

## Before the Sermon: Opening Acknowledgments

Good morning, family!

To our beloved Pastor, thank you for your leadership and for feeding us week after week. To the Deacons and Trustees, who keep the church running and the doors open—we appreciate you. To the mothers, the ushers, the choir, and every ministry that serves—thank you.

To the members of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church here in Beeville, Texas—it is so good to see your faces this morning.

And a special, warm welcome to our visitors! We are so glad you chose to worship with us today. Don't leave without letting someone know you were here.

And to our brothers and sisters joining us from around the world on social media, streaming live—we send our love all the way from Beeville! We are one family, connected by the Spirit.

Let us prepare our hearts now as we come before the Lord.

1. Let us pray

Almighty and Everlasting God, We come before You this morning with thankful hearts. Thank You for the air in our

lungs, the shoes on our feet, and the blood still running warm in our veins. Thank You for waking us up this morning and allowing us to see another day in Your vineyard.

Lord, we thank You for this church, Bethlehem Missionary Baptist. We thank You for our pastor and his family, for the deacons, and for every member. We lift up our visitors to You, and our family watching online. Meet them right where they are. Father, as we open Your Word today, we ask You to speak to us. Clear our minds of the worries of this world—the bills, the doctor's visits, the family troubles—just for this moment. Help us to focus on You. Help us to remember that You are a God who hears our cries.

We ask Your blessing on the preaching of Your Word. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of all our hearts be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer.

In Jesus' mighty name we pray, Amen.

## 2. The Scripture Reading

Our launching verse for today comes from the Old Testament, from the book of Psalms. This is the Word of God, found in Psalm 18, verse 6. If you have your Bible, please read it with me out loud:

"In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears."

Let's also look at a New Testament verse that backs this up, 1

Peter 3:12:

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer."

This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

### **The Sermon Title**

"Does Anybody Hear Me?"

Have you ever been talking to someone, and you know they aren't listening?

Maybe you're telling your teenager something important, and they've got those little white wires in their ears, nodding their head, saying "Uh huh... yeah... okay," but you know they haven't heard a single word you said. They are in the room, but they aren't there.

Or maybe you're at work, and you have a great idea. You raise your hand in a meeting, you share your thought, and it's like you're talking to a wall. Nobody responds. Five minutes later, somebody else says the exact same thing, and everybody claps!

"Great idea, Steve!"

It makes you feel invisible, doesn't it? It makes you feel alone.

And that feeling of being ignored can be one of the loneliest

feelings in the world. It can lead us to ask that question: "Does anybody hear me? Does anybody see what I'm going through?"

## **The Psalmist's Experience**

That's exactly how David felt when he wrote our text in Psalm 18. But David wasn't just feeling ignored at the office or by his family. He was in serious trouble. He was running for his life from King Saul, who wanted to kill him. He was facing enemies on every side. He was in a dark place.

And look at what he did. He didn't just complain to his friends. He didn't just post about it on social media. The Bible says, "In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help."

He let out a cry. And I love what comes next: "From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears."

God was in His temple, in heaven, sitting high on His throne. But David says his cry came into God's ears. That's a powerful image. It means God leaned in. He turned down the music of heaven. He stopped what He was doing. He wasn't too busy. He wasn't distracted. He heard the cry of His child.

### **The Illustration: A Parent's Ear**

You know, we often think we have to use big, fancy words to pray. We think we have to sound like a preacher on Sunday morning for God to listen. But that's not true at all.

Think about this. When a baby is in the nursery, and that baby cries... the mother doesn't wait for the baby to speak in complete sentences. She doesn't wait for the baby to say,

"Mother, I would appreciate it if you would attend to my needs, as I believe my diaper is in a state of disarray."

No! The baby just goes, "Wahhh!" And that mother is in that nursery like a racehorse out of the gate! "What is it, baby? Are you hungry? Are you wet? Do you need to be burped?" Why? Because that mother knows that baby's cry. She knows the difference between a hungry cry and a "I'm-tired-of-this-carseat" cry.

### **(Humor Moment 1)**

And speaking of cries, you know, as we get older, sometimes we get a little dramatic with our cries to the Lord. You ever have one of those prayers that sounds like a bad country song?

