: Yes, I mean, you could not plan these things. I mean, it took seven years to get the movie made and I think we were pushing the entire time to release it and it just seems as if, you know, God has His wonderful little timing. Yes, it is just a pretty sweet year for me.

Doug: Yes, for sure. Now, did you also help with writing the book?

Brad: Yes. I was one of ... there were three of us who wrote the book: Paul Young, Wayne Jacobson and myself. Paul brought the original manuscript to Wayne and he kind of had no plans. He did not know what to do with it. He was just sharing it as a gift and Wayne was really taken by it. He shared it with me and instantly I just saw a movie. It was wrestling with some wonderful questions that I think virtually everyone on the planet deals with. You know, "Where is God in the midst of a world that is so filled with pain?" We wondered what Paul wanted to do with it. He really did not have any designs. He had given it as a gift to his kids. There was some stuff in it that, you know, theologically we had issues with, and he seemed amenable for us to be able to change all that. So for 16 months, we went through four major rewrites and that had to be one of the most amazing creative experiences in my life to date. I think because we did not have an agenda of what we were trying to do. It was just sort of three guys really, you know, in a creative space where God was kind of just wrestling with us. You know, how do we translate this into a way that makes sense for where people hurt? When we got turned down by 26 different publishers, it was actually a thrill for me because I kind of figured none of them knew what to do with it. They all thought it was a great story. They just did not know how to market it and I sort of felt like I do not want to throw it through the traditional marketing schemes. It is like it was too "Jesusy" for the secular publishers and it was too edgy for the Christian ones. I thought, do you know what? I think it is just asking a bunch of questions that a lot of people are wrestling with and it does so in a really endearing, winsome way.

Doug: Yes, it is so powerful. Now, I just want to encourage you if you have not read the book, you can also see the movie. Have you ever heard that? You know,

you are at the movie and they say, “Oh, the book was so much better.” Have you heard that, Brad?

Brad: Oh, yes. That is the constant mantra for a lot of people. If they really love a book, it is like they are very reticent to go see the movie. In this case, we have been getting a ton of people who have said the movie is better than the book. Because I was an intimate part of both, it is not offensive to me. I am going like, “Whichever one people connect with.” I think what was so exciting to me is this movie was actually made within the Hollywood studio system and for it to come out as faithful as it did, as God-honoring, with I think such a clear presentation of God’s heart and the Gospel, and the message of the Cross in it ... it honestly is one of those miracles, going like, “How did this get through the regular, you know, strongholds and gates that just ...” They do not want to sell those kind of stories.

Doug: Right. Exactly. Yes. Well, I know that I was at the prescreening in Hollywood and you were there and some others and my wife. She read the book. I had not, but my wife said, “Wow, the movie is better than the book!”

Brad: Oh, wow! Well, it was amazing. It took us 16 months to go through four major rewrites to do the book. It took us almost five years to distill the book down to a workable script. I mean, it is like, you know, we had already pared it down in the book and it was an excruciating process in writing the script. We worked with three or four different groups of writers. You know, most of them were not believers and at first I was a little hesitant. I would go like, “Gosh, everyone is going to ruin it.” I think what was so fantastic is “iron sharpens iron,” so we had to distill each and every scene down to its very essence and go, “What is it, in its simplicity, trying to say?” You know, I do not know how much writing you do, but that is tough. I mean, that is probably one of the hardest things about writing—to take a big message and bring it down to as few words as possible that are potent and still delivered in terms of the meaning. Because the words had to make sense to me from a theological standpoint and it also had to make sense to them from just a creative, dramatic standpoint, it was a back and forth battle to find just the right words that worked for everyone. I think that is what is the biggest gift right now. Regardless of where someone is coming from, whether they know Jesus, whether they have a lot of Christian understanding under their belt or not, this story readily communicates wherever people are at and it really unveils the heart of God. So I am thrilled with how it came out.

Doug: Yes, me too. I tell you, it is the things I have been prophesying and seeing that were going to come in Hollywood and, like you said, the fact that this came through Hollywood with the level of the actors that were chosen and the production ... I mean, just everything was done at such an excellent level

and the presence of God came into the theatre. I have never seen anything like it before.

