

God's Hunger for Us
Questioning
Genesis 3:1-19
Sermon Outline

Introduction: We fancy ourselves as earnest truth seekers, hungering for God, when in actual fact we are most of the time more like Adam and Eve, "hiding from the face of the Lord among the trees in the garden." Advent (and Genesis 3) give us hope, for in them we discover God searching for us.

I) Notice how God searches in Genesis 3

A) Not with fire but with questions

B) In Advent and what followed, also questions

II) Why questions?

A) He is Judge

1) We tend to put God on trial

v. 1: Did God actually say...

v. 4: You will not surely die

v. 6: So when the woman saw...

2) God reverses things

B) He judges justly

Patently deposing now and in the future

C) The Judge loves us

Questions engage us

God wants us engaged

III) Why does God press so hard with questions?

A) Over the top?

B) We matter

Making sense of the curses

Making sense if the cross

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) C. S. Lewis writes: “Amiable agnostics will talk cheerfully about man’s search for God. To me, as I then was, they might as well have talked about the mouse’s search for the cat.” Are you more or less like Lewis once was? Cite evidence for your answer.
- 2) In *Genesis 3* God comes to Adam and Eve not with fire but with questions. In the Gospel of Luke alone Jesus asks at least 59 questions. Why does God come to us with so many questions? What does this tell us about him? What does it tell us about us?
- 3) We tend to put God on trial with our questions. List at least three of your God questions? Why do you ask them?
- 4) God puts us on trial with his questions. Look at the questions God asks in *Genesis 3*. How many of them are there? What does he ask of Adam and Eve? Imagine him asking the same questions to you today. How would you answer them?
- 5) Reflect on the following: “God’s aim with Adam and Eve is not to destroy them. It is rather to help them find themselves so that their relationship to him can begin to be restored. The Judge loves the ‘perps’. He wants them back (not the fake covered-up ‘them’, but the real ‘them’).”
- 6) *Genesis 3* anticipates the great trial at the end of time. At that time God will ‘flush us out’ (“Where are you?”), call us to account for every violation of the commands he has given us (“Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”), and leave none of us unexamined (he questions both Adam and Eve). Why will he take us so seriously? What does this reveal about God’s view of us? Compare God’s view of people to some of the views that are common in our day (we are essentially...products of chance, victims of circumstances, networked atoms, animals). What would you rather be? Why?
- 7) We will never understand Christmas and the terrible things that happened thirty years after Christmas until we accept the notion that we are far more significant and responsible than we imagine or desire. Do you agree?