

GENESIS 4:6-16

THE HEART OF THE LOST

GENESIS 4:1-16

NOW ADAM KNEW EVE HIS WIFE, AND SHE CONCEIVED AND BORE [A]CAIN, AND SAID, "I HAVE ACQUIRED A MAN FROM THE LORD." ² THEN SHE BORE AGAIN, THIS TIME HIS BROTHER [B]ABEL. NOW ABEL WAS A KEEPER OF SHEEP, BUT CAIN WAS A TILLER OF THE GROUND. ³ AND [C]IN THE PROCESS OF TIME IT CAME TO PASS THAT CAIN BROUGHT AN OFFERING OF THE FRUIT OF THE GROUND TO THE LORD. ⁴ ABEL 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.

⁶ SO THE LORD SAID TO CAIN, "WHY ARE YOU ANGRY? AND WHY HAS YOUR COUNTENANCE FALLEN? ⁷ IF YOU DO WELL, WILL YOU NOT BE ACCEPTED? AND IF YOU DO NOT DO WELL, SIN LIES AT THE DOOR. AND ITS DESIRE IS [D]FOR YOU, BUT YOU SHOULD RULE OVER IT."

⁸ NOW CAIN [E]TALKED WITH ABEL HIS [F]BROTHER; AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN THEY WERE IN THE FIELD, THAT CAIN ROSE UP AGAINST ABEL HIS BROTHER AND KILLED HIM.

⁹ THEN THE LORD SAID TO CAIN, "WHERE IS ABEL YOUR BROTHER?"

HE SAID, "I DO NOT KNOW. AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?"

¹⁰ AND HE SAID, "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? THE VOICE OF YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD CRIES OUT TO ME FROM THE GROUND. ¹¹ SO NOW YOU ARE CURSED FROM THE EARTH, WHICH HAS OPENED ITS MOUTH TO RECEIVE YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD FROM YOUR HAND. ¹² WHEN YOU TILL THE GROUND, IT SHALL NO LONGER YIELD ITS STRENGTH TO YOU. A FUGITIVE AND A VAGABOND YOU SHALL BE ON THE EARTH."

¹³ AND CAIN SAID TO THE LORD, "MY [G]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."

¹⁵ AND THE LORD SAID TO HIM, [H]"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.

16 THEN CAIN WENT OUT FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD AND DWELT IN THE LAND OF  NOD ON THE EAST OF EDEN.

RECAP:

LAST WEEK PASTOR BO TAUGHT US ABOUT DANGEROUS WORSHIP.

HE TAUGHT US THAT IT'S NOT ABOUT THE OFFERING ITSELF BUT RATHER THE CONDITION OF THE HEART.

THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THE OFFERING.

WE LEARNED THAT THESE OFFERINGS BROUGHT BY CAIN AND ABLE WERE ACTS OF WORSHIP.

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT WE REMEMBER THAT GOD IS THE ONE WHO DICTATES WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP.

EVERY HUMAN BEING ON THIS PLANET WORSHIPS SOMETHING.

SOME PEOPLE WORSHIP THE ONE TRUE GOD.

SOME PEOPLE WORSHIP FALSE GODS, AND OTHERS WORSHIP THEMSELVES.

WHO OR WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO WORSHIP WILL DETERMINE YOUR ETERNITY.

IF YOU TRULY WORSHIP THE TRIUNE GOD OF THE BIBLE, YOU WILL SPEND ETERNITY WITH ENJOYING THE FELLOWSHIP THAT IS GUARANTEED.

BUT IF YOU SHOULD CHOOSE TO WORSHIP ANYONE OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU WILL SPEND AN ETERNITY SEPARATED FROM GOD IN TORMENT.

YOU SEE THE BIBLE IS EXCLUSIVE, NOT INCLUSIVE.

ITS EXCLUSIVE IN THAT IT EXCLUDES ALL OTHER RELIGIONS OR WAYS TO HEAVEN.

THIS IS WHY SOCIETY DEEMS US AS INTOLERANT, THIS IS WHY PEOPLE SAY WE'RE HYPOCRITES.

THEY SAY THINGS LIKE YOU TEACH LOVE BUT YOUR INTOLERANT OF HOMOSEXUALITY.

WELL LOVE AND TOLERANCE ARE 2 DIFFERENT THINGS.

