

Day 3 :: Feb. 3

Socrates had the right of it. He was famous for answering every question with another question. Smart man. When we answer with an answer, the conversation ends, the debates closes, the asker is satisfied and leaves. When we answer with a question, the conversation continues, the debate carries on, and the asker is drawn deeper into the moment. This is the power of questions. They make us think deeper, and carry us into relationship.

Have you noticed yet that God loves to ask questions? After Adam and Eve sinned, God knew their relationship had been broken for the first time. So when He approached them, He sought to draw them back in. "Where are you?" God asked, knowing full well... well... everything. "Who told you you were naked?" God asked, not to learn (can God even learn?) but to draw the hiding pair out, back into relationship again. "Have you eaten from the tree I commanded you not to eat from?" God asked, knowing full well the answer yet dreading to hear it. "What have you done?" God asked, not because He didn't know but because these two infants needed to think through the consequences of their actions.

Today, God faces Cain who would soon kill his brother, the first murder (though not the first death). And again, sin brings relationship-seeking questions from God. "Why are you so angry?" God asked, hoping Cain would bring his anger to God who could help him deal with it in a healthy way. "Why do you look so dejected?" God asked, offering Cain the key to save their relationship. But Cain burrows deeper into his anger, pain, and rejection and kills his brother anyway. And God is still there with relationship-saving questions. "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?" God asks, offering Cain a chance for confession, forgiveness, and restoration.

And Cain responds with a question of his own, but not a relationship-building question. His is a deception. "Am I my brother's guardian?" And so God offers Cain one last chance, just as He did Cain's parents. "What Have you done?" God asks, not because He didn't know but because this infant needed to think through the consequences of his actions.

God offers us questions as a means of building relationship. May our answers draw us back to Him rather than away.