

SALT Church

Genesis 4

“Dangerous Worship”

June 25, 2025

“In the Beginning”

Recap:

- Genesis 3 is the fall of mankind.
- It is a reminder that our sin always affects others
- Adam and Eve along with Satan came out of this chapter with curses sat upon them for what they had done.
 - Nothing will ever be the same, not man nor the creation itself.
 - But all was not lost for in chapter 3 we have the 1st promise of the Savior.

We pick up where we left off:

- As we begin chapter 4, I need point out to you that this chapter is the only chapter in the Bible that gives us any idea what life was like before the flood.
 - I think you will be impressed with their wisdom and knowledge.
 - We like to think that man has progressed but the truth is that we started out much smarter than we start out now but sin destroyed so much and continues to destroy even now.

Genesis 4

4 Now Adam *knew* Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord.”

- Known (yada) intimate knowledge
- Cain means “crafted” “like a smith”
- Can you imagine the hope in this 1st seed of Adam and Eve.
 - In Cain they hoped that Satan could be defeated
 - That perhaps they could return to the garden
 - But at best this is as good as it gets for Cain.

The New Testament has a lot to say about Cain:

Jude 10-11

¹⁰ Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them.

¹¹ Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam’s error; they have been destroyed in Korah’s rebellion.

1 John 3:11-12

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous.

Hebrews 11:4

4 By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

Here is what we know about Cain:

- He is the 1st lost person
- He is the 1st murderer
- He rebels when Jesus comes to him and throws himself further into anger and rebellion.

2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel.

- Abel (a mere breath)
 - Such was his life

Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

- Cain had followed in his daddy's footsteps and had become a farmer.
- Abel was a shepherd and would join a long list of God men's who would become shepherds.

3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord.

- It is assumed that Adam would have taught his boys the proper way to worship the Lord.
 - He would have taught them how to worship.
 - Now the question in all of this is, "Did Cain bring the wrong offering?"

- Notice it says “***Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord.***”
 - ***Now pay attention to what it says about Abel’s offering.***

4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat.

- These would be the best portions of his flock.
 - This could be why his offering was accepted.
 - It could also be that Cain was supposed to bring a blood offering, but we can’t be sure.
- For, now let’s assume that Abel brought what he was supposed to, but he did not bring his best.
 - The title of tonight’s message is “Dangerous Worship.”
 - It is dangerous to bring God your leftovers
 - It is dangerous to bring Half-hearted worship.
 - What is the greatest form of worship?
 - Obedience!

Micah 6:6-8

***With what shall I come before the Lord,
And bow myself before the High God?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
With calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
Ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?***

***⁸He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?***

So, what we see is this:

- God desires obedience why?
 - It is the greatest form of love and trust.
- So, even if Cain had brought the correct sacrifice if his heart was still far away from God, it would be a total waste of time.

Back to Genesis 4

***⁴Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat.
And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not
respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his
countenance fell.***

This is one of my greatest fears for you church.

- That you would be angry when you find out that your half-hearted worship is worse than no worship at all.
 - “The Church Laodicea” (Luke warm)
 - For many who give God His hour, throw a little cash in the box, they will be shocked when they enter into eternity to here Jesus quote Matthew 7

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!

Now we will get to see the heart of God as He addresses Cain in love:

“So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?”

Body language and emotional leakage happens.

- **The best councilors** ’know how to read these things and certainly God knows the heart so there is never any reason to lie to God.
- **God never ask a question for information**
 - **If He ask a question, it is an opportunity to repent.**

“If you do well, will you not be accepted?”

- This is the response for every person on this planet.
 - But narrow is the way and few are they that find it.
 - So many pastors will give an account for what they have taught as many will go to their death believing they are saved because the said a prayer or were baptized but never knew Him.

Listen to this warning for all pastors in **Hebrews 13:17**

¹⁷ Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

I am not sure if seminaries spend enough time on that verse!

⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted?

And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door.

In the Hebrew this is expressed like a lion that is sneaking up on its victim and is ready to pounce.

- But isn't this the decision that all of us make every day?
- Half-hearted worship is a temptation.
 - It's easy and gives the illusion that you are a devoted child of God but please do not be fooled.
 - God knows your heart.

James addresses this temptation in James 1

James 1:14-15

¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Genesis 4:7

7If you do well, will you not be accepted?

And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door.

And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

This is the same language found in Genesis 3:16

16To the woman He said:

“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;

In pain you shall bring forth children;

Your desire shall be for your husband,

And he shall rule over you.”

We talked about this at length both on Wednesday night and on Father’s Day.

- **God has appointed the man as the spiritual leader of the home.**
 - Not because he is smarter
 - But because God is God meaning in His divine order of things He has appointed something for the men and some things for the women.
 - For the ladies it is a sin for you to assume or try to assume that role.
 - Naturally if he dies or becomes ill in some way you will have to step and lead but if he is alive and well you should submit to his Godly leadership.

Now in this case God is reaching out to Cain saying it is wrong for you to submit to sin.

- Which is a nice way of saying, “you are worshipping the god of self and that is not going to end well.”

I think the most amazing thing about this conversation is that God knew how it was going to work out.

- He knew Cain was not going to take His advice.
- He knew Cain was going to kill his brother.
- He knew that Cains name was not written in the Lambs Book of Life and yet He still reached out to him.
 - Why?
 - Because all of humanity has been called to repent and turn to the Lord.
 - This is John 3:16-17

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ [c] Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

⁸Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Cain becomes the 1st murderer!

- I can't imagine how he killed his brother
 - I can't imagine what Adam and Eve went through.
 - Abel's name means "a mere breath" and that was what his life was like.

⁹Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

Sarcasm noted!

- Abel was the keeper of the flocks

¹⁰And He said, "What have you done?"

- God never ask a question for the information
 - He is calling Cain to repentance

The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

Did you catch the fact that Cain thought he could lie to God and get away with it?

¹¹So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When

you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.”

Like Adam, Cain’s curse is on the ground only this time it is only on Cain and his work.

- Unlike Adam Cain will absolutely no success in growing anything.
- This will cause him to wander for the rest of his days.

Pay attention to his response to the Lord.

¹³ And Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴ Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.”

No repentance, only concern for himself.

- How ironic is it that he is afraid of being murdered.

¹⁵ And the Lord said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

There is a lot of debate as to what this mark is.

- Tattoo?
- A skin condition
- Funny looking hair
- Even a dog!

¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. ¹⁷ And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son— Enoch. ¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech. ¹⁹ Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. ²⁰ And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. ²² And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.

*²³ Then Lamech said to his wives:
“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech!
For I have killed a man for wounding me,
Even a young man for hurting me.
²⁴ If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,
Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.”*

²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.” ²⁶ And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.