Brad: Well, it has been amazing. I get flooded with a bunch of emails where people are just telling stories of what is happening in the theater where, I mean, it is leaving audiences wrecked in tears. It is not a sad movie. It actually is very hilariously funny in a number of places, but it leaves people really tenderized. It is as if, you know, pain that has been stuffed for a long, long time through the course of the movie ... just the story—it is as if God is doing some wonderful heart surgery on people because they can just kind of relate to the drama of what is going on. Then they see a God who meets them in the midst of their difficulty, as opposed to a God they have to perform to be approved of.

Doug: Yes.

Brad: You know, it is causing a fair amount of stir within some of the theological circles where, you know, people are struggling with stuff. But I have talked to a bunch of the critics and just kind of went, “Do you know what? If you can take it in context, we are not trying to give a systematic theology. We are trying to unveil God’s heart and it is the beginning of a conversation. It is not the fullness of one.”

Doug: Yes. That is a really good way to put it. You know, some of our listeners might not even know what we are talking about, but you can Google it, “*The Shack*,” I am sure.

Brad: I think what is so amazing to me is, regardless of where people are coming from, what is kind of cool right now is there is an awful lot of people who are talking about, “Who is God, really?” And if it drives people into their Bibles and it causes them to kind of search things out and have conversations ... whether they love us or hate us, part of me is going, “It is great that people are talking about Jesus.”

Doug: That is exactly right. Any press, good or bad about Jesus, is good.

Brad: I mean, I am not thrilled with our critics. I kind of get bummed out when it is kind of like, you know, “Lions and tigers and bears, oh my.” They kind of get people all scared and you just want to go like, “Do you know what? I do not think there is anything that is going to harm anyone in this movie.” You know, I have an MDiv. I was one of Fuller’s top seven outstanding students, so I am no slouch when it comes to theology. I just kind of laugh a little bit when they go, “You know, guys, I do not know that any of us, even throughout all of history, can really wrap our peewee human brains around the fullness of the Trinity.” What is so amazing is, you know, that is three-quarters of our key cast, but the story of *The Shack* is not about the Trinity. It is not a theological treatise. I think what is so wonderful is it is one of the first times you get a

chance to take a look at God in His personality, in the fullness of a loving community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We get a glimpse of what it is like—just the delight, the joy, the deep sharing of love. That is what we as human beings are being invited into—is having that relationship. I think to most people, God is simply a big voice-over. You know, they do not have a chance to see Him in a relational context and I think that is what this story does, especially in film. You know, people get to see God with some skin on. I know we are taking some theological license when we do that with the Father and we do that with the Holy Spirit, but I do not know how else to have a character that you can see.

Doug: Right. Exactly. Well, you know, why is it, do you think, that people in the faith community can accept *The Hobbit* or *Chronicles of Narnia*, but yet they might be having trouble with this?

Brad: Well, I think because those are a little bit more fantasy. This is a much closer parallel and I think, you know, unashamedly we are busting stereotypes. You know—plot spoiler—for God to show up as Papa, Father God Papa, as a big black woman that most people do not see coming. You know, I really do not think people are having any racial issues with that. I think it is just they have a hard time understanding that. We also show God later, you know, the Father, as a male Papa. So there is no gender statement being made here. I end up going like ... I really do not know why people struggle so much, because it is like half the population of the planet is women and it is somehow ... are they any less the image of God than you and I as guys?

Doug: Right.

Brad: I do not think so. It is like, if there were some feminist agenda behind this, sure, take issue with that, but there is nothing of a sort in the story. This is God showing up in a way that the main character, Mack ... he had such an abusive father that his whole image of father was distorted and broken. I think what it is showing and what we are trying to say is, you know, God has such a passion to communicate to you and I, He will speak in whatever way He needs to so as to get through to us. You know, as someone who ... both of us unashamedly love hearing the voice of God. But my confidence is not in my hearing. My confidence is in His capacity to speak, and I absolutely love the fact that God goes to whatever pains and difficulties to find an entry point into a broken man's heart. I think so many of us, you know, just ... You look at the highway and it is littered with hearts that just have such a damaged understanding of God as Father because a lot of their earthly fathers really are not a great representation of that. You know, I think part of what drew me to this story was that is a real wound in our culture that needs to be healed. If we can tell a God-breathed story that speaks into that space and just begins to heal some of the wounds there, that is a huge deal. I mean, what was fun

