

Series: JD Notes

Sermon: Oh Brother, This Is Getting Bad

Genesis 4:1-10

4 Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, “With the Lord’s help, I have produced a man!” 2 Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel.

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. 3 When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, 5 but 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? 7 You 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.”

8 One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.

9 Afterward the Lord asked Cain, “Where is your brother? Where is Abel?”

“I don’t know,” Cain responded. “Am I my brother’s guardian?”

10 But the Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground!

AN OFFERING REJECTED

One has given a calculated offering that costs him little; the other an abandoned offering filled with risks.

One gives an offering representing WORKS; the other an offering representing faith!

Hebrews 11:4 It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith.

A Warning IGNORED

Look what God is saying:

Sin is not just an act we do but SIN is a living being looking for an opportunity to seize us!

Sin is not just an act; it is a presence!

A VOICE CRIES

God's dilemma: He is a God of grace, but He is also a God of justice. He wants to show grace, but Abel's blood rightfully demands JUSTICE!

Not just God's dilemma with Cain; God's dilemma with ALL of MANKIND!

HOW WILL GOD RECONCILE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN GRACE & JUSTICE?

Hebrews 12: 24 You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.