I LOVE MY CHILDREN BUT I DO NOT TOLERATE BAD BEHAVIOR.

THIS IS WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST EVERY DAY AND THAT'S OK BECAUSE JESUS TOLD US THAT IF THE WORLD HATED HIM IT WAS GOING TO HATE US TO.

WE WILL ALWAYS BE AT ODDS AGAINST ANYONE THAT CHOOSES TO WORSHIP ANYONE OR ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE GOD OF THE BIBLE.

CAIN CHOSE TO WORSHIP HIMSELF OVER GOD.

CAIN COULD'VE BROUGHT THE FIRST FRUITS AND THE BEST FRUITS AND HE WOULD'VE BEEN REWARDED BUT HE DIDN'T.

AND WHEN GOD DISREGARDED HIS OFFERING, HE BECAME VERY ANGRY.

GENESIS 4:5

BUT HE DID NOT RESPECT CAIN AND HIS OFFERING. AND CAIN WAS VERY ANGRY, AND HIS COUNTENANCE FELL.

THE HEBREW WORD USED FOR ANGRY MEANS: TO GLOW, GROW WARM, TO BLAZE UP, OF ANGER, ZEAL, JEALOUSY....

CAIN WAS GLOWING WITH ANGER AND THE SOURCE OF THAT ANGER WAS HIS JEALOUSY FOR HIS BROTHER.

HE WAS ANGRY AT GOD AND JEALOUS OF HIS BROTHER.

IN HIS MIND HIS BROTHER WAS INTENTIONALLY TRYING TO ONE UP HIM.

THIS SHOWS US THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO MEN'S HEARTS...

ABEL DIDN'T BRING THE FIRST BORN OF HIS FLOCK TO GOD TO TRY TO SHOW HIS BROTHER UP...

IN FACT, HIS BROTHER WASN'T EVEN ON HIS MIND WHEN HE BROUGHT HIS OFFERING.

HE WAS SOLELY FOCUSED ON GOD.

SHOWING HIS LOVE FOR THE LORD BY BRINGING THE BEST HE HAD.

CAIN ON THE OTHER HAND WASN'T THINKING ABOUT GOD AT ALL, HE WAS THINKING ABOUT HIMSELF.

IT'S AS IF HE HAD MORE IMPORTANT THINGS ON HIS MIND.

AND IT'S ALMOST AS IF IN HIS MIND ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS BRING A BETTER OFFERING THAN HIS BROTHER AND GOD WOULD BE HAPPY WITH THAT.

SOME SCHOLARS BELIEVE IT'S BECAUSE HE BROUGHT PRODUCE INSTEAD OF AN ANIMAL SACRIFICE.

GOD HAD ALREADY IMPLEMENTED THE ANIMAL SACRIFICE TO ATONE FOR SINS.

ADAM WOULD'VE TAUGHT HIS SONS THIS.

BUT ULTIMATELY, IT'S A MOOT POINT BECAUSE EVEN IF HE HAD BROUGHT AN ANIMAL SACRIFICE HIS HEART STILL WASN'T IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

THROUGHOUT TONIGHT WE WILL SEE CAINS HEART AND HOW HE CONTINUES TO REJECT THE LORD.

IT'S NOT JUST CAIN THOUGH.

EVERY NON-BELIEVER IS GUILTY OF HAVING THIS SAME TYPE OF HEART.

PROUD, JEALOUS, SELFISH, SPITEFUL, VENGEFUL, HATEFUL AND UN-REPENTANT.

CAIN WILL PAINT A PICTURE WITH HIS BEHAVIOR THAT WILL BE A LOOK INTO THE LIVES AND HEARTS OF EVERY LOST PERSON THAT LIVED AFTER HIM.

CAIN WOULD BE THE FIRST TO BRING AN OFFERING THAT WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO GOD BUT HE WOULDN'T BE THE LAST...

JEREMIAH 6:19,20

HEAR, O EARTH!

***BEHOLD, I WILL CERTAINLY BRING CALAMITY ON THIS PEOPLE—
THE FRUIT OF THEIR THOUGHTS,
BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT HEDED MY WORDS
NOR MY LAW, BUT REJECTED IT.***

²⁰ FOR WHAT PURPOSE TO ME

***COMES FRANKINCENSE FROM SHEBA,
AND SWEET CANE FROM A FAR COUNTRY?
YOUR BURNT OFFERINGS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE,
NOR YOUR SACRIFICES SWEET TO ME.”***

IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE HEART.

