

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sun 3rd Sept

Back To the Beginning

Genesis Ch 4:1-9

It All Started at Church – Worship Time.

Skip Heitzig quote – about Ch 4 and Ch 3

“If chapter 3 is the root of sin, then chapter 4 is the fruit of sin.”

We see the roots of sin in chapter 3 – but we see how the fruit of sin plays out in the life of one individual in chapter 4!

Genesis 4 – Cain and Able.

Genesis 4:1-9 Christian Standard Bible

Cain Murders Abel

4 The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, “I have had a male child with the LORD’s help.”^[a] **2** She also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground. **3** In the course of time Cain presented some of the land’s produce as an offering to the LORD. **4** And Abel also presented an offering—some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, **5** but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent.

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? **7** If you do what is right, won’t you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

8 Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.”^[b] And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s guardian?”

- The core of this passage is the issue of worship.

Four things that we focus on as a church – Worship – Grow – Serve – Pray

- Real godly appropriate worship.

[Genesis 3:20 Christian Standard Bible](#)

[20 The man named his wife Eve^{\[a\]} because she was the mother of all the living.](#)

And from here we read about a desperate situation as we get to the end of chapter 3.

[Genesis 3:24 Christian Standard Bible](#)

[24 He drove the man out and stationed the cherubim and the flaming, whirling sword east of the garden of Eden to guard the way to the tree of life.](#)

- Drove them out! – God drove them out – then placed a guard on them.

Genesis 4 – Hopeful anticipation - although short lived.

- No ties cut off.

Verse 1 – Hopeful anticipation.

[Genesis 4:1 Christian Standard Bible](#)

[4 The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, “I have had a male child with the LORD’s help.”^{\[a\]}](#)

- Man was intimate – Eve gave birth to a Cain and gave birth to Able.

With the Lord’s help?

- Weird statement – she says this harkening back.
- Speaking beyond the animal as a serpent to Satan.

Genesis 3:15 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁵ I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring.^[a]

He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.

- Promise of the deliverer – Messiah – Saviour to come.

God say's to the Devil – “Your days are numbered, you are done”.

- To Adam and Eve this is the first mention of the gospel – as they hear the first pronouncement of their sin.

Eve thinking – maybe this is the promised one God said was going to come?

Question – Is Eve thinking her son is the one?

In the original language – I have made a male child, the Lord – this is what the Hebrew actually says.

- She isn't saying she made the Lord.
- I have made a male child, the Lord, idea of - the deliverer – that the deliverer was come.
- But! – It wasn't in the child Cain.

Cain - The name Cain is a play on the word – gotten or acquired. Her thinking possible that I have acquired this child from God.

Cain and Able – maybe twins? – no period of time given here in the age difference – they are really close in age.

Able – meaning breath – foreshadowing of how his life is as quick as a breath.

2 things we see right off.

- They have a time of worship – a time of sacrifice here.

Within this we see 2 things.

1. Quality of offering – verses 3 and 4
2. Then the character of offeror.

Genesis 4:1-9 Christian Standard Bible

Cain Murders Abel

⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? ⁷If you do what is right, won’t you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

- Character of offeror.

There was nothing wrong with the professions that Cain and Able had of – Shepherd and Farmer.

- They were both hard working guys.

Genesis 4:1-9 Christian Standard Bible

Cain Murders Abel

³In the course of time Cain presented some of the land’s produce as an offering to the LORD.

- Course of Time.
- Offering sacrifices to the Lord.

Genesis 4:4-5 Christian Standard Bible

Cain Murders Abel

⁴And Abel also presented an offering—some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent.

Verses 4b and 5

- Difference in the quality of offering.
- Impacted by the worshipper.

Hebrews 11:4 Christian Standard Bible

⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was approved as a righteous man, because God approved his gifts, and even though he is dead, he still speaks through his faith.

- The bible isn't worded in a haphazard way - God had scripture written very superficially – it is there because God wanted it there.

Cain brought the vegetables, and it may have been decent stuff, but there is a difference between the offering that he brought – the vegetables – the produce. And Able comes and says – I have brought the first born, the fat portions – the good stuff – my best.

- Quality and character of the offeror.

Quality – Verses 4b and 5

Difference between the produce.

- Firstborn – good stuff – my best - Quality – acceptable offering. Beyond being the best stuff, it was because it was a slain animal.

Genesis 3:21 Christian Standard Bible

²¹ The LORD God made clothing from skins for the man and his wife, and he clothed them.

Consistent throughout the rest of scripture – talking of the perfect sacrifice – Jesus.

Hebrews 9:22 Christian Standard Bible

²² According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

- We know as New Testament Christians that we

God laid out in the Old Testament a sacrificial system that was a shadow of what was to come in the New Testament – in the person of Jesus Christ.

The Lord made clothing.

