

CREW LIFE STUDIES

REAL TRUTH FOR A REAL WORLD

LESSON 4

RELIGION OF CAIN

WORSHIP — MY WAY OR GOD'S WAY?



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WORSHIP — MY WAY OR GOD'S WAY?

**CONCEPTS:**

1. THE BURGER KING WAY
2. MURDER HE WROTE & THE WORTHLESS SACRIFICE
3. GOD'S WAY IS ALWAYS THE BEST WAY

1. THE BURGER KING WAY

GENESIS 4:1–4



Cain believed in God.
He talked to God.
He even worshipped God.

But Cain insisted that his worship be done his way, on his own terms.



THE RELIGION OF CAIN:
*"I will worship God—
but I will worship Him my way."*

- I decide what I will offer.
- I decide what God should accept.
- I wear the crown.

3. GOD'S WAY IS ALWAYS THE BEST WAY

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.



The word of God in fact shows us through the story of Cain and Able, that the choices we make can have a direct effect for the path of our lives, as well as the lives of others.

Feelings like,

- Jealousy
- Remorse
- Arrogance
- Hatred
- Murder

Know that God has order and the study of His Word helps us fall in line with what He desires for our lives.

NOTES:

1. THE BURGER KING WAY

CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4:1-2

1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

- Cain and Abel were the first children born into the human race.
- Cain worked the ground. Abel tended sheep.
- Both brought an offering to the LORD (Genesis 4:3-4).
- Cain believed in God, he talked to God, and even worshipped God.
- This was not Cain's first time to offer sacrifices in worship to God.
- He knew the correct way to sacrifice unto the Lord. He knew what God required of him.
- But Cain decided, "I want it my way."
- Cain decided that he was king and ruler over his own life.
- Cain believed his own religion.
- The religion of Cain is not refusing to worship God. It is attempting to worship God on his own terms.



This is the Burger King way —
"I will have it my way. I will be the king. I will rule."

That may work when ordering a hamburger,
but it doesn't work when we are approaching God.

Q: WHO WEARS THE CROWN?

In your worship, are you wearing the crown
or are you giving the crown to God?



THE OFFERINGS

Genesis 4:3-4

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

- Cain brought an offering from the fruit of the ground.
- Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof.
- The LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering.
- The Bible does not give every detail, but it clearly shows a difference in the two offerings.
- Abel's offering was brought by faith and in obedience to what God required.
- Cain's offering was on his own terms.



THE WORTHLESS SACRIFICE

Genesis 4:5-7

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

- Cain's offering was not accepted.
- Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.
- God spoke to Cain and gave him an opportunity to respond correctly.
- "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?" shows that Cain could have done what was right.
- Sin was already at the door, but Cain still had a choice.
- This teaches us that God will correct us and give us an opportunity to respond, but we must be willing to do things God's way.

2. MURDER HE WROTE

THE TRAGIC RESULT

Genesis 4:8-11

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

- Cain's rejection led to anger, and anger led to murder.
- Cain did not deal with his wrong attitude, and it grew into a sinful action.
- God gave Cain an opportunity to respond correctly (Genesis 4:6-7), but Cain refused correction.
- Cain chose to remove the one who was right with God.
- The murder of Abel was not a random act. It was the result of a heart that refused God's way.
- This shows us that our inward attitudes matter. What we allow in our hearts will eventually come out in our actions.



A WARNING FOR OUR LIVES

- This story shows us that it is in our human nature to develop strong, hurtful feelings toward those who get it right with God, when we ourselves are in the wrong.
- Feelings like:
 - Jealousy
 - Remorse
 - Arrogance
 - Hatred
 - Murder
- Our choices can have a direct effect on the path of our lives, as well as the lives of others.

ABEL — A CONTRAST OF FAITH

- Abel brought the firstlings of his flock and the fat thereof (Genesis 4:4).
- His offering was accepted because it was brought by faith and obedience.
- Abel did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and because of his belief in a God who has order, he became the first to be murdered.
- The world does not always approve of those who worship God the right way.

Note: Friends and family may not approve of you when you are searching out the Word of God. Stay faithful to God's Word even when others reject or oppose you.

3. GOD'S WAY IS ALWAYS THE BEST WAY

Matthew 7:21

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

- Saying "Lord, Lord" is not the same as doing the will of God.
- God is not impressed with religion that is only words or outward actions. He is looking for a heart that obeys.
- The religion of Cain says, "I will worship God my way."
- True worship says, "Not my way — His way."
- We must be willing to let go of our own opinions, desires, and definitions, and submit to God's truth.
- The right way to worship is not our way or someone else's way — it is God's way.

John 4:23-24

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Q: AM I WILLING TO LAY DOWN MY WAY AND WORSHIP GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH?

The question is not simply, "Will I worship?"
The question is, "Will I worship God the way He desires to be worshipped?"