GODS PEOPLE WOULD REJECT HIS WORDS AND HIS LAW MANY TIMES OVER.

AND ULTIMATELY THEY WOULD REJECT HIS SON, THEIR MESSIAH.

1ST SAMUEL 15:22,23

2 SO SAMUEL SAID:

“HAS THE LORD *AS GREAT* DELIGHT IN BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES,

AS IN OBEYING THE VOICE OF THE LORD?

BEHOLD, TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE,

***AND* TO HEED THAN THE FAT OF RAMS.**

23 FOR REBELLION *IS AS* THE SIN OF  WITCHCRAFT,

AND STUBBORNNESS *IS AS* INIQUITY AND IDOLATRY.

BECAUSE YOU HAVE REJECTED THE WORD OF THE LORD,

HE ALSO HAS REJECTED YOU FROM *BEING* KING.”

THIS STORY HAD HUGE IMPACT ON ME.

THIS IS THE STORY THAT HELPED ME TO SEE THAT GOD WAS CALLING ME TO BE A PASTOR.

SOMETIMES OUR REBELLION DOESN'T EVEN SEEM LIKE REBELLION UNTIL WE TAKE A STEP BACK AND REALLY LOOK AT THE SITUATION.

GENESIS 4:6

6 SO THE LORD SAID TO CAIN, “WHY ARE YOU ANGRY? AND WHY HAS YOUR COUNTENANCE FALLEN?

IT'S IMPORTANT WE REMEMBER THAT ANY TIME GOD ASKS A QUESTION IT'S NOT BECAUSE HE DOESN'T KNOW THE ANSWER.

OFTEN, HE IS GIVING THE PERSON IN QUESTION AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONFESS, WHICH IF THEIR HEART IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE WOULD LEAD TO REPENTANCE.

CAINS ANGER WASN'T KNOWN TO GOD JUST BECAUSE GOD IS ALL KNOWING.

IT WOULD'VE BEEN OBVIOUS TO ANYONE PRESENT, AND WE KNOW THAT BY THE WAY SCRIPTURE DESCRIBES HIS ANGER.

HIS BODY LANGUAGE AND ATTITUDE SAID IT ALL.

THERE WAS HOSTILITY IN HIS ANGER, HOSTILITY TOWARDS GOD THAT WOULD ULTIMATELY RESULT IN HIM TAKING HIS BROTHER'S LIFE.

AND THERE IS NO RESPONSE FROM CAIN RECORDED.

GOD ASKS THE QUESTION AND ITS ALMOST AS IF CAIN JUST IGNORES HIM.

DON'T MISTAKE HIS ATTITUDE AS GUILT BECAUSE IT'S NOT.

HE'S EXHIBITING A PRIDEFUL SELF-RIGHTEOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE LORD.

WHO WAS STILL VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF HIS CREATION.

THIS GENERATION EXPERIENCED A MUCH DIFFERENT ACCESSIBILITY TO GOD THAN WE DO.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO HIM AND IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE DOESN'T COMMUNICATE WITH US.

WE HAVE ACCESS TO GOD ALMIGHTY THROUGH PRAYER AND HIS WORD.

HE COMMUNICATES TO US THROUGH HIS WORD AND FELLOW BELIEVERS.

JUST BECAUSE HE DOESN'T COME PHYSICALLY WALK WITH US IN THE COOL OF THE DAY DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE'S NOT ACTIVE IN OUR LIVES, OR THAT HE'S NOT ACCESSIBLE.

GENESIS 4:7

7 IF YOU DO WELL, WILL YOU NOT BE ACCEPTED? AND IF YOU DO NOT DO WELL, SIN LIES AT THE DOOR. AND ITS DESIRE IS [L](#) FOR YOU, BUT YOU SHOULD RULE OVER IT."

NOW IN THE FIRST PART OF THIS GOD IS NOT PROMOTING WORKS.

IT HAS NEVER BEEN ABOUT WORKS; IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT OBEDIENCE.

PSALM 81:15

THE HATERS OF THE LORD WOULD PRETEND SUBMISSION TO HIM, BUT THEIR FATE WOULD ENDURE FOREVER.

