

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 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

**Indeed** ....as 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 disobedient ....does 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 mercy .....of 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 children** .....who 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. <sup>13</sup>  
You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be  
found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity.***

