

From Creation to New Creation

Genesis 4:1-16

“A Family Feud” – February 27, 2022



Introduction

God is good, and He created all things as good. He knows what is good for us and is intent on giving His people what is good. Eden was paradise for Adam and Eve. Then, then serpent came along and got Adam and Eve to doubt the goodness of God. They believed the lie, and everything changed. Paradise was lost.

Yet even as they sought to hide and their sin, God came looking for them. In Genesis 4, we see that the whole world now is avoiding God. We are also introduced to two main characters who demonstrate either trusting in God or in self. What happens when someone persists in trusting self and resisting God? What happens to someone who persists in unbelief? Cain represents a three step downward spiral.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

1. Bitter anger Vs. 1 - 7
2. Violent hatred Vs. 8-9
3. Tragic departure Vs. 10-16

Read & Discuss

1) Read 4:1-7

The first fight we see in scripture begins at church - Cain and Abel come to worship. Abel's offering is accepted by God, and Cain's is not. Why? The issue is not what they offered; the issue was their heart. Acceptable worship believes God is good. It trusts God. It doesn't worry about the cost. It's thrilled by calling God, "Father." An offering that is not given from the heart is not acceptable. Hypocritical religion is risk-free and doesn't trust God.

God is not pleased when we just go through the motions. It dishonors His glorious name. It puts us in a dangerous place and is a cover for all kinds of sin. When God didn't accept Cain's sacrifice, he was angry. Yet God lovingly drew Cain out by asking questions. God wanted Cain to turn and come back to Him.

God is merciful and loving when He warns that sin is crouching at the door. Satan is a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ([1 Peter 5:8](#)) Sin is masquerading as something innocent that you think you can handle. You may think that it is okay to yield just a little - but you cannot handle it. Satan wants to rip your life to shreds. If you don't rule sin, it will rule you. Don't even open the door.

What are some things that you can do to prepare your heart for worship each week? What are the temptations and sins that you are wrestling with? With whom can you share those for accountability, encouragement, prayer and help?

Additional Reading: Hebrews 11:4; Psalm 63; Malachi 1

2) Read 4:8-9

The feud escalated. Abel's righteousness made Cain feel exposed. ([1 John 3:12](#)) We see the same thing in the New Testament with the religious leaders. Jesus exposed them for who they really were, so they led the charge to kill Him. When true biblical Christianity bumps into someone who is going through the motions, it gets ugly. If we are like Abel, we should expect the hatred of the world. ([2 Timothy 3:12](#)) It can be painful, but we can accept it with a deeper joy because we've got something better - Jesus!

Cain ignored God's warning and killed his brother. God came to Cain in love and mercy giving him another chance to confess and turn. Cain's heart hardened even further, and he blamed God.

As fellow believers and church members, we are our brothers' (and sisters') keeper. God calls us to love each other, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. We need each other.

Envy flips things around. Left unchecked, it will turn into violent hatred. One way to combat envy, is to pray that God will bless the one that you are envious of. It's hard to hate someone when you are praying for them. What about when you have a disagreement with someone? If you don't talk with them about it, you will become bitter. ([Ephesians 4:26](#)) We should make every effort to reconcile with another brother or sister in Christ with whom you've had conflict.

Who are five church members listed in our directory that you can contact this week to check on, see how they are doing, encourage them, and pray with them?

Additional Reading: *Matthew 23; 1 John 3:11-12; Matthew 5:21-24; Proverbs 14:30*

3) Read 4:10-17

Cain may have thought that he could get away with killing his brother and go on with life as before. While God is merciful, He is also just. God is fully aware of all injustice. He will right all wrongs.

God's invitation was met with a hard heart. So God gave Cain what he wanted - for God to leave him alone. Sometimes the worst thing is to get what we want. Sin didn't fix Cain's problem. It made it worse. Cain complained about God's punishment. ([Proverbs 19:3](#)) The unrepentant see punishment as unfair and undeserved. The repentant see mercy as undeserved.

We are all sinners. What do you do with God's word after you've blown it? When you hear His voice - do not harden your hearts. Abel's blood cried out for justice. It proclaimed Cain as guilty. Jesus' blood cries out, "**FORGIVEN**" to those who come in repentance and faith. That's God's grace.

Have you ever resisted turning to God in repentance of sin? How did that feel in your spirit? How did it feel to confess and receive forgiveness and grace?

Additional Reading: *Romans 1; Jude 11; Hebrews 12:23-24*

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I understand, believe, desire, or do?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [1 Peter 5:6-11](#) "Resisting the Lion"