

February 5<sup>th</sup>

## WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE FROM MEN?

*"In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell."* GENESIS 4:3-5

**D**o you remember your last job interview? Think back to that time when you sat in front of the interviewer and they asked you questions. What was that experience like for you? Why did you apply for the job? What were the qualifications and responsibilities that were listed for the job? Can you imagine going in for an interview without knowing what the job was or what the employer was looking for? It would be a recipe for disaster! As the old saying goes...aim for nothing and you'll hit it every time.

What does God expect from you? What can you do or think that would please your Master? Cain and Abel's story gives us a hint. When I first learned this story, I thought that Cain's offering was rejected because he didn't kill anything like Abel did. But look deeper. What was said about Abel's sacrifice that wasn't said about Cain's? They both bring an offering. But Abel's includes the firstborn and the fat portions. This act shows that Abel brings the best, while Cain doesn't bring the best. Cain's response to God's rejection is a dead giveaway that his heart wasn't focused on giving God his worship. Instead, he is angry, and his anger causes him to kill his brother in a rage.

Men, you've been given an opportunity to take Cain and Abel as a tool to see God's will. The gifts that we offer to God look different...God calls me to open the Bible and teach it, but I can barely change a lightbulb without looking at the instructions. God has gifted you differently than me. But God requires the same thing from all us men...our whole hearts. We must offer God everything, rather than second choice leftovers. Do you know what the great news is about this? All of us as men are able to give God our best!

You may be encouraged or discouraged by this news from Cain and Abel. You may feel like you've failed too much and that you're disqualified by your sin. Even in the ugly sin of Cain we see that God still gives us grace. Cain feels the anger and condemnation and claims that someone will kill him. But God. God places a mark of protection on Cain where he will survive. Not because of any change of heart from Cain. Sadly, we don't see any repentance from him. But God still gives protection. God doesn't just give Cain protection; he saves you by sending a substitute that did follow God's complete commands...His name is Jesus!

***Take this moment to ask God to help you give Him your best every day.***

**For Further Reading: Genesis 4:1-16**