early on when the film was finished and we were showing it to a lot of the Hollywood execs, there was not a dry eye in the room there. They were being deeply impacted by this and most of them are trying not to cry. You know, they are not giving themselves permission. They are fighting it back and I am just going like, "Wow! Hollywood is a land of broken dreams." One of the things I have been most aware of is most of the people in this industry are just carrying deep wounds of betrayal and hurt because this is a really tough arena in which to earn your living. I think one of the nice things about this story is this really is a healing gift to this community. You know, we could have made this independently, but I really felt God pushing me the entire time that it was important that this be done within the Hollywood structure. You know, as dangerous as that is as far as how to shepherd and steward the message, it really felt like this was important to be done within the structure because I felt like God had said to me, "Hollywood is the woman at the well." You know, she knows she is sinful. That is not her issue. What she does not know is that God just is incredibly in love with her.

Doug: Wow!

Brad: I think this story, you know, in the course of seven years laboring within the traditional Hollywood fare—that is the thing that has left a wonderful imprint on so many hearts. They do recognize. They do not understand a lot about the Church. You know, all the fighting about the movie—they stand back and they just go, "We don't get you guys." They sort of look at this movie going like, "What is there to argue with?" They are kind of looking at me like, "I hope this is true," and I just nod, going like, "It is."

Doug: Yes. Wow!

Brad: I am hoping it can have, you know, more than just what it does in the box office. I am hoping it is going to demonstrate that spiritual stories are not just for that niche, corner market of preaching to the choir—that our culture is spiritually hungry and, unfortunately, they have been spiritually starved. I think what this can demonstrate is that, you know, they want to see box office success because that is the currency of what they understand for a movie being successful. I think being able to make this for what we did and to turn the corner today of \$50 million, you know, it is profitable and it is only just getting started internationally. So I think it has a wonderful opportunity to open the door for a lot more films to be made that are not just Bible stories, but they are deeply spiritual stories that work within the context of everyday culture.

Doug: Yes. Now, would you say that you could compare this to a parable?

Brad: I think it really is. I mean, it is a fictional story and this does all happen in the context of Mack, you know, being in a coma. We purposely left that as a gift to the audience so that they could go, "Did this happen? Did this not

happen?” and it really was not sort of forcing its issue on anybody. You know, some people are, “Oh, well they are cheating.” I am like, “No, it is actually done as an intentional gift because I do not think anyone likes to have ideas forced upon them.” I think the most effective way is when something is offered and there is no sales pitch and there is no sales pitch in this movie. That is by complete design because I think there is enough there that you are going to be tractor-beamed to the heart of God just sitting there watching this. Nobody has to play *Just As I Am* and give the altar call. It is like, you know ... if you are already weeping, chances are an introduction and a beginning is being made, and then I really trust that the Holy Spirit is going to sit and continue this conversation with just about everybody, whether they have read the book or whether they see the movie. This is a conversation starter between us and God.

Doug: Wow! That is a really good way to put it. Have you been hearing any stories back as far as, you know, like you just mentioned just now about how it impacted Hollywood itself?

Brad: Oh, yes. I mean, I think one of the coolest things was at the very screening you were at, one of the marketing ladies came up to me at the end of it and she waited, you know, until just about everyone had left. She looked at me, she had tears in her eyes, and she said, “You know, I have seen the movie six times now and I come from a godless background.” She said, “I have no framework to understand who God is at all.” And she says, “I know Him. This movie has introduced me to Him,” and she is just weeping. You know, I am starting to weep listening to her share this. And she says, “You know, I have picked up the Bible and I am talking to God and He is talking back.” You know, in the childlike simplicity of just going, here is someone who has no religious upbringing whatsoever, has no grid through which to receive this, and just sees the heart of God. That is what brought her to the Lord. I am going like, “Okay, nobody gave her an altar call. Nobody went and told her, ‘You have to go and get a Bible.’” That was just stuff that happened between her and facilitating six different screenings. Another lady that Wayne was doing an interview with—he is my other partner in this—and the interviewer was kind of really critical to stuff. But then she went and saw the movie and was so taken by it, she went back to the next showing and brought a friend who she knew was struggling. By the end of the movie, this other friend was so deeply touched by it, she had a chance to lead that person to the Lord right there in the theatre, at the close as the credits are rolling. I look at that and I am going, “Okay, this is not just some hard-sell evangelist person. This is just a friend who knew, ‘something in the story would deeply touch the heart of my friend who is hurting.’” It was so tenderizing to this person that she was able to gently, just kind of fill in the final handshake of, you know, “Do you want Jesus in your life?” and the answer for this person was,