CAIN PRETENDED TO BE OBEDIENT, HE ACTED AS IF HE WAS SUBMITTING TO THE LORD BUT GOD KNEW THE TRUTH...

JUST LIKE HE STILL DOES.

GOD KNOWS OUR HEARTS; WE CAN COME TO CHURCH AND SING ALL THE SONGS AND FOLLOWING ALONG IN OUR BIBLE.

WE CAN RAISE OUR HANDS IN PRAISE, WE CAN USE ALL THE CHURCH LINGO.

WE CAN MEMORIZE AND QUOTE SCRIPTURE, BUT NONE OF THINGS CAN SAVE US.

IF OUR MOTIVATION IS ANYTHING OTHER THAN TO GLORIFY GOD HE KNOWS.

THE PHRASE “KNOWING THEIR THOUGHTS” IS USED 46 TIMES IN SCRIPTURE.

THE PHRASE “KNOWING THEIR HEARTS” IS USED 76 TIMES...

GOD KNOWS OUR HEARTS, JESUS KNOWS OUR HEARTS, HOLY SPIRIT KNOWS OUR HEARTS.

GENESIS 4:7

⁷ IF YOU DO WELL, WILL YOU NOT BE ACCEPTED? AND IF YOU DO NOT DO WELL, SIN LIES AT THE DOOR. AND ITS DESIRE IS ^[d]FOR YOU, BUT YOU SHOULD RULE OVER IT.

GOD IN ALL HIS GRACE AND MERCY IS OFFERING CAIN A SOLUTION, BUT HE IS ALSO WARNING HIM WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF HE FAILS TO TAKE CONTROL OF HIS SIN.

IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT THE LORD USES THE SAME WORDING AS HE USED WITH EVE.

“YOUR DESIRE WILL BE FOR YOUR HUSBAND, BUT HE SHALL RULE OVER YOU”

IN BOTH CASES THE LORD IS WARNING THEM AGAINST THEIR OWN SELFISH DESIRES.

HE TELLS CAIN HE SHOULD RULE OVER THE SIN, BUT IN ORDER TO DO THAT HE MUST FIRST ADMIT HE HAS SINNED WHICH HE IS UNWILLING TO DO.

1ST PETER 5:8

BE OF SOBER SPIRIT, BE WATCHFUL. YOUR ADVERSARY, THE DEVIL, PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION, SEEKING SOMEONE TO DEVOUR.

THE GREEK WORD FOR DEVOUR IS (KATAPIEIN), IT MEANS TO SWALLOW UP OR CONSUME.

THE ENEMY OF YOUR SOUL DESIRES TO CONSUME YOU WITH SIN.

IF YOU'RE LIVING IN SIN, YOU'VE MADE HIS JOB A LOT EASIER, ALL HE HAS TO DO IS SIT BACK AND WATCH YOU DESTROY YOURSELF.

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO CAIN.

HIS SIN OF JEALOUSY AND PRIDE WILL CONSUME HIM.

IT WILL DEVOUR HIM.

HE WILL FALL VICTIM TO IT BECAUSE HE DOES NOT HEED THE WARNING FROM THE LORD.

HE DOESN'T RULE OVER HIS SIN, HE EMBRACES IT, HE NURTURES IT, HE HOLDS ON TO IT FOR DEAR LIFE.

THIS VERSE TELLS US THAT WE SHOULD RULE OVER OUR SIN.

SO HOW DO WE DO THAT?

CAN WE RULE OVER OUR SIN APART FROM GOD?

NO WE CANNOT.

THE ONLY WAY WE CAN RULE OVER OUR SIN IS THROUGH THE LORD.

WE CAN DRAW FROM THE WISDOM HE PROMISES US, WE CAN DRAW FROM THE STRENGTH HE PROMISES US.

JAMES 4:7

THEREFORE, SUBMIT TO GOD. RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU.

WHAT IS THE FIRST SENTENCE IN THIS VERSE?

“THEREFORE, SUBMIT TO GOD.”

WE CANNOT RESIST TEMPTATION ON OUR OWN.

IT ALWAYS STARTS WITH SUBMISSION TO THE LORD.

