

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 86 TITLE: "Great & Loving LORD"

Intro: Counseling. First time, came back and said. *"This is what I've needed all along. I just needed someone who would listen to me, not judge me, no give me advice or fix-it or problem solve, just listen and let me vent and express my troubles and complaints."* **JESUS.**

Thesis: "We have a Great & Loving God who Hears our Prayers"

I. Please Listen (1-7)

A. **Incline your ear.** Answer. Poor/need. Desperation brings us to prayer. **Trouble (v.7)**

B. **I am godly?** Not perfect. Pursuing God. Growing. Trusting. Knows sin. Most godly people are ones who know deeper how sinful they are. Grace. Mercy. Forgiveness.

C. **I cry out to you all the day!** God doesn't get tired of it.

ILLUSTRATION: "Daddy! Daddy! Daddy!" All day long. "Mommy!" Love my kids. Gets old hearing your name over and over and over. But not for our God. Not for Jesus. Never tires.

D. **Here's my soul.** Fix it. Gladden it. Detangle it. I can't do it. Help me. Out of control.

ILLUSTRATION: Honorary detangled in the family. Necklaces. Puppets. Yoyo's. Slinkys.

E. **All. Anyone who calls upon you:** Forgive. Grace. Love.

APPLICATION: Pray. Cry out. Go to Him. Over and over and over. Don't stop. He won't.

II. Great & Loving God (8-13)

A. **You are great and you do wonderful things.** Who you are and what you do. **8; 10**

B. **All the nations will glorify you.** You deserve it. Jesus purchased from every nation.

C. **I want to be with you.** Follow your way. Walk with you. United to you. **"In Christ."**

D. **I will give thanks and glorify your name forever.** And we will! Never get old.

E. **Your steadfast love is great! Chesed. Covenant. Out of Sheol.**

ILLUSTRATION: Depths. Darkness. Death. Grave. Diamonds. Precious jewels. 1-5miles. Diamonds are formed under the earth, right by Magma layer (HOT!) under intense pressure at >125 miles under the surface of the earth. In utter darkness. **1 Peter 1:3-9. He's forming us.**

APPLICATION: We all have a past (& present/future). A story. Question is: "Have you experience God's grace? His love? **You're not alone.** Not the only one who has faced what you've had to face, done what you've done, felt what you've felt, regretted what you regret, hated what you hated, suffered what you've suffered or seen what you seen. Not alone.

III. Please Help (14-17)

A. **v.15: "You are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."** **Exodus 34:5-7.** Direct quote. Scripture memory.

ILLUSTRATION: Imagine David in study, with guitar/mini-harp writing music, copying, etc.

B. **v.16. "Turn to me and be gracious to me."** **Numbers 6.** Loving face of God.

C. **v.17: "Show me a sign of your favor."**

ILLUSTRATION: "My dad can whistle loud." Comes in handy. **Playing in the woods.** Come running. (Sound of Music). **Talking too loud/time to eat/pray. Playing Bball.** It's loud. People cheering. Coaches/players yelling. Squeaky shoes. Bouncing ball. Clapping. You make a play: steal, fast break, layup. Fouled: and-one, make the free throw. Hit the 3-pointer. People cheering. But above the whole crowd, all the noise, all the excitement, when you couldn't look to see if your dad was watching, you'd hear the loud, high-pitched whistle. And you knew he'd seen you and he was proud of you. It was a sign of his favor. The whistle of dad.

> God show me a sign of your favor. Let me know you see me. You love me. You hear me. An answered prayer. **Note at just right time.** Encouraging word. "I love you, Daddy." **Jesus kiss.**

APPLICATION: 1 John 4:9-10: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."