

## Sermon Guide and Discussion Questions

### Crouching at the Door – Genesis 4:1-16

#### Sermon Outline

1. Introduction – illustration of Erk Russell
2. Understanding the Passage
3. Understanding Sin
  - a. How Sin Works
  - b. How We Must Respond to Sin
4. Conclusion – the blood of Jesus speaks a better word than the blood of Abel

#### Scripture Passages Referenced

- Genesis 1:27 - Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth...
- Leviticus 2:14 - If you offer a grain offering of firstfruits to the LORD, you shall offer for the grain offering of your firstfruits fresh ears, roasted with fire, crushed new grain.
- Hebrews 11:4 - By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.
- Psalm 51:16-17 - For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- Matthew 15:8 - This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me...
- 1 Corinthians 10:11 - Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.
- 1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- 2 Samuel 11 – David's sin with Bathsheba
- 2 Corinthians 7:10 - For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.
- Hebrew 12:24 - ... to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
- 1 John 1:7 - the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

#### Discussion Questions

- What comes to mind when you first think about the story of Cain and Abel?
- How does 1 Corinthians 10:11 help us know why this passage is in the Bible?
- In what ways are you tempted to think that you would never do anything like Cain?
- How does that show a lack of understanding of the depth of the sinfulness of your heart?
- Where does sin seem to have a hold on your heart and life?
- What can you learn from the fact that sin is a matter of theology and not just action?
- How does Moses' personification of sin as a creature crouching at the door help you see the seriousness of sin as well as its danger?
- Why is it crucial for us to remember that no sin is hidden in the sight of God?
- In what ways have you seen sin become a downward spiral in your life?
- How does the fact that sin leads us away from the presence of the Lord and ultimately to death challenge us to be on guard and fight against it?
- What is genuine repentance?
- Where is there evidence of repentance in your own heart and life?
- How does the blood of Jesus speak a better word than the blood of Abel?
- How does this passage and sermon help you here at the beginning of Holy Week?