IF WE SUBMIT TO THE LORD, HE WILL PROVIDE US THE STRENGTH WE NEED TO RESIST THE ENEMY WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY RESULT IN HIM FLEEING FROM YOU.

CAIN WAS UNWILLING TO SUBMIT HIMSELF TO THE LORD AND THE RESULTS WOULD BE EVERLASTING.

HE WOULD BE DEVoured BY SATAN.

HE WOULD BE THE FIRST LOST PERSON.

HE WOULD BE THE FIRST MURDERER.

GENESIS 4:8

NOW CAIN ^[E]TALKED WITH ABEL HIS ^[E]BROTHER; AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN THEY WERE IN THE FIELD, THAT CAIN ROSE UP AGAINST ABEL HIS BROTHER AND KILLED HIM.

ENVY AND HATE ARE UGLY THINGS.

CAIN HATED HIS BROTHER BECAUSE HE HAD PLEASED GOD.

THIS IS COMMON AMONG ALL NONBELIEVERS.

THEY DISLIKE CHRISTIANS BECAUSE OF HOW IT MAKES THEM FEEL ABOUT THEMSELVES.

IT'S NOT ABOUT ABLE JUST LIKE WHEN PEOPLE DISLIKE US IT'S NOT ABOUT US.

IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO THE FACT THAT LIGHT EXPOSES DARKNESS.

SINFUL LOST PEOPLE HATE THE RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE OF HOW IT MAKES THEM FEEL.

AND THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOW TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS MAKES PEOPLE FEEL VS. SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.

THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR...

IF YOU ARE SELF-RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE WILL DISLIKE YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE HYPOCRITICAL AND THEY CAN CLEARLY SEE YOU ARE A LIAR.

BUT IF YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS IN CHRIST, THEY WILL DISLIKE YOU BECAUSE YOU EXPOSE THEIR INNER DARKNESS.

THAT'S WHY CAIN HATED HIS BROTHER.

1ST JOHN 5:10-15

10 IN THIS THE CHILDREN OF GOD AND THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL ARE MANIFEST: WHOEVER DOES NOT PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS IS NOT OF GOD, NOR IS HE WHO DOES NOT LOVE HIS BROTHER. 11 FOR THIS IS THE MESSAGE THAT YOU HEARD FROM THE BEGINNING, THAT WE SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER, 12 NOT AS CAIN WHO WAS OF THE WICKED ONE AND MURDERED HIS BROTHER. AND WHY DID HE MURDER HIM? BECAUSE HIS WORKS WERE EVIL AND HIS BROTHER'S RIGHTEOUS.

13 DO NOT MARVEL, MY BRETHREN, IF THE WORLD HATES YOU. 14 WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH TO LIFE,

BECAUSE WE LOVE THE BRETHREN. HE WHO DOES NOT LOVE ^[c]HIS BROTHER ABIDES IN DEATH. ¹⁵ WHOEVER HATES HIS BROTHER IS A MURDERER, AND YOU KNOW THAT NO MURDERER HAS ETERNAL LIFE ABIDING IN HIM.

I LOVE WHEN WE GET EXPLANATIONS FROM GOD HIMSELF.

I DON'T NEED TO DISSECT GENESIS 4:8 BECAUSE THE LORD DID IT FOR US.

VERSE 15 IS REMINISCENT OF WHAT JESUS SAYS IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

WE CAN CLEARLY SEE IT ALWAYS GOES BACK TO THE HEART.

THE CONDITION OF OUR HEART DETERMINES EVERYTHING WE DO, IT DETERMINES EVERYTHING ABOUT US.

CAIN REJECTED THE WISDOM OF THE LORD, HE REFUSED TO REPENT AND THE SIN THAT WAS CROUCHING AT THE DOOR DEVoured HIM.

THIS IS WARNING TO ALL OF US, WE MUST RULE OVER THE SIN IN OUR LIFE.

CAIN'S SIN WILL CONTINUE TO RULE OVER HIM AS WE SEE IN THE NEXT VERSE.

GENESIS 4:9

⁹ THEN THE LORD SAID TO CAIN, "WHERE IS ABEL YOUR BROTHER?"

HE SAID, "I DO NOT KNOW. AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?"

AGAIN, WE THE LORD ASKING A QUESTION HE ALREADY KNOWS THE ANSWER TO.