- From skins for the man and his wife – where did he get those from?
- Covering – for they tried to do the cover up!
- God had to sacrifice an animal to do that, shed the blood of an animal for coverings.

God laid out for Adam and Eve in this moment – this is how I want you to come and worship.

- This is how I need you to temporarily deal with the sin issue in your life – you need to sacrifice an animal – their needs to be shed blood.

We know because...

Romans 6:23 Christian Standard Bible

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- An animal had to die for their covering.
- A sacrifice needed to happen in worship to God – in anticipation for the coming one who was to die for them. Able committed to doing it God’s way and not my way.

We see this in the one offering.

Genesis 4:6-7 Christian Standard Bible

Cain Murders Abel

⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? ⁷If you do what is right, won’t you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

- Cain was furious!
- Translation – Cain – my way – you better accept.
- Now he is livid.

Cain – “How dare you” is his response.

- Cains character showing through as he confronts God.

Verse 6 – Why are you...

Verse 7 – God – “Let’s talk about your character here”.

- Behind the offering is the character.
- God looking to confront.
- Cain a sinner – quite content to be a sinner.

Appreciation of how James Boice laid out these next things.

Question – When we look at Cain and his character as the offeror and see God interaction with him, what do we see right away?

Verse 6 – God saw right through Cain.

⁶Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent?”

- It doesn't matter what the situation was, or if he had a bad day, or if he wasn't paying attention.
- It doesn't matter even if he decided he wasn't going to fellowship with Adam and Eve as parents anymore because they did a bad job raising me.
- God sees through all of Cain's responses.

Point #2 – Cain could have done what was right!

Reference made to the New Bible Dictionary – Meaning for Worship.

Old English – ‘weorthscipe’+‘worth-ship’) referred to the action of human beings in expressing homage to God because he is worth it.

Reality – unwilling to worship God in the right way – as God declared himself to be – in the way God declared worship to look like.

God was like “Cain you know the right thing to do and if you do it, you will be accepted”.

Point #3 – God reminded Cain of the right course of action.

He says...

- If you don't do what is right - sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you.
- But you must rule over it.

Here is the problem...

God gives him a grave warning – He says, “this is the opportunity for you to turn back – this is the opportunity for you to come to me the way that you are supposed to come to me”.

- In faith – like your brother Able.
- Offering up a sacrifice that is acceptable.

- Able – Faith the deliverer was to come.
- God – Cain come to me in faith.

Our basic problem is a worship problem.

Question – Are we willing to come to God on His terms or on our terms?

Reference made to Pastor Josh – Quote last week on Depravity.

Cain – “I am not going to confess my sin or come to you”.

[Genesis 4:1-9 Christian Standard Bible](#)

⁸[Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.”^{\[b\]} And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.](#)

- Premeditated murder.
- He hated his brother because he wanted to worship his way.
- Able was a constant reminder to Cain!

In Jude the bible warns of going the way of Cain.

Reference made to 1 John 2.

[John 3:12 Christian Standard Bible](#)

¹²[If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?](#)

- Because God is love, if we are really followers’, we are to love the brothers and the sisters.
- Why? Because people are to know us as Christians by our love.
- But if we go the way of Cain – we hate God and we hat people.

Sin starts in the heart.

- Cain hated God and hated Able.

If you don't have a personal relationship – you are going the way of Cain.

Believers – We can still go the way of Cain.

- Sin has mastery over us.
- We should master it.
- Deal with it on a regular basis.

Romans 12:1 Christian Standard Bible

A Living Sacrifice

12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.^[a]

- Our entire lives to God.
- Every single day – Not just a Sunday!
- With our possessions
- With our heart.
- With our thoughts
- Everything is God's.

He owns it all!

The Question that should come to mind is – How can we do that; how can I master sin?

Paul in Ephesians lays out what this living sacrifice looks like in the rest of chapter 12.

- Romans 12:9-21 Christian Standard Bible

Christian Ethics

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another. ¹¹ Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit;^[a] serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. ¹³ Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud; instead, associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own estimation. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Give careful

thought to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes. ¹⁸ If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God's wrath, because it is written, **Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay,** ^[b] says the Lord. ²⁰ But

If your enemy is hungry, feed him.

If he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

For in so doing

you will be heaping fiery coals on his head. ^[c]

²¹ Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.

- Conquer evil with good.
- Looks a lot like what is being said.

You can only it by the Holy Spirit.

1. Walk by the Spirit.
2. Live by the Spirit.
3. Keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians – the spirit produces – we can only do that by the 3 – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit reveals the truth of God by the word of God.

- Instructs and shows us by the word of God.
- We are to meditate and resolve what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do.

Quote – Originator unknown. *“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, it will keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you more than you want to pay”.*

Here is the challenge.

- Confess your sin today.
- Don't go the way of Cain.
- Worship God with All you.