

Countenance – Offering Time pt. 1

Countenance – refers to a person’s face or facial expression, serving as a direct reflection of their inner emotions, character, or spiritual state.

- The first time the word countenance is mentioned in the bible, is in the beginning in genesis in the story of Cain and Abel.

(Genesis 4:1-7 nkjv, 3-7nlt)

4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore ^[a]Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord.” ²Then she bore again, this time his brother ^[b]Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³And ^[c]in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. ⁴Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, ⁵but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire ^[d]is for you, but you should rule over it.

(nlt)

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

⁶“Why are you so angry?” the Lord asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? ⁷You 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.”

- Giving an offering to God was establish before the law
- What they offered was from what they production from they occupation
- God knew Cain was angry because his countenance has fallen
- Cain was angry that Abel gift was accepted by God and not his gift and because of that. Cain killed his brother Abel and God cursed him that the ground would no longer yield good crops for him and that he would be a homeless wanderer on the earther

(Genesis 4:8-15 nkjv)

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.

- Cain thought that punishment was too harsh and thought that anyone who finds him will kill him, but God promised and marked him that no one would take vengeance on him and if they kill him, they will suffer 7 times the punishment
- Cain action not only affected him, but it also affected his descendants. Cain was the first person in the bible mention to kill, and the second person mention in the bible to kill is one of Cain descendants name Lamech

(Genesis 4:17-24 nlt)

¹⁷ Cain had sexual relations with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain founded a city, which he named Enoch, after his son. ¹⁸ Enoch had a son named Irad. Irad became the father of^[1] Mehujael. Mehujael became the father of Methushael. Methushael became the father of Lamech.

¹⁹ Lamech married two women. The first was named Adah, and the second was Zillah.²⁰ Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the first of those who raise livestock and live in tents.²¹ His brother's name was Jubal, the first of all who play the harp and flute.²² Lamech's other wife, Zillah, gave birth to a son named Tubal-cain. He became an expert in forging tools of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain had a sister named Naamah. ²³ One day Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
listen to me, you wives of Lamech.
I have killed a man who attacked me,
a young man who wounded me.

²⁴ If someone who kills Cain is punished seven times,
then the one who kills me will be punished seventy-seven times!”

- Cain descendant Lamech was the first one mentioned about polygamy, having multiple wives. Also was the first one mentioned about someone who was being prideful and boastful about killing someone and getting revenge
- God told Cain whoever kills you will be punished 7 times, Lamech took it upon himself to say. Whoever kills him would be punished 77 times. he added 70 to Cains 7
- Even tho Cain committed murder. Vengeance still belongs to the Lord

(Romans 12:17-21 nkjv)

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have^[e] regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore

**“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”**

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

- Remember God told Cain if you did what is right. You would be accepted
- I find it interesting that Lamech from Cain descendants is the 7th generation from Adam

- Cain other brother Seth who was born after Abel death also had a descendant name Lamech and was born 8 generations from Adam and lived 777
- He was also the father of Noah
- In the bible, the number 7 universally symbolizes completeness, perfection and divine order
- Cains descendant Lamech being the 7th generation from Adam and calling vengeance 77 times. Completed a dive order of Gods vengeance
- Seth Descendant Lamech lived 777 years. completed a divine order of Gods judgment and being the 8th generation from Adam. 8 meaning new beginnings, resurrection and a fresh start was the father of Noah. who was the only one, with his family to survive the flood that God restarted the world with
- Remember Cain became angry because his offering wasn't accepted by God, that he murdered his brother because of it
- Remember God told Cain be careful because sin is crouching at the door ready to control you
- Cain worked the fields, so he knew about plants, trees, and fruit
- Remember It was fruit that he offered to God
- Cain is also the first born of the flesh and the first to act on the sinful nature the first to commit evil after the fall resulting in murder
- I believe it no coincidence that the root of all kinds of evil is the love of money because it was during offering time that evil first made an introduction

(1 Timothy 6:6-10 nlt)

⁶Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. ⁷After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. ⁸So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

⁹But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

- Everything belongs to the Lord, you are just a steward of it. Are you managing what God is giving well and that includes your finances
- Jesus himself said you cannot serve two masters, you cannot serve God and be enslaved to money

(Luke 16:1-15 nlt)

16 Jesus told this story to his disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer’s money. ² So the employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.’

³ “The manager thought to himself, ‘Now what? My boss has fired me. I don’t have the strength to dig ditches, and I’m too proud to beg. ⁴ Ah, I know how to ensure that I’ll have plenty of friends who will give me a home when I am fired.’

⁵ “So he invited each person who owed money to his employer to come and discuss the situation. He asked the first one, ‘How much do you owe him?’ ⁶ The man replied, ‘I owe him 800 gallons of olive oil.’ So the manager told him, ‘Take the bill and quickly change it to 400 gallons.’^[a]

⁷ ““And how much do you owe my employer?’ he asked the next man. ‘I owe him 1,000 bushels of wheat,’ was the reply. ‘Here,’ the manager said, ‘take the bill and change it to 800 bushels.’^[b]

⁸ “The rich man had to admire the dishonest rascal for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. ⁹ Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends.

Then, when your possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.^[c]

¹⁰ “If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. ¹¹ And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? ¹² And if you are not faithful with other people’s things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?”

¹³ “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

¹⁴ The Pharisees, who dearly loved their money, heard all this and scoffed at him. ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God.

- When peter asked how many times we should forgive those who sin against us. He suggested 7 times
- But Jesus replied up to 70 times 7
- Its also no coincidence that Jesus is sharing a parable about money to teach a lesson about forgiveness

(Matthew 18:21-35 nlt)

²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone^[i] who sins against me? Seven times?”

²² “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!^[i]”

²³ “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴ In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.^[k] ²⁵ He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.

²⁶ “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ ²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

²⁸ “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars.^[l] He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

³¹ “When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³² Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

³⁵ “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters^[m] from your heart.”

- Jesus is saying to forgive 70x7 per day
- I find it interesting that Moses prayer in psalms 90, numbers the days of life to 70 years

(Psalms 90:1-17 nkjv)

Lord, You have been our ^[a]dwelling place in all generations.² Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You ^[b]had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You *are* God.³ You turn man to destruction, And say, “Return, O children of men.”⁴ For a thousand years in Your sight *Are* like yesterday when it is past, And *like* a watch in the night.⁵ You carry them away *like* a flood; *They are* like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass *which* grows up:⁶ In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers.⁷ For we have been consumed by Your anger, And by Your wrath we are terrified.

⁸You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret *sins* in the light of Your countenance.⁹ For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh.¹⁰ The days of our lives *are* seventy years; And if by reason of strength *they are* eighty years, Yet their boast *is* only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.¹¹ Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so *is* Your wrath.¹² So teach *us* to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.¹³ Return, O Lord! How long? And have compassion on Your servants.¹⁴ Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days!¹⁵ Make us glad according to the days *in which* You have afflicted us, The years *in which* we have seen evil.¹⁶ Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children.¹⁷ And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

- There is complete forgiveness everyday of your life