“Absolutely.” It really changed her whole mindset, going like, “If there was something so desperately wrong with this movie, how come it is so easy to then lead someone to the Lord by simply letting them see that?” You know, I look at that and go like ... if you are supposed to judge a tree by its fruit, I look at that and go, “That is awesome fruit.” There are not many movies I could confidently suggest people go to where that is even remotely a likely outcome.

Doug: That is exactly right, and especially one done so well and with actors you know. Well, you know, I have been walking with the Lord for more than half my life and had a good share of inner healing and personal healing to be able to do what I do. I just want to say that I had an encounter with the Lord in the theatre and it actually started something. I was so surprised. It has opened the physical healing that I am getting right now, because sometimes a broken heart ... you know, a broken heart can actually crush our spirit. It can dry our bones, according to Proverbs. So getting healed of those memories and those emotions. I actually had some trapped things I did not remember. You know, I had some bad things in my past. I am not saying anything bad about my parents or anything like that. But during that time, something opened up for me and now it has really opened up my physical healing.

Brad: Wow! That is awesome. I mean, most of us are simply taught to stuff our pain. If you do not know what to do with it, or you do not have someone who is immediately transacting it with you ... I mean, think of how many people get hurt by other people, where the person doing the wounding is not even necessarily aware of what they have done. You know, so they are not coming back saying, “Oh, gee, I am so sorry.” You know, it does not take much for people to get wounded in life. When God is simply a voice-over or He is a doctrine or He is locked up in a book and He is not really a person through whom I can talk and walk and relate with ... For a lot of us, it is really hard to transact any of that stuff. You know, we believe in forgiveness, but when I think what the other person did is completely wrong, how am I supposed to just forgive him? You know, we tend to think that that is letting them off the hook and almost all of this is because deep down we are still wrestling with the fact of, “Does God really love me? Is He really aware of my circumstance and situation?” What so much of this movie and the story that is in *The Shack* is built on is a picture of how God wins a person to a place of trust. I think religion teaches us that we are supposed to trust God and it is just a choice I can make—like it is a light switch I can flick. I know my will is involved, but unless you are confident that the person you are trusting absolutely loves you, emotionally it is impossible to trust them.

Doug: Yes.

Brad: I think a lot of us, if we are honest, can say God loves us. But the truth is, emotionally I am not so sure. When bad stuff happens in my life, I am left with the, “Why in the world, if He loves me and He is so powerful, did He let that happen?” That is not a little, inconsequential issue. I think for a lot of people, they do not have any answers for that, and because of it, there really is a barrier and a wall between them and the Lord. God is not a rapist, so He is not going to bang that thing down. He is looking for an entry point, and what this story does that I think is so gentle and so powerful is it really is a gift where it is not full-on in your face. I get to see this being worked out in some other guy’s life and if I am ready for it, I can kind of join in. If it is too close to home, there is nothing in this story that is forcing me to do anything. That is why I think it is such a gentle gift, because I get to see the heart of a broken person being won to a place of trust. I do not know about you, but that is not how trust was taught to me.

Doug: Exactly.

Brad: You know, it is like, “Is God’s character so profound and so righteous, holy and true that, of course, we should be able to trust Him?” Yes, and I know that in my mind, and I can see that in the scriptures. But truth that is active in my heart? That is a different thing. You know, I would love for all of those to be all together, at all times, completely working, but the truth is ... a lot of times, the truth that is in my head is not reflected in my heart. I am still struggling there. I am hurt there. I am blocked there. This movie kind of moves that down 18 inches and it takes the stuff that we kind of know, or we would say is true, and it really helps it kind of midwife into a heart reality. That is what to me is kind of goofy with our critics. There is somehow, “Oh, that is the deceptive thing. This plays on your emotions.” I am going like, “Do you know what? God is the author of my emotions. I think He wants me to know and feel His love.” You know, so if my wife never felt my love and affection for her, I do not think our marriage would be very good.

