

Genesis 1-11

The Great Story Begins



The Way of Cain

Genesis 4:1-16

Heart Attitude

- ★ Choosing to do the right thing – v. difficult
 - ◆ The US election
 - ◆ How the loser responds
 - ◆ Reveals their heart attitude
- ★ Especially important in worshipping God
 - ◆ Jude “they walked in **the way of Cain**” (v 11)

1. Unacceptable Worship

- ★ Story shows long-suffering, father heart of God
- ★ God was not pleased (v 5)
 - ◆ The problem is not “what” he brought
 - ◆ God concerned with heart attitude (Jer 7:21-24)
 - ◆ Abel brought “of the firstborn” (v 4)
 - ◆ Cain brought “some” (v 5)
- ★ Does God get our best, or just “some”

2. Concern & Warning

- ★ Reasonable for God to be angry
- ★ His grace is revealed in his gentleness with Cain
- ★ CONCERN
 - ◆ He comes alongside Cain
 - ◆ Gives chance for some self-reflection
 - ◆ Offers encouragement – acceptance (v 7)

2. Concern & Warning . . .

★ WARNING

- ◆ First problem is not that God will be angry
- ◆ Sin is crouching at the door – desires him (v 7)
- ◆ Choose: n it will rule him –OR– he will rule it
- ◆ A critical moment - choice

3. Sin & Punishment

- ★ Cain kills Abel
- ★ Thinks problem is one of comparison
 - ◇ World is so much about comparison
- ★ Not like this with God
 - ◇ We are compared to what is right and good
 - ◇ Sin is always lurking in the shadows
 - ◇ Sin "wars against your soul" (1 Pe 2:11)

3. Sin & Punishment . . .

- ★ God gives Cain a chance for confession
 - ◆ Abel's blood "crying out from the ground" (v 10)
- ★ God enacts punishment:
 - ◆ The ground will resist him
 - ◆ He will drift from place to place

3. Sin & Punishment . . .

- ✦ In spite of God's encouragement & warning
 - ◆ Cain persisted in his rebellious, destructive path
- ✦ God still acts mercifully towards him

4. Mercy

- ✦ Cain's self-concern does not change (v 14)
- ✦ God puts a mark on Cain to protect him (v 16)
- ✦ Cain. Is given so many chances to do right
 - ◆ He rejects them
- ✦ He is given two chances to confess
 - ◆ He ignores them

Living It –

- ★ Cain's problem – his rebellious heart
 - ◆ Happy to offer token worship, not more
- ★ The way of Cain:
 - ◆ Indulging ourselves for the sake of pleasure
 - ◆ Rejecting God
 - ◆ Seeking after gain
 - ◆ ignoring/deriding spiritual world

Living It ...

- ★ If you don't master sin, it will master you
- ★ We master sin by submitting to God
 - ◆ Trusting the Holy Spirit's power to overcome sin
- ★ Resisting the way of Cain . . .
 - Begins with a right heart attitude of worship