HE'S GIVING CAIN AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONFESS AND REPENT.

BUT WHAT DOES CAIN DO?

HE CONTINUES IN HIS SIN BY LYING AND THEN HE SARCASTICALLY MOCKS GOD.

CAIN SAYS "I DO NOT KNOW"

HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHERE HIS BROTHER IS.

HE'S IN THE GROUND WHERE HE BURIED HIM.

HIS RESPONSE DRIPPING WITH SARCASM...

"AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER"...

THIS PLAY ON WORDS IS A REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT ABEL WAS A "KEEPER OF SHEEP"

CAIN IS BEING DEVoured BY HIS SIN.

HIS LIE IS HIS THIRD SIN IN THIS STRING OF EVENTS.

HE STARTS WITH HALFHEARTED WORSHIP; HE THEN ALLOWS HIS ANGER TO CONSUME HIM WHICH RESULTS IN THE SIN OF MURDERING HIS BROTHER AND NOW HE IS LYING TO GOD TO TRY TO COVER IT UP.

THIS IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF FALLEN MANKIND.

SIN HAS A SNOWBALL EFFECT.

ONE SIN LEADS TO ANOTHER UNTIL IT CONSUMES EVERY PART OF YOUR LIFE.

AS CHRISTIANS WE MUST NOT ONLY BE AWARE OF THE SIN IN OUR LIFE BUT WE MUST BE WAGING WAR AGAINST IT DAILY.

BECAUSE AS SOON AS WE THINK WE'VE OVERCOME IT THAT'S WHEN IT CREEPS BACK IN AND DESTROYS YOU.

OUR DOWNFALL IS OFTEN WHEN WE GET COMFORTABLE OR CONFIDENT IN OUR OWN ABILITY TO RESIST TEMPTATION AND WE STOP RELYING ON THE STRENGTH THE LORD PROVIDES US.

PAUL WRITES IN ROMANS 1

ROMANS 1:28-32

28 AND EVEN AS THEY DID NOT LIKE TO RETAIN GOD IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE, GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A DEBASED MIND, TO DO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT FITTING; 29 BEING FILLED WITH ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, [L]SEXUAL IMMORALITY, WICKEDNESS, [M]COVETOUSNESS, [N]MALICIOUSNESS; FULL OF ENVY, MURDER, STRIFE, DECEIT, EVIL-MINDEDNESS; THEY ARE WHISPERERS, 30 BACKBITERS, HATERS OF GOD, VIOLENT, PROUD, BOASTERS, INVENTORS OF EVIL THINGS, DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS, 31 [O]UNDISCERNING, UNTRUSTWORTHY, UNLOVING, [P]UNFORGIVING, UNMERCIFUL; 32 WHO, KNOWING THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD, THAT THOSE WHO PRACTICE SUCH THINGS ARE DESERVING OF DEATH, NOT ONLY DO THE SAME BUT ALSO APPROVE OF THOSE WHO PRACTICE THEM.

GENESIS 4:10

10 AND HE SAID, "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? THE VOICE OF YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD CRIES OUT TO ME FROM THE GROUND.

AGAIN, GOD KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION.

HE KNOWS CAIN HAD KILLED HIS BROTHER AND HID HIS BODY.

GERHARD VON RAD WRITES "ACCORDING TO THE OLD TESTAMENT VIEW BLOOD AND LIFE BELONG TO GOD ALONE.

WHATEVER A MAN COMMITS MURDER HE ATTACKS GODS VERY OWN WRITE OF POSSESSION.

TO DESTROY LIFE GOES FAR BEYOND MAN'S PROPER SPHERE.

SPILLED BLOOD CANNOT BE SHOVELED UNDERGROUND, IT CRIES ALOUD AND COMPLAINS DIRECTLY TO THE LORD OF LIFE"

GENESIS 4:11,12

11 SO NOW YOU ARE CURSED FROM THE EARTH, WHICH HAS OPENED ITS MOUTH TO RECEIVE YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD FROM YOUR HAND. 12 WHEN YOU TILL THE GROUND, IT SHALL NO

LONGER YIELD ITS STRENGTH TO YOU. A FUGITIVE AND A VAGABOND YOU SHALL BE ON THE EARTH.”