Doug: Right.

Brad: You know, it is not an either/or. It is an absolutely both/and. I think what I do enjoy seeing as the biggest fruit in people’s lives is this movie, regardless of where you come from, communicates that there is a God in Heaven who actually is “especially fond of you.” That phrase is a pretty powerful phrase because it is not one that we are prepared to just, sort of, shields up and reject. You know, it is like, if we say, “God loves you” ... for a lot of people, it is like, “Well, yes, yes, of course.” But if He actually is especially fond of me, He has emotions towards me. That is sadly a new thing for a lot of people.

Doug: Yes, that really is. I think that is why it takes the God of the Bible, or the God of paintings that we have seen—you know, even in chapels—and the God who is in our head or whatever ... That can be warped. And it brings it down

into the media of what we have today—the modern day parable. It is such a powerful picture of God loving us and caring for us and answering those hard questions. How could God be in the midst of disaster? How could He be a God of love in the midst of our pain and suffering?

Brad: Yes. I don't know about you, but I know for me, when difficult things happen, most of the time I can survive whatever it is that is happening. I think the more difficult aspect is when you end up feeling so isolated and alone and it is that sense of abandonment. It is like that is almost worse, because I can deal with pain and I can deal with adverse circumstances. But when you start to strike at the core of my confidence in Emmanuel, the God who is supposed to be with me, and all of a sudden He goes completely absent from me—that is tough. I do not think a lot of people are emotionally or spiritually prepared. Even if they have all the verses that they can confess, the reality is we still feel abandoned, because I think most of our simplistic theology is: if I do good, blessings; if I do bad, you know, then I have to deal with the punishments and the pain of disobedience. We do not really have an integrated theology that says, "In a planet where God allows free will, people can make wrong choices that affect me too, and that is not God doing it to me." You know, God is not micromanaging the decisions of everyone on the planet and neither is He controlling them all. I mean, theologically, I can confess, "Sure, He could," but it does not seem to me that He actually is or we make Him out to be the author of sin and He is certainly not that.

Doug: That is exactly right.

Brad: So when you look at that, it is like, I do not think people are wanting an ontological argument of philosophy. I think they are just wanting to go like, "I do not get it when that bad thing happened." And it is like, well, what is so amazing is the God who controls everything has invested such an incredible gift of Himself, His image of who I am, that He actually allows me to be a decision maker on the affairs of planet Earth. Now, I do not know about you, but that does blow my mind. I can actually affect what happens on the Earth. I can actually affect things that happen in eternity because of what I chose to do—either aligning in agreement with Him or, sadly, in rebellion to Him—and there are consequences to all those things. It is not just me. It is like I can affect other people's lives. I want to do it for good but, oh, my gosh, I have been impacted by people's bad choices and it has been really painful. It is like we end up blaming God for those and it is like ... I do not think that is the appropriate place to put our blame.

Doug: Right. Exactly. You know, I think the movie is just ... the timing of the movie is perfect. Now, was there anything with the choosing of the release of it?

Brad: Well, I mean, no, not exactly. I mean, it is a little bit of an art more than it is a science. We found an opening weekend that, at the time, none of the other

big blockbuster behemoths had taken. So we thought we were getting a nice little piece of real estate where we could, you know, have our time in the sun. Initially it was going to happen in November, but we got bumped out of that spot. You know, I think a number of people were bummed and I was kind of like, “No, there are so many monster movies happening there. We would probably get dwarfed right away.”

Doug: Right. Also, the elections. You do not want to be in the negative with all that stuff.

Brad: You could not even buy advertising because it was already sold. I do think that there is something very healing about this, that when they moved our date to March, I sat there going like, “Regardless of what happens in the election, this has a chance to be a healing balm to our culture.” You know, it does demonstrate that everybody out there is in need of knowing that they are loved. Everyone out there could use a little bit of kindness and virtually all of us might find a freer space in our life if we learned how to forgive.

