

Intro: On the battlefield, blood speaks louder than words. In a promise or covenant, blood speaks louder than words. In our story, the blood is speaking loudly. Are we listening?

READ/PRAY: Genesis 4:1-13

Thesis: “We’re a lot like Cain, we need faith like Abel, listening to blood of Jesus.”

I. We’re a lot like Cain

- A. We have hatred in our hearts. **Titus 3:3**
- B. We have murder in our hearts. Hate. “you fool.” Murder in hearts. **Matt. 5:21-22**
- C. We’re all just a few steps away from literal murder. **James 4:1-2.**
- D. Why we have to warn not be like Cain. **1 John 3:12.**
- E. Because this temptation and tendency is in all of us. **Jude 1:11.**
- F. All kinds of sin/evil lurking in our lives/hearts. Ready to take us. Like Cain. **1 Pet.5:8-9**

ILLUSTRATION: **John Bradford.** Write out all his sins daily log. “But for the grace of God.”

APPLICATION: Our theology tells us we’re capable of worst kinds of sins. All kinds of evil. No place for self-righteousness.

II. We need faith like Abel

- A. **Hebrews 11:4.** “By faith” his offering/worship was acceptable and pleasing to God.
- B. **Matthew 23:35.** *Abel was righteous.* Why? By faith. Only way anyone is made righteous. Abel was first person in Bible (and the world) to be justified by faith. Righteous credited.
- C. Based on what and who he believed, not based on what he did or what we brought.
- D. Abel believed in God, which led to him worshiping God, and because His worship was faith-based and faith-filled, it was accepted by God.

APPLICATION: **John 4:24.** God is Spirit. Worship in Spirit & Truth.

1) **Spirit** = empowered, born of the Spirit. Meaning it’s coming from a genuine believer in Jesus. Faith filled, faith based worship. Not focused on externals, rituals, traditions, styles, motions, emotions, decorations, volume or even the language, words and wording. It must come from a heart of faith. And it must be offered by true believers. Otherwise, God rejects it!

2) **Truth** = it is true and it’s based on the Truth of God’s Word. Not our own invention. Not based on our own desires, wants, favorites, history, family, norms, etc. Sound and Biblical. Word based. What happens in worship, is taught in worship, done in worship, must be backed by Scripture. In formal language this is called the *Regulative Principal of Worship. Reformed.*

3) Do you have Faith? *Why are you here? Why did you come? Is there faith behind it? Or is it out of Fear? Obligation? Guilt? Tradition? Feel Good/Better? Family? Or do you have Faith?*

- Listen by faith. Read by faith. Sing by faith. Pray by faith. Learn by faith. Convicted by faith. Comforted by faith. Strengthened by faith. Go out by faith. Come back by faith. What faith?

III. By listening to the Blood of Jesus

- A. *Abel’s blood spoke. Jesus’ blood is speaking too. What does it say? What do we need to hear?*
- B. **Col.1:13-20. // Eph.1:7, 2:13 // Rom.3:23-25, 5:1, 6-11 // Rev.1:5, 5:9 // Heb.9:11-14, 22, 28**
- C. **Hebrews 12:24.** Jesus’ blood speaks a better word. Not just that he’s an innocent man killed by his own family. But that there is a better word.
- D. **Abel’s Blood vs. Jesus’s Blood:** *Guilty vs. forgiven // murder vs brother // sinner vs. righteous // hate vs love // anger vs peace // justice vs mercy // vengeance vs atonement // jealousy vs satisfaction // punishment vs justification // condemnation vs redemption*

ILLUSTRATION: **Danny Holmes.** Under trial. Heard “Redeemed” Big Daddy Weave. “you look at this prisoner and say, stop fighting a fight that’s already been won. I am redeemed.” Confessed everything. Danny did what Cain wouldn’t/couldn’t. He confessed. Repented. Believed in God’s grace to forgive/give.

APPLICATION: Do you believe in this Jesus? Big enough to forgive. His blood is louder than your sin.

READ: Francis Schaeffer quote if time. Page 117.

Titus 3:3:3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Matt. 5:21-22: 21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ **22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

James 4:1-2: 4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? **2** You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

1 John 3:12: 12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

Jude 1:11:11 Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.

1 Pet.5:8-9: 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Hebrews 11:4: 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.

Matthew 23:35: 35 so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah,...

Col.1:13-20.: 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Eph.1:7, 2:13: In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,...But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Rom.3:23-25, 5:1, 6-11: 23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins...**6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Rev.1:5, 5:9: 5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood...**9** And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

Heb.9:11-14, 22, 28: 11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) **12** he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. **13** For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, **14** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God... **22** Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins...**28** so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Hebrews 12:24: and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.