

The cave was dark, cool, and silent — a welcome refuge for a man who had been running for days. Elijah's heart pounded, not from the climb, but from the weight of fear and exhaustion. Then, in the stillness, came the question that would change everything: *"What are you doing here, Elijah?"* 1 Kings 19:9–18

Dear First Baptist Church Mansfield Family and Friends,

If you find yourself in a "cave" today - weary, discouraged, or questioning your purpose - hear God's question to you: *"What are you doing here?"* It is not condemnation, but an invitation. An invitation to return to the mission He has given you, to trust His presence even when you feel alone, and to listen for His voice in the stillness.

This was not a question of geography. God knew exactly where Elijah was. It was a question of the heart - an invitation to self-examination. Elijah had allowed fear to overshadow faith, isolation to replace community, and despair to drown out hope. God's question was a gentle but firm reminder that Elijah's calling had not ended, even if his courage had faltered.

What followed is one of the most beautiful moments in Scripture. Elijah experienced a powerful wind, an earthquake, and a fire - yet God was not in any of these dramatic displays. Instead, God's presence came in a gentle whisper. In that stillness, Elijah encountered the God who restores, reassures, and re-commissions His servants.

We often expect God to speak through the spectacular, but more often He meets us in the quiet - in prayer, in Scripture, in the still moments when we finally stop running. His whisper cuts through the noise of our fears and reminds us of His faithfulness.

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God did not leave Elijah in the cave, and He will not leave you in yours. Step out, listen for His whisper, and walk forward in the strength He provides.

Blessings,
Rev. Cheryl Filson