NOTICE HOW THE LORD GOES STRAIGHT FROM ASKING THE QUESTION TO ADMINISTERING JUDGEMENT.

NO PAUSE FOR A REBUTTAL FROM CAIN, THE TIME FOR HIM TO CONFESS HAD PASSED.

WHAT USED TO BRING CAIN GREAT JOY WOULD NOW BE SOURCE OF EXTREME GRIEF.

THE FACT THAT CAIN USED THE VERY GROUND THAT THE LORD BLESSED HIM WITH AND THAT THE LORD FED HIM WITH TO TRY TO HIDE HIS DESPICABLE SIN SHOWS JUST HOW HARD HIS HEART WAS.

BUT THAT SAME GROUND WOULD NO LONGER BE A SOURCE OF JOY AND BOUNTIFUL HARVEST FOR HIM.
CAIN WOULD LIVE THE REST OF HIS LIFE WANDERING THE EARTH.

THIS ISN'T LIKE A NOMADIC PERSON THAT MOVED FROM PLACE TO PLACE THIS IS MORE AKIN TO A HOMELESS BEGGAR.

HIS SIN WOULD NOT ONLY SEPARATE HIM FROM THE LAND HE LOVED BUT ALSO HIS FAMILY.

GENESIS 4:13

¹³ AND CAIN SAID TO THE LORD, “MY ^[G]PUNISHMENT IS GREATER THAN I CAN BEAR!

HERE'S WHAT I HEAR... “THAT'S NOT FAIR GOD”

THERE'S NO REMORSE FOR WHAT HE'S DONE, NO CONCERN FOR THE GRIEF HE HAS CAUSED HIS PARENTS.

CAIN CONTINUES TO SHOW HIS TRUE COLORS, HE CONTINUES AS HE HAS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS CHAPTER TO BE SELFISH, ONLY CONCERNED WITH HIS PUNISHMENT AND NO REGARD FOR THOSE HE HAS HURT.

AGAIN, WE HAVE A PERFECT PICTURE OF THE UNREGENERATE HEART.

THIS IS HOW LOST PEOPLE SEE LIFE, THROUGH THE LENS OF HOW DOES THIS SITUATION AFFECT ME.

“DOESN’T MATTER WHAT I MAY HAVE DONE WHAT MATTERS IS MY HAPPINESS, MY PROSPERITY.”

“FORGET EVERYONE ELSE, WHO CARES”

“I CAN’T BELIEVE THEY FIRED ME; ALL I DID WAS EMBEZZLE MONEY THAT SHOULD’VE BEEN MINE ANYWAYS.”

THERE IS NO ROOM IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN FOR SELFISH SELF-SERVING PEOPLE.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3

LET NOTHING BE DONE THROUGH SELFISH AMBITION OR CONCEIT, BUT IN LOWLINESS OF MIND LET EACH ESTEEM OTHERS BETTER THAN HIMSELF.

THIS IS THE ATTITUDE WE MUST HAVE, WE MUST CARE MORE ABOUT OTHERS THAN WE DO OURSELVES.

THE FIRST SHALL BE LAST AND THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST.

THESE AREN’T SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR LORD, THESE ARE BEHAVIORS THAT YOU WILL EXHIBIT IF YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD.

IN THIS WE MUST BE CAREFUL THOUGH, WE CAN’T MAKE THIS BEHAVIOR OUR FOCUS.

THAT WILL LEAD TO PRIDE AND SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.

IF WE ARE FOCUSED ON LIVING BY THESE WORDS, WE HAVE BECOME LEGALISTIC.

WE HAVE BECOME RELIGIOUS.

OUR FOCUS MUST BE ON CHRIST, AND IF HE IS THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES THESE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS WILL BE THE FRUIT WE BEAR.

OUR LOVE FOR JESUS AND ONE ANOTHER WILL SET US APART FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.

WE HAVE TO BE IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF THE WORLD.

GENESIS 4:14

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."

AGAIN, WE SEE A MAN CONCERNED ONLY WITH HIMSELF.

WHAT CAIN DESERVED WAS DEATH,

LEVITICUS 24:17

'WHOEVER KILLS ANY MAN SHALL SURELY BE PUT TO DEATH.

I BELIEVE THERE ARE MULTIPLE REASONS GOD SPARED CAIN.

ONE BEING HIS GRACE, ANOTHER BEING TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF CAIN.

