

before we begin

Why is God asking these questions?

where we are

Three weeks ago the people said, “The time has not yet come.” Two weeks ago they decided life wasn’t working because they hadn’t worked hard enough. Last week they finally listened, and twenty-three days after God first spoke, they started building. Now, twenty-seven days into the work, during the same feast at which Solomon dedicated the first temple, God speaks again. This time he begins with three questions

thought one: what is driving these questions?

It’s important to examine the story we tell ourselves.

Why is God asking these questions?

Because every false story starts in the gap between what we see and what it means.

thought two: can their interpretation be trusted?

God’s people have proven to be poor interpreters of reality . . . and so have we.

Why is God asking these questions?

Because his people have a long history of telling themselves the wrong story.

thought three: what is God preparing them to hear?

God names their story before he tells them his.

Why is God asking these questions?

Because he is preparing to replace their story with his own.

the big idea

God exposes false stories before replacing them with his own.

preaching idea

God’s story exposes the truth about mine.