You know the one: "Lord, my dog ran away, my truck won't start, my wife's mad at me, the price of eggs is too high, and it looks like rain on my laundry." And while we're listing all our problems, the Lord is up there smiling, thinking, "I got you, child. I'm already working on it." He hears us even when we're just rambling.

### **God Hears the Heart**

The point is, God doesn't need a perfect speech. He just wants your heart. He wants the real you.

See, the beauty of having a relationship with God is that you don't have to clean up your act before you come to Him. You don't have to put on a suit and tie to pray. You can come to Him just as you are—tired, frustrated, crying, confused, or even mad. He can handle your honesty.

When you're in the hospital waiting room, and the news isn't good—He hears your cry.

When you're sitting in your car in the parking lot, too exhausted to even go inside the house—He hears your sigh.

When you wake up at 3:00 in the morning with the weight of the world on your chest—He hears the whisper of His name.

**(Humor Moment 2)**

Now, I know some of the Hispanic brothers and sisters here will get this. You know how our abuelas and our grandmothers pray? They're not just praying, they are having a conversation with God like He's sitting right there on the couch.

My grandmother used to pray, and she'd mix English and Spanish. She'd say, "Lord, bendice my son. He needs a job. Ayúdame, Jesus, because I don't know what to do with these kids today. Gracias, Lord, for the food." And you know what? God understood every single word. He understood the English, the Spanish, and the heart behind it all.

In fact, God is omni-lingual. He speaks the language of the heart. Whether you cry out in English, in Spanish, or just with a groan that's too deep for words, the Holy Spirit takes that groan, translates it, and presents it to the Father.

### The Assurance

So, what does this mean for us here at Bethlehem Missionary Baptist this morning?

It means you are never alone. It means that when you feel invisible to the world, you are completely visible to God. When you feel like no one is listening, God has His ear tuned to your frequency.

The world may ignore you. Your boss may ignore you. Sometimes, people we love might even ignore us. But God? God hears. He heard David from the cave, and He hears you from Beeville. He heard the cries of His people in Egypt, and He hears your cries today.

His ears are not hard of hearing. His attention never wanders. He is the God who hears.

## Summary

In short, family, remember these three things:

1. God wants to hear from you. You don't need fancy words, just a sincere heart.
2. God is always listening. He is not distracted or too busy. Your cry reaches His ears immediately.
3. Your relationship with Him is the source of this confidence. Because you are His child, He is attentive to your prayers.

## The Call to Action

As I close,

this week, I challenge you to put this into practice. Don't just save your prayers for Sunday morning or for the dinner table. Practice the "cry of the moment."

When stress hits you at work on Tuesday, stop for 10 seconds and whisper, "Lord, I need You right now."

When you get good news on Wednesday, look up and say, "Thank You, Jesus!"

When you feel that old worry creeping in on Thursday night, cry out, "Daddy, I can't sleep. Please cover me with Your peace."

Make your life a constant conversation with God. Practice His presence every single day.

## 7. The Call to Discipleship

If you're here today and you've never made that decision to follow Jesus, or if you've been walking away from Him and you feel like you've wandered too far to call out—I'm here to tell you, it's never too late.

The same God who hears the cry of a saint also hears the first whisper of a sinner who wants to come home. If you want to start that relationship today, if you want to be sure that your cry is heard, then the first step is surrendering your life to Christ. The doors of the church will soon be opened, and the ears of God are open, too. Let us pray.

## **The Closing Prayer**

Father, we thank You. Thank You for being a God who is near, not far away. Thank You for bending Your ear from heaven to listen to our small cries.

Lord, there are people here today with heavy hearts. They are carrying burdens that we know nothing about. Some are worried about their children. Some are anxious about their health. Some are lonely, even in a crowded room.

We cry out to You on their behalf right now. We pray for those listening on Sofia media. We pray for Taffa in Panama undergoing eye surgery. Let him feel Your presence. Let all listening right now know, deep in their souls, that You hear them. You see the tear before it falls. You know the pain before it's spoken.

Thank You for loving us. Thank You for listening to us. Thank You for being our God.

Go with us now as we leave this place. Let us carry the joy of knowing we are heard into the streets of Beeville and the hometowns of those listening abroad this week.

We ask all these blessings in the powerful and precious name of Your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

God bless you.