THERE WOULD BE A LIVING BREATHING DETERRENT TO THOSE THAT THOUGHT ABOUT DOING THE THINGS CAIN HAD DONE.

STILL NO REMORSE FROM CAIN, HE'S STILL ONLY WORRIED ABOUT HIMSELF.

HIS COMMENT ALSO TELLS US THAT BY THIS TIME THE POPULATION ON THE EARTH HAD BEGUN TO GROW, OTHERWISE HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE KILLING HIM.

GENESIS 4:15

15 AND THE LORD SAID TO HIM, ^[H]“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.

ALTHOUGH CAIN WOULD BE BANISHED FORM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD HE WOULD STILL BE PROTECTED BY THE LORD.

WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE SIGN WAS BUT THE VERY MARK THAT WOULD PROTECT HIM WOULD ALSO BE THE MARK THAT BROUGHT HIM GREAT SHAME.

I THINK AS WE END TONIGHT, WE NEED ASK OURSELVES...

HOW DO I REACT TO GODS DISCIPLINE?

DO I TRY TO MINIMIZE OR JUSTIFY MY SIN?

AM I OPEN TO CORRECTION FROM THE LORD?

IS MY WORSHIP ACCEPTABLE TO GOD?

AS PASTOR BO SAID LAST WEEK HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES IS OUR WORSHIP.

SO ARE WE FULLY DEVOTED AND COMMITTED TO THE LORD AND WHAT HE’S CALLING US TO DO OR ARE WE POSSIBLY RIDING THE FENCE A LITTLE...

THERE WAS A MAN. AND THIS MAN STOOD IN A FIELD OF GREEN, GREEN GRASS. BEAUTIFUL LIGHT FROM THE SUN POURED DOWN ACROSS THE GRASS. IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIELD THERE SAT A FENCE, DIVIDING THE FIELD IN HALF. ON ONE SIDE, STOOD SATAN. ON THE OTHER, GOD.

‘IF YOU COME TO MY SIDE OF THE FENCE,’ SAID SATAN. ‘I’LL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANT. IF YOU CHOOSE ME, EVERYTHING YOU HAVE EVER DESIRED WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. BUT IF YOU CHOOSE *HIM*, YOU WILL GET NONE OF WHAT I OFFER YOU.’

THE MAN LOOKED AT GOD AND THOUGHT TO HIMSELF, *HOW MUCH WOULD I LIKE TO CHOOSE HIM, BECAUSE HE'S GOD. BUT...EVERYTHING I HAVE EVER WANTED; IT ALL LIES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE.*

SO, THE MAN WALKED OVER TO THE FENCE, PULLED HIMSELF UP, AND MADE HIMSELF COMFORTABLE. HE SAT THERE, MOCKING BOTH SATAN AND GOD. 'I DON'T CHOOSE ANY OF YOU!' HE SAID. THE MAN SAT THERE FOR A WHILE, REFUSING TO LOOK AT EITHER SIDE OF THE FENCE, HIS EYES REMAINING NARROWLY AHEAD.

AFTER SOME TIME, THE MAN FELL. THE FIELD WAS GONE, AND SO WAS THE SUN. HE FELL, AND HE FELL, AND EVERYTHING GOT DARKER AND DARKER. HE LANDED ON ROCKY GROUND, SURROUNDED BY COLD, SCARY, DARKNESS. A HOT HAND GRIPPED HIS SHOULDER. IT WAS SATAN, SMILING. 'WHAT!' THE MAN EXCLAIMED. 'WHY AM I IN HELL? I DIDN'T CHOOSE YOU! I CHOSE THE FENCE!'

SATAN LEANED CLOSER, HIS HOT BREATH WHISPERING INTO HIS EAR. 'THE FENCE BELONGS TO ME.' THE MAN'S FACE WENT WHITE. 'AND NOW...SO DO YOU.'

THERE IS NO ROOM FOR FENCE RIDING.

HOW WE LIVE OUR LIFE MATTERS, SO ARE WE GOING TO WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH.

OR ARE WE GOING TO BRING THE HALFHEARTED WORSHIP LIKE CAIN?

GOD DICTATES WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE AS WORSHIP.

BUT ONLY YOU CAN DECIDE HOW YOU WILL WORSHIP....

