



Our Next Guest – Cain
Sermon Discussion Questions – July 4th, 2022

Scripture Passages:

Genesis 4:2b-5

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. ³ When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. ⁴ Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵ but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

II Corinthians 9:7

⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

Genesis 4:6-7

⁶ "Why are you so angry?" the Lord asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected? ⁷ You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."

Genesis 4:8

"⁸ One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields."^[a] And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him."

Colossians, 3:5-6

⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.⁶ Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.

Hebrews chapter 11:4

⁴ It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

In Matthew 27:45-6

⁴⁵ At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. ⁴⁶ At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli,^[a] lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"^[b]

Luke 22:42

⁴² "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Philippians 2:7-8

Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Warm Up

In this series we've been talking about stories of different people from the bible. Who is your favorite character from the bible? If you don't have a favorite bible character who is your favorite character from literature?

Discussion

1. What do you remember about the story of Cain and Abel? (Hint: Read Gen 4:1-17).
2. Pastor Paul pointed out that the first takeaway from this story is that no matter what we do there is a way to worship God with our work.
How did Abel do this well? How did Cain not do it well? What do you do for work or for fun?
How can you worship and give back to God in that work or fun?
3. Read Genesis 4:6-7. Anger is an indicator of a deeper heart problem, a response not a stimulus. What might be the deeper heart problem with Cain? Pastor Paul suggests it is pride. Do you agree with him? When have you gotten angry have you noticed what the deeper issue has been? If so what are some common deeper issues behind anger in your life or someone else's?
4. This story shows that an opportunity to repent comes with the enemy's opportunity to pounce. What relationship do you see between repentance and temptation? When sin is lurking how might you choose to put it to death instead of giving into it?
5. Read Hebrews 11:4 and 11:6

How might Abel's offering show belief? What relationship do you see between pride and belief? How can your belief in God's knowledge and power help you fight against pride?

6. In his message, Pastor Paul shared stories of some frustrating life circumstances that God used to expose areas of pride in his own life.
What are some things God might use or has used to expose areas of pride in your life in the past or even lately? What areas might you have pride in that need to be surrendered to God?
7. In his message, Pastor Paul shared this quote from Dennis Kinlaw: "Satan disguises submission to himself under the ruse of personal autonomy. He never asks us to become his servants. Never once did the serpent say to Eve, 'I want to be your Master'. The shift in commitment is never from Christ to evil; it is always from Christ to self. And instead of his will, self-interest now rules and what I want reigns. And that is the essence of sin."
What are some of your reactions to this quote? How might personal autonomy be contradictory to submission to God and others?
8. Read Philippians 2:7-8:
How can you follow the example of surrender and humility that Jesus had as a weapon to fight pride?

Next Steps:

Ask God to open your eyes this week as you reflect on these questions.

- In what ways in my life is pride revealing itself?
 - Is it self-destructive?
 - Is it hurting others?
 - Is it preventing growth in my relationship with God?
- When do I struggle most with self-trust over God-trust?
- How can I embrace the heart of Jesus when he said, "Not my will but yours be done"?