

Then God said.....

“Where are you?”

At one church I served, a woman in the church gave me a loaf of homemade fresh warm sourdough bread in a plastic bag. I set it on the kitchen counter for later. My husband and I proceeded to church for the Christmas Eve service.

When we returned, we found the empty plastic bag on the floor, with a hole in it. We began investigating what could have happened. We searched the house calling for our black lab Jordie, suspecting that she might be the cause of the missing bread. “Where are you, Jordie? Where are you?” There was no response, which was strange. Normally, she was happy to see us every time we came home. We noticed that the Christmas tree was shaking, and we quickly realized Jordie had eaten the loaf of bread and was hiding under the tree in shame. She knew she had done something wrong. Jordie had been instructed not to get up on the kitchen counter, but the tempting aroma of bread was so strong that she broke a rule, and she knew it!

PICTURE OF CATHY, COLOR

Adam and Eve rebelled against God by violating the one commandment He had given them. They knew they had done something wrong, and so they hid.

Then God said

“Where are you?” He didn’t need to ask, but He was calling them to account, for they had broken their relationship with him. There would be consequences to their action, yet God would still be in relationship with them. God is faithful, even when we as human beings are not.

“Where are you?” God asks each of us. That is, are we in relationship with him through worship, prayer, study, and service? Or

are we hiding from God? Or are we like some of the people of whom Jeremiah said, “They do not even know how to blush”? (Jeremiah 6:15)

God calls us to remember what is right, and what is wrong, but He does so in love and grace. Whatever we have done may have consequences in this life, but God still loves us and wants us to be His people. Are you interested in finding out about God, and His love for you? Then read your Bible and attend a church which reads it.

Cathy Northrup is the pastor of the Community Church of the Verdes.