

"Where Are You?"

Theme: Holiness

THE QUESTIONS GOD ASKS • CLASS 1 OF 8

49 questions in which God confronts sin and examines the heart.

- Covered during class

"What is this that you have done?" 30

God confronts a person or people with their own sin and asks them to own it: disobedience, bloodshed, adultery, shamelessness, blasphemy.

- **Genesis 3:9** (*Adam*) But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"
- **Genesis 3:11** (*Adam*) He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"
- **Genesis 3:13** (*Eve*) Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."
- **Genesis 4:9** (*Cain*) Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"
- **Genesis 4:10** (*Cain*) And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground."
- **Numbers 12:8** (*Aaron and Miriam*) With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"
- **Numbers 22:32** (*Balaam*) And the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me."
- **Judges 2:1-2** (*Israel at Bochim*) ...I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done?"
- **1 Samuel 2:29** (*Eli*) Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?"
- **1 Samuel 15:17** (*Saul*) And Samuel said, "Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel."
- **1 Samuel 15:19** (*Saul*) Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the LORD?"
- **2 Samuel 12:9** (*David*) Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites."
- **1 Kings 21:19** (*Ahab*) And you shall say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Have you killed and also taken possession?"' And you shall say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood."'"
- **2 Chronicles 24:20** (*the people of Judah*) Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.'"
- **Isaiah 7:13** (*the house of David*) And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?"

- **Isaiah 42:19** (*Israel*) Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD?
- **Isaiah 57:4-5** (*Israel's idolaters*) Whom are you mocking? Against whom do you open your mouth wide and stick out your tongue? Are you not children of transgression, the offspring of deceit, you who burn with lust among the oaks, under every green tree, who slaughter your children in the valleys, under the clefts of the rocks?
- **Jeremiah 2:23-24** (*Israel*) How can you say, 'I am not unclean, I have not gone after the Baals'? Look at your way in the valley; know what you have done—a restless young camel running here and there, a wild donkey used to the wilderness, in her heat sniffing the wind! Who can restrain her lust? None who seek her need weary themselves; in her month they will find her.
- **Jeremiah 3:2** (*Judah*) Lift up your eyes to the bare heights, and see! Where have you not been ravished? By the waysides you have sat awaiting lovers like an Arab in the wilderness. You have polluted the land with your vile whoredom.
- **Jeremiah 6:15** (*no one in particular*) Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown," says the LORD.
- **Jeremiah 8:12** (*Judah*) Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among the fallen; when I punish them, they shall be overthrown, says the LORD.
- **Jeremiah 44:9** (*the Jews in Egypt*) Have you forgotten the evil of your fathers, the evil of the kings of Judah, the evil of their wives, your own evil, and the evil of your wives, which they committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?
- **Ezekiel 16:20-21** (*Jerusalem*) ...Were your whorings so small a matter that you slaughtered my children and delivered them up as an offering by fire to them?
- **Ezekiel 16:43** (*Jerusalem*) Because you have not remembered the days of your youth, but have enraged me with all these things, therefore, behold, I have returned your deeds upon your head, declares the Lord GOD. "Have you not committed lewdness in addition to all your abominations?"
- **Ezekiel 16:56-57** (*Jerusalem*) Was not your sister Sodom a byword in your mouth in the day of your pride, before your wickedness was uncovered? Now you have become an object of reproach for the daughters of Syria and all those around her, and for the daughters of the Philistines, those all around who despise you.
- **Ezekiel 33:25** (*the survivors in the land*) Therefore say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: You eat flesh with the blood and lift up your eyes to your idols and shed blood; shall you then possess the land?
- **Ezekiel 33:26** (*the survivors in the land*) You rely on the sword, you commit abominations, and each of you defiles his neighbor's wife; shall you then possess the land?
- **Micah 1:5** (*Jacob and Judah*) All this is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem?

"Do you do well to be angry?" 8

Questions that examine the hearer's own heart: anger, motives, ambitions.

- **Genesis 4:6** (*Cain*) The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?"
- **Genesis 4:7** (*Cain*) If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."
- **Numbers 22:9** (*Balaam*) And God came to Balaam and said, "Who are these men with you?"
- **Jeremiah 17:9** (*no one in particular*) The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?
- **Jeremiah 45:5** (*Baruch*) And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares the LORD. But I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go."

- **Jonah 4:4** (*Jonah*) And the LORD said, "Do you do well to be angry?"
- **Jonah 4:9** (*Jonah*) But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die."
- **Luke 12:20** (*the rich fool*) But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

"How long will this people despise me?" 8

God's patience tried by persistent unbelief and refusal.

- **Exodus 10:3** (*Pharaoh*) So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me.
- **Exodus 16:28** (*Moses*) And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws?
- **Numbers 14:11** (*Moses*) And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?
- **Numbers 14:27** (*Moses and Aaron*) "How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have heard the grumblings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me.
- **Proverbs 1:22** (*the simple, the scoffers and the fools*) "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?
- **Jeremiah 4:14** (*Jerusalem*) O Jerusalem, wash your heart from evil, that you may be saved. How long shall your wicked thoughts lodge within you?
- **Jeremiah 31:22** (*Israel*) How long will you waver, O faithless daughter? For the LORD has created a new thing on the earth: a woman encircles a man."
- **Hosea 8:5** (*Samaria*) I have spurned your calf, O Samaria. My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence?

"What is your name?" 3

Questions of name and identity.

- **Genesis 32:27** (*Jacob*) And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."
- **Genesis 32:29** (*Jacob*) Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.
- **Judges 13:18** (*Manoah*) And the angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"

Questions for Reflection

- 01** If God asked me tonight, "Where are you?", what would my honest answer be?
- 02** What are my fig leaves? What do I reach for to cover things over, instead of bringing them to God?
- 03** When I'm confronted with something I've done wrong, is my first word an explanation, like Saul's, or a confession, like David's?
- 04** Is there anger or resentment in me now that God might be asking about, as he asked Cain and Jonah, before it gives birth to sin?
- 05** Is there anything I've stopped blushing about - something that used to trouble my conscience and doesn't anymore?
- 06** Where might God be asking me "How long?" What have I kept putting off?
- 07** "Do [I] seek great things for [myself]?" and "Whose will they be?" What am I really working for, and will it last?
- 08** If God asked me, as he asked Jacob, "What is your name?", what would the honest answer be, and am I ready to be given a new one?
- 09** Where can I draw near with confidence instead of hiding?