



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The Revealing Heart

Passage: Genesis 4:3-15

Speaker: Bro. Keith Roberts

Introduction: Have you ever looked at a picture where two people are smiling—only to find out later that one of them was hiding something awful behind that smile? It's a reminder that appearances can be deceiving. People can fake a moment, but over time, actions will always tell the truth. In Genesis 4, we meet two brothers—Cain and Abel. Both showed up to worship. Both brought an offering. Both may have looked sincere. But only one was accepted by God. Why? Tonight, we'll explore how this story doesn't just uncover the hearts of Cain and Abel—but also shines a light on the revealing heart within us. What does God see when He looks past our habits, our words, even our best intentions?

I. The Heart Behind the Worship (Verses 3-5)

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." (Hebrews 11:4)

Abel's offering was accepted by God because it was done in faith, while Cain's offering was rejected by God because it had no sincerity.

Real and true worship is not just about external actions, but about the heart and faith behind it.



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When our worship is empty, and our hearts are full of sin, our worship accomplishes nothing, and it will cause us to become bitter if that sin is not checked.

II. Danger Ahead!!! Unchecked Jealousy and Anger (Verses 6-7)

We will never fall into sin and make choices that will destroy our lives without warning from God.

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." (Hebrews 3:12)

Throughout God's Word there are numerous warnings of what happens when we live in a life of sin, and when we choose to walk away from God.

Just like God told Cain, if your heart is in a place of unbelief, check your sin. Get rid of it. Repent to God, get right, and get your eyes back on Christ.

III. The Consequences of Sin (Verses 9-12)

Our sin will always be found out, and there will be consequences. We are unable to escape accountability.

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

If we are so willing to help with the physical needs of others, we should be that much more willing to help lead them to the Greatest Physician of all, that can heal their spirit and save their soul.

"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous." (1 John 3:11-12)



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“For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.” (Luke 8:17)

Truth will come to light—whether it is the true nature of our faith, our personal actions, hidden truths, or sin.

IV. The Undeserved Mercy of God (Verses 13-15)

God could have justly punished Cain for his actions, but He showed mercy by placing a protective mark on Cain.

God loved us so much, that He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer, and die for our sins—to pay the cost for our sins.

“And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.” (Genesis 4:25-26)

Conclusion: We can fool others by the things we do for God, but God sees the truth—He knows where the heart truly is. He recognizes whether service and worship are flowing from the right place. That is why we must guard our hearts at all costs. Sin can quickly escalate from inward feelings to outward actions, impacting relationships and resulting in separation and judgement from God. Our choices matter. Will we choose faith, responsibility, and humility, or will we let anger and sin control us? Even in failure, God’s mercy is still ready—to protect and restore.



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