

QUESTIONS GOD ASKS: WHERE ARE YOU?

Text: Genesis 3:6-13; 4:3-11

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. ⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" ¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. ¹⁰I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'

Isaiah 46:9-10

God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. **1 John 3:20**

THE QUESTIONS

A) *The first question*

Ayeka - "where are you?"

"Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" declares the LORD, "Do not I fill the heaven and earth?" declares the LORD (**Jer.23:23-24; NIV**).

1. WHAT DOES THIS QUESTION REVEAL ABOUT US?

- i. We all hide in shame.
- ii. We all blame to evade feeling shame.
- iii. We all cover up to cope with shame.

2. WHAT DOES THIS QUESTION SHOWS US ABOUT GOD?

i. God comes to find us in our hiding.

"I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and so I hid myself."

"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree whereof I commanded you that you should not eat?"

"The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I did eat."

ii. God calls us out of hiding.

"Humankind is not permitted to remain alone in its sin; God speaks to Adam and halts him in his flight. Come out of your hiding place, out of your self-reproach, out of your cover-up, out of your secrecy, out of your self-torment, out of your vain remorse. Confess who you are, do not lose yourself in religious despair, be yourself. Adam, where are you? Stand before your Creator." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

iii. God covers our shame.