

# NORTH HILLS NOTES

## REST, THEN WORK July 26, 2008 By Dennis Wallstrom

*The drive to achieve significance in our lives naturally leads us to pour our energies into the three black holes of our existence: acquisition, recognition, and domination, as we hope someday to rest on our achievements. But “someday” creates restlessness and lives flooded with anxiety about the future. This is life precisely backwards, in comparison to the template provided in our creation story and even more powerfully stated in the gospel. Our story begins with the enjoyment of a divinely-bestowed identity (rest), and proceeds to express that identity through ultimately satisfying work.*

*Today’s story is a story told backwards: we start at the end, and then ask ourselves how we got there.*

**Question 1: \_\_\_\_\_ are you?**

*“The Lord God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’”*

*Genesis 3:9 (NRSV)*

- ◆ I am ashamed of myself.
- ◆ I am afraid of many things.
- ◆ I am alone in the world.

**Question 2: \_\_\_\_\_ you done?**

*“Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’”*

*Genesis 3:13 (NRSV)*

- ◆ The lure of acquisition.
- ◆ The lure of admiration.
- ◆ The lure of domination.

**Question 3: \_\_\_\_\_ are you?**

*“Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion . . . over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’”*

*Genesis 1:26, 28 (NRSV)*

- ◆ I am a lot like God.
- ◆ I am a “dominion-haver.”
- ◆ I am touched by God.