



## “Where Are You At?”

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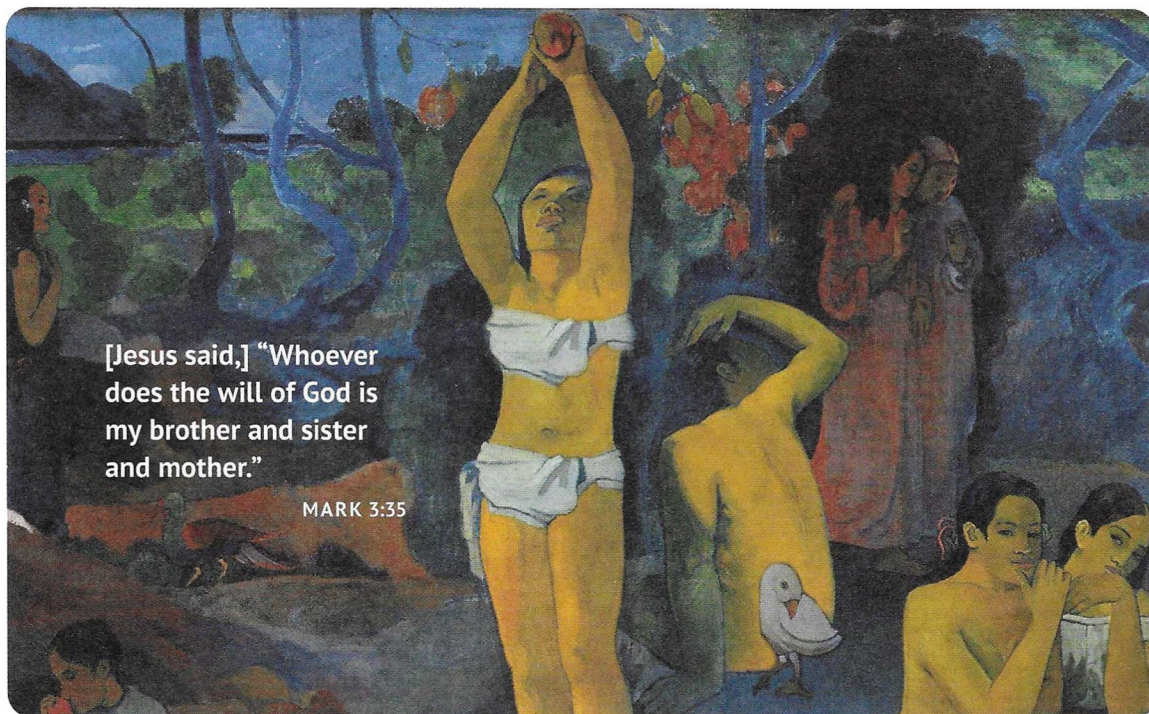
**P**aul Gauguin, a Post-Impressionist painter from France (1848–1903), lived part of his life in Tahiti, which inspired his artistic work. His last piece is titled *Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?* It depicts Tahitian women in various daily activities of life—a child, a young adult, and an old woman approaching death. (See detail in the art below.) Gauguin’s middle question, “What Are We?” is similar to God’s question of Adam in the Garden, “Where are you?” In contemporary jargon, both questions may echo our asking someone, “Where are you at?” It’s not about where our body may be, but rather where our spirit is, where our heart is.

Like Adam, some can find themselves hiding from

God. That may be where they are “at.” All too often, the reason we hide from God is because we forget or choose not to remember where we come from—birthed by God into life. When we hide, whether from God, from our better selves, or from the demands and expectations of life, then we find ourselves frozen, going nowhere, failing to become the person God created us to be. Sin does that to us. It turns us in upon ourselves in a way that prevents us from growing into a full life. With sin in charge, our spirits become petrified, like dead wood, an image of what once was but will be no more. Where are you at? ●

### Reflect

**How would you answer Gauguin’s three questions?**



[Jesus said,] “Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

MARK 3:35