

Recklessly Headed for Disaster

Text: Genesis 4:1-7 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. 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: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? 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.

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

I John 3:11-12 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

INTRODUCTION: *We have all read & know the TRAGIC OUTCOME of the CAIN and ABLE STORY-*
Genesis 4:8-15 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. And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth. And Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me. And the Lord said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the Lord set a mark upon Cain

LET US LOOK AGAIN AT THIS TRAGIC STORY AND SEEK TO GLEAM A FEW SPIRITUAL TRUTHS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO US TODAY --- EVEN MANY CENTURIES LATER!!!

I. 1st NOTICE CAIN'S OPPORTUNITY

- First child born on earth---son of Adam and Eve— *Father and Mother were formed by God, Himself*
- 1st Rights over Able-- **Genesis 4:7** 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.
- He heard first-hand stories of his parents walking and talking with God in the “cool of the day.” And the numerous stories of creation: naming of the animals, the creation of Eve, and of them falling from God’s grace in the garden.
- Identical history with God as ABLE-- **probably many years of prior history** – Cain’s estimated age was around 130 years old. (suggested by many bible scholars due the following scripture) **Genesis 4:25** And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. **Genesis 5:3** And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, and after his image; and called his name Seth:
- Identical understanding of their spiritual obligation to worship God – MAYBE MANY YEARS OF PRIOR SACRIFICES???
- God’s Grace --- Cain was offered another chance to redo his 1st failure and “GET IT RIGHT” *this time* **Genesis 4:7 If thou** doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. *NOTE: ADAM AND EVE (his parents) WERE NOT GIVEN A 2ND CHANCE!*
- Prewarned by God, of the consequences if he didn’t get it RIGHT! Cain was given a choice and a FREEWILL! **Genesis 4:7** and **if thou** doest not well, sin lieth at the door.

II. Please notice 3 things about CAIN'S SACRIFICE --- Genesis 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect.

- *Offered with little or no faith-- Hebrews 11:4* **By faith** Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. **This scripture says a lot about ABLE'S offering, also, it insinuated that CAIN'S offering had little or no faith!** *CAIN'S OFFERING LACKED TRUE REVERENCE AND RESPECT FOR GOD! Maybe (we may never know for sure) it was offered out of duty instead of thanksgiving???*
- *Evidently, Cain did not offer his Best in his offering -- Genesis 4:4* Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. *ABLE'S BEST—yes--but--CAIN'S BEST—DOUBTFUL???*
Malachi 1:8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.
- *Offered with an evil heart—he did not properly prepare his heart to meet with God!*
I John 3:11-12 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

III. NOTICE GOD'S RESPONSE TO CAIN AND HIS OFFERING

Genesis 4:5-7 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? 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.

IV. SADLY, CAIN'S STORY IS NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT—SCRIPTURE HAS MANY OTHER EXAMPLES OF DISOBEDIENCE -- too numerous to list but here are a few examples:

- ❖ **Solomon: I Kings 11:9-11** And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,¹⁰ And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.¹¹ Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.
- ❖ **Jehu: II Kings 10:30-32** And the LORD said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel. ³¹ But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin.³² In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel;
- ❖ **Saul: I Samuel 13:13-14** ¹³ And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. ¹⁴ But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.
- ❖ **Jonah: Jonah 1:1-3** Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.³ But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a

ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

❖ **New Testament Believers:**

II Timothy 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica;

Hebrews 4:1-3 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. ²For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. ³For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 3:7-15 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, **To day if ye will hear his voice,** ⁸**Harden not your hearts,** as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: ⁹When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. ¹⁰Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. ¹¹So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) ¹²**Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.** ¹³But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we are made partakers of Christ, **if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;** ¹⁵While it is said, **To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.**

V. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE TRAGIC STORY OF CAIN & ABLE

- *Christian Upbringing or Christian Parents are not guarantees of acceptance with God!*
ALSO, CHURCH ASSOCIATIONS or CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DOES NOT SAVE US!
Matt. 21:31-32 Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.
- *God doesn't accept bad offerings—whether it is an altar sacrifice or a soul seeking admittance into heaven—GOD WILL ONLY BE SATISFIED WITH OUR BEST!* **Genesis 4:5** But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect.
Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen. (*Jesus said*)
Matt. 7:21-23 ²¹Not 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. ²²Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
- *God loved Cain and He loves the sinner—(II Peter 3:9) He's not willing that any should perish!*
- *God Desires the Best Outcome for each of US!*
Genesis 4:7 **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.
- *God seeks to direct Sinners toward the right path---He faithfully convicts and instructs us to do the right thing—through conscience or Holy Spirit conviction.*
- *We know right from wrong because we have been made aware of it by Scripture and/or godly instructors*
- *God gives us room to turn—JESUS—PREACHED REPENTANCE--TURN BACK TO GOD!*

- *God's Warnings are NOT to be taken LIGHTLY!*
Proverbs 29:1 He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.
- *Freewill is a God-given choice that allows us to either live in the RIGHT way or choose the WRONG way before God!*
- *We suffer the consequences of our FREEWILL ACTIONS---whether they are GOOD or BAD!*
Genesis 4:13 And Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

VI. SCRIPTURE INFORMS US THAT WE ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT BEFORE GOD:

A Daily Offering of Ourselves & A Personal Record of our life on earth!!

A. DAILY OFFERING--What is our daily offering????

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God**, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God

- *1st Let's Look at what our Daily Offering is NOT!*
 - *Legalism – working our way to heaven or adding anything to salvation by grace*
 - *Will Power- getting our mind into RIGHT or WRONG MODE—mind over matter!*
 - *It is not Self-Empowerment of any kind—It doesn't come from within us at all!*

- *What is required to make our daily offering acceptable to God—*

1. OURSELVES----Our Whole Heart-

Matthew 22:36-40 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

2. Asking for the Holy Spirit's help—To live to PLEASE HIM!

Romans 8:11-14 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, **he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.** Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

3. Faith- Giving God our Best through Faith – Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts:

B. OUR ENTIRE LIFE'S RECORD ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT!

II Corinthians 5:9-10 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be **accepted of him.** ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad
Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen

CLOSING: GREAT NEWS: *Christians will be automatically accepted on Judgement Day if they have good records of submitting to God in their Daily Sacrifice Offerings!*

*Recklessly Headed for Disaster doesn't have to be our life's story!
God has given to each of us Choices and a Freewill so we can choose a different path!*