

Feb 14th 2010: The Voice of God: Where are you? Genesis 3:1-9

There's an advert.....catches my fancy.....It begins with a lady in a yellow convertible backing out.....ends with a truck load of cement.....

Just a small act.....that leads to major consequences

In Gen 3 we read of another misdemeanor.....so much more serious than reversing **For it was** an **act of** disobedience against the command.....that led to consequences.... that all mankind.....and evry thing created.....has & will suffer from

Consequences that no insurance company could ever make right

Indeedas paul proclaimed in Romans 5...it **took the death of one...who being...** lived as a man a completely righteous life:

SO THAT

Romans 5:19

.. just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

It is not however the sin of Adam and.....that I feel led to focus on.....

But rather.....the first words God spoke to those after they had disobeyed His command WORDS IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION.....WHERE ARE YOU?(Gen 3:9)

Now we recognize that God is All-knowing.....**So** when He asked.....is was not to gain information **It was** to facilitate a reaction in the hearts of.....

It was what is called in counseling...an open question→leads on to further disclosure....conversation

And it most definitely does that

Adam responds in Gen 3:10

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

Their sin was quickly followed by fear.....

An understanding of the predicament they were now in before God **and a desire** to hide from His perfect presence.....

DIDN'T think any other option!!

They had gone from the temptation.....consideration.....participation.....to a realization
And now they hid from Creator God.....who they saw as Righteous Judge

And He indeed is judge.....and He proclaims to them the consequences of
Yet there is also in this chapter.....in v15.....a prophecy concerning the Saviour who..

SO in fact the question.....Where are You?.....is more of a caring question....than a judgmental
It's a question that opens their minds to the reason for their fear.....and for the Predicament

And then offers them the hope of a Saviour

It is a question that causes them to face the reason why they are in hiding
And then leads on to them knowing that their disobedientdoes result in severe consequences

Yet they do not need to hide from God.....**for He still** loves them.....
and has already prepared.... a way of escape....if they would seek Him...
aware of their unworthiness to do so

and if they would truly seek Him from their hearts.....**He would** make sure they found Him
Waiting right there.....To be found by them

• **NOW**

Although the words are very different....it was that same type of Question.....That God the Son
.addressed to Saul of Tarsus.....many years later.....as he travelled along the Damascus Road

Saul(or Paul).....was not hiding from God.....**Indeed** he was attacking him thro His followers
...and to Him the Risen Lord Jesus said: Acts 9:4.....

"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

And what I hear**is Jesus really saying to Saul.....**
Where are you in your heart Saul.....**that you would work** so hard at destroying me

And Saul flat on his face in terror asks.....**who are you Lord?**
.....**and when** Jesus responds***I am Jesus whom you are persecuting***
Saul then knew...extent of his sin....his awe-ful predicament

No doubt he expected the worst.....even as Adam had
But instead Jesus said to him..... Acts 9:6

"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The words of mercyof hope.....of love.....

Perhaps Paul recalled....and took to heart at that moment....the words of God spoken thro Jeremiah
Jer 29:11

**For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.**

Now I believe that this first question that we find God asking....**in this first book** of the Bible
Is one that He asks still

He asks the one who feels that they don't need God.....who are confident in their own goodness
Where are you He asks? Look at your life and where it is leading.....**What** will your answer be
If today you were to be ushered by death.....into my presence

He asks the one who is against Him.....Where are you?.....

What is it in your heart that makes you so angry.....**Look** at yourself and see the sin that separates
And come to me for I will not cast you out

And he asks His childrenwho have fallen away through sins of their own....or sins of others
Or who have fallen into that dark place.....**where pain**....suffering....hurt....injustice
Have caused them to feel to some degree separated from His love

And He asks....Where are you?>>>For He knows how far you have moved from Him
and He wants you to see that too.....**For He is still right beside you**.....waiting for you to reach

As Jeremiah 29:12-13 promises:-

**Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³
You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be
found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity.**

