

Genesis 3:9 - Missions begins with God, in all that we know about God: His perfection, holiness, righteousness, gracefulness, goodness, kindness and truthfulness are revealed in His mission's heart. We can truly see how God has acted towards man, with that simple question, "Where art thou?" all we know about God shows that He knew where they were. The question didn't come from a lack of knowledge on God's part but, a longing for them to confront their sin. God's questions are always to point man to his need. It is God calling to fallen man to admit his sinfulness and to turn from his foolishness of hiding. When God walked into the garden with all his holiness and righteousness He could have punished them and never asked the question, but He led with grace and mercy. God's kindness gave them a chance! As usual man squandered that moment, man led off with his pride, and played the card of blame. We have been foolish and we are foolish, but that is the goal of missions to call men back to God. We see the question was not based on their spiritual state but, on God's mercy. We are to stand in God's place and ask the question that He would ask, "where are you sinner?" The missionary must lead with grace and kindness and understand that all men are in hiding from God and are foolish (because we were such men). We walk into their world only armed with God's Word, and His voice calling to them. See many make much about the place (how they live - poor or rich) but, it has never been about the place, and has always been about the voice calling - where are you sinner?