

Begin With Where You Are

Questions

Genesis 3.8-10

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.'

REFLECTION

We begin the new year as a congregation by exploring a series of five thought-provoking questions from scripture. Jesus himself posed over 300 of them in the Gospels, using questions as a way to form disciples. We will sit with one question per week to inspire us toward what 2023 can really look like.

The first question that God asks in scripture is, "Where are you?" (Gen. 3.9) Like Adam and Eve, we are adept at hiding from the truth of our present circumstances. As we begin to formulate an answer to this question, let's consider a few significant questions Jesus asked in scripture:

To Peter: "Who do you think I am?"

To the paralytic: "Do you want to be made well?"

To the Pharisees: "Is it easier for the Son of Man to forgive someone or tell them to get up and walk?"

Let's start by asking ourselves the question, "Where are you?" Note where you are physically, relationally, and spiritually. Be honest with yourself and ask God to help you to see where you are through His eyes.

Next, ask where you are in community. Ask your spouse, best friend, mentor, small group, Bible study group. Friends who love us well will not allow us to hide. How do those who know you best see you?

May we be excited together about our faith in God this year. As we consider where we are, may we have the courage to name and sit in it, trusting that everything else God has for us in 2023 will flow from this beginning.