

# Cain and Abel

**TEXT:** Gen. 4:1-8

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. MANY SETS OF BROTHERS, PERHAPS CAIN AND ABEL ARE THE BEST KNOWN.
- B. LIKE MANY BROTHERS, THEY WERE VERY DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER.
  - 1. Different occupations.
  - 2. Different in character.
  - 3. Different in their approach to worship.
- C. BROTHERS TODAY WHO ARE REARED UNDER THE SAME INFLUENCE AND RECEIVE THE SAME TEACHING TURN OUT DIFFERENT.
- D. THERE ARE LESSONS TO LEARN FROM BOTH OF THESE MEN.

## I. ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE WORSHIP.

- A. GOD RESPECTED ABEL'S OFFERING, BUT NOT CAIN'S (Gen. 4:4-5).
  - 1. Why, what was the difference? (Heb. 11:4).
    - a. Abel offered by faith a more excellent sacrifice.
    - b. Obvious Cain's sacrifice was not of faith.
    - c. God bore witness to Abel's faith in regard to what he gave, "his gifts."
      - The substance given was the difference
  - 2. Where does faith come from? (Rom. 10:17) Abel's faith?
  - 3. What does Cain's sacrifice tell us about his faith?
- B. ALL WORSHIP MUST BE BY FAITH, MUST FIT THE PATTERN, FOR GOD TO ACCEPT IT (Mark 7:6-9).
  - 1. In spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
  - 2. What is truth? (John 17:17).
    - a. Stick to the pattern (Heb. 8:5; 2 Tim. 1:13).
    - b. Presumptuous sin = Great sin! (Psa. 19:13; 2 John 9).
    - c. Authority for what we do in worship? (Lev. 10:1-2; Col. 3:17; Mark 7:9).
    - d. Who are we trying to please in our worship? (Gal. 1:10).
  - 3. What does God really want? (1 Sam. 15:22; 2 Cor. 8:5).

## II. CAIN WAS VERY WROTH.

- A. ANGER IS SOMETIMES JUSTIFIED (Eph. 4:26-27).
  - 1. Sometimes it is not (Matt. 5:22).
  - 2. When angry, we must never lose control (Titus 2:2; 2 Pet. 1:6).
- B. UNCONTROLLED ANGER HURTS THE CAUSE (James 1:19-20).
- C. ARE WE NOT BROTHERS AND SISTERS? (Gen. 13:8; 1 Cor. 12:25; Col. 3:13).

## III. MURDER RESULTED FROM RELIGIOUS ENVY.

- A. STRIFE IN THE CHURCH OFTEN THE RESULT OF ENVY (1 John 3:11-12).
- B. EFFORTS ARE MADE TO MURDER THE GOOD NAME OF "THE ENEMY."
  - 1. We are to do all things without murmuring (Phil. 2:14).
  - 2. Men and women with nothing better to do (1 Tim. 5:11-13; Gal. 5:13-15).
  - 3. Where does such come from? (1 Cor. 3:1-3).
  - 4. 1 John 3:15.

## IV. GOD'S QUESTION AND CAIN'S REPLY (Gen. 4:9).

- A. HOW ARE WE TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION TODAY?
  - 1. Material things (Phil. 2:1-5).
  - 2. Spiritual things (Heb. 3:12-13; Gal. 6:1-2; Jude 22-23).
- B. WHAT DOES LOVE DEMAND? (1 John 3:16-18).

## V. CAIN WAS PUNISHED.

- A. Gen. 4:10. "Thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground."
- B. Num. 32:23. "And be sure your sin will find you out."
- C. A CURSE WAS PLACED ON CAIN (Gen. 4:11-12).
- D. WHAT ABOUT UNFAITHFUL CHRISTIANS (Heb. 4:12-13; Rom. 2:16).
- E. Heb. 9:27.

## CONCLUSION:

- A. GOD'S SOLUTION TO CAIN'S PROBLEM (Gal. 4:6-7).
- B. "IF THOU DOEST WELL..." IF YOU FOLLOW GOD'S PATTERN IN THE BIBLE..."
- C. THAT IS THE SOLUTION FOR US TODAY (Matt. 7:21).