Doug: Exactly.

Brad: When I look at what this movie does, it really kind of invites people into that space and it helps them heart-wise—not just head-wise—get there with the sense of going like, “Okay, wow. I need to know that I am forgiven and the way the God of justice works is you cannot have that for yourself and withhold it from somebody else.” You know, that is probably, as a pastor for twenty-some years, I think the biggest cause of most ailments and sickness in people’s lives. They are just clogged up in unforgiveness.

Doug: Yes, exactly.

Brad: You know, it becomes a feeding ground for the enemy and you are just going like, okay, most of us do not grow up in homes that necessarily taught us how to transact that easily.

Doug: Right.

Brad: You know, I think that is one of life’s most essential skills. So, I do ... I think the timing is, you know, God-breathed. I do not know that it is any human’s brilliance.

Doug: Yes. God knew what He was doing. I am just thrilled. We have been talking with Brad Cummings. He is the co-author and co-producer of *The Shack*—the movie and the book—and also founder of Windblown Media. Now, are you working on anything else right now?

Brad: Oh, gosh. I have them like planes trying to land at LAX. There are three or four different screenplays that we are working on. I have three or four different books—a couple I am writing, and a couple I am co-authoring with some other friends. So, yes. I have a project-rich environment and I am

trusting that God knows how to give me the grace and the wisdom to get them all done.

Doug: Yes. Well, you know, what I was really looking for, and you really nailed it here for our listeners, is for those who have seen the movie to really hear your heart, and those who have not seen the movie to know and hear your heart, both experientially and theologically—to know what you are saying right now. I mean, it just came so strong ... the presence of the Holy Spirit came so strong what your intention was. I just want to encourage people: Go out and see the movie. Take some friends and see the movie. You know, pick up the book again. I am so excited for what is coming right now. Also, please be in prayer for Brad and His team and for more movies like this to come out of Hollywood. Brad, I just want to say thank you and I want to give you just a moment to pray and release this over our listeners.

Brad: Oh, yes, certainly. Father, I ask ... There are a ton of storytellers out there. There are people who are moved deeply because of the creative gifts that You have placed within them. Father, if they have been drawn to Doug, I am sure that they have been drawn to a lot of the things that You have been saying in and through him. Lord, I want to speak Your blessing on what You have creatively invested in people. Would You bring their gifts forth, God? We need an army of filmmakers. We need an army of creatives. I know the future is going to be won by the storytellers. So, Lord, I ask that You would release Heaven-breathed stories in peoples' hearts—creative, unique stuff. Enough of the sequels, Lord. We want some fresh bread and, Lord, I ask that You would really nurture peoples' hearts to understand just the space they are in, what it is You have entrusted to them. Would You cause their skill to be honed so that they are excellent at what they do, God. There are no shortcuts that we are trying to take but, God, what we are doing, we are doing life as an act of worship to You. Lord, I ask that You would just release a greater grace upon the gospel to be told in winsome stories and parables and allegories, Lord, that can connect with people. Give us the language that gets beyond Christianese and is a language of the heart that can connect like a tractor beam to the hurting, Lord, in this world. Would You draw people to yourself. The promise that I think is in scripture that You also gave to me is, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto Myself." Lord, give us the grace to lift You up in this generation in such a way that people see and are drawn to You. Let us not be chasing fame and fortune, Lord. Let us be chasing You and let people be drawn to You and let them be changed. We ask that in Jesus' name. Amen.

Doug: Brad, thank you so much. Thanks for joining us and also thanks for your time. You can check out my website dougaddison.com. Follow me on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Brad, is there any website you would like to refer to?

Brad: Yes. If people are interested in just discussing what is going on with *The Shack*, there is a great website theshackbook.com. It has a very active forum. They can follow me on Facebook. I have been having a blast just telling stories as we have been going along. They can check out windblownmedia.com if they are interested in any of the other resources, but this is just the first of many to come.

Doug: Yes. Looking forward to it. Thanks so much for what you do for the Kingdom. Thanks so much for being part of it. See you next time.