

Fallen... Into Rebellion (Genesis 4-6)

Murder, adultery, theft, drug abuse... we'd like to believe that we are above such evil. Yet Cain's story demonstrates that there is no limit to the evil we can commit if we do not halt the invasion of sin in our lives. From his failure we learn how to stop sin before it grows out of control. Victory is possible, not because we are any better than Cain, but because God's grace is more powerful than all our sin.

1. Cain's Story Begins

- An incredible promise (3:15)
 - Promise that a male descendent of Eve will defeat Satan once-and-for-all
- A joyous blessing (4:1-2)
 - Cain is the first baby born to the human race!
 - Eve celebrates Cain as a gift from God - maybe he will be the promised boy!
- An offering of worship (4:3-4)
 - Both men worshipped God
 - Both Cain and Abel are in the same family and worship the same God

2. Cain's Progression of Sin

1. Doubts God's Goodness (4:4-5)
 - Why was Abel's offering more acceptable than Cain's? "Firstlings... fat portions"
 - Why did Abel give extravagantly? Hebrews 11:4
 - Faith in what? Hebrews 11:6
 - God accepted Abel's offering because Abel offered with full faith in God's goodness; Cain did not
 - The belief that God is not good is the root of most, if not all, sin
 - Cain is convicted and knows that his offering was not right, rather than repent, he...
2. Indulges anger & self-pity (4:5-7)
 - Cain blames God
 - God sees anger taking hold
 - God offers encouragement, and then a warning
 - The power of sin: like a crouching lion just waiting to pounce
 - There are NO PET SINS
3. Commits great evil (4:8)
 - Cain's anger against God spills over into violence against Abel
 - Compare to King David:
 - King David commits adultery and murder
 - Psalm 51:4 – "Against you only [God] have I sinned"
 - David's point: the root of his sin was not against Uriah, but against God

- Our sins are always, ultimately, against God
 - 4. Denies responsibility (4:9-15)
 - God asks Cain where his brother is – an opportunity to confess
 - Cain denies responsibility for his actions - lie and flippant response
 - God punishes Cain (4:10-12)
 - Cain doesn't regret his sins, just the punishment (4:13-14)
 - Still God shows grace (4:15)
 - Cain prospers materially and financially, but not spiritually
 - 5. Creates a legacy of sin (4:16-24)
 - Cain's city becomes a center of cultural, economic, and technological innovation (4:19-22)
 - But business, art, and technology are NOT the measures of a society's health
 - This same city becomes the pinnacle of human sin (4:23-24)
 - Cain's son, Lamech, inherits Cain's violence
 - Lamech is the pinnacle of pride and violence
- Depth of Cain's fall: 1 John 3:12 - agent of the enemy of mankind!

3. What We Learn from Cain

- The Power of Sin
 - Cain was not that different from any of us
 - Cain committed murder not because he's more evil than us, but because he chose not to stop the progression of sin in his life!
 - Example of King David - If "a man after God's own heart" can fall, so can we
- The Importance of Faith and a Soft Heart
 - We need faith
 - Grow your faith in the goodness of God by practicing gratitude
 - We need soft hearts
 - Choose your response to conviction
 - Soft heart: Repentance, confession, ask for forgiveness
 - Hard heart: Resist, make excuses, blame others
- The Extravagance of God's Grace
 - Genesis 4:25-26 – Even after Cain's sin, God shows mercy
 - The curse of Cain did not fall upon Cain, but upon Jesus
 - Jesus, the homeless wanderer
 - Jesus, found and killed
 - Jesus, hidden from the face of God
 - All that Cain feared, Jesus endured
 - **He became a curse so that we could be forgiven (Gal 3:13-14)**

Genesis

Sermon Reflection Questions

Sermon 10. Fallen...into Rebellion

Genesis 4-5

These questions are designed to help individuals, families, and small groups dig deeper into our Genesis Sermon Series. Leaders: don't limit yourself to these questions or feel that you need to answer all of them. Pick and choose and create your own based on the needs of your group.

Observe & interpret the passages:

Read Genesis 4:1-16 and then list...

- all of the sinful choices Cain makes.

- all of the ways God is gracious to Cain.

Read Hebrews 11:1-6. Define "faith" according to this passage. What exactly did Abel believe that led God to accept his offering but not Cain's?

Compare Cain's lineage (4:17-24) to Seth's lineage (4:25-5:32). How would you characterize each family tree? What differences do you see?

Apply it to your life:

Fight sin by growing your faith in the goodness of God. To that end, look up each of the following passages. What does each one teach you about God's goodness to you?

Matthew 6:25-33

Romans 8:28,32

Ephesians 1:3-8

Cain's slide into sin would have been halted if he had responded to God's conviction with a soft-heart. Spend some time prayerfully confessing your sins to God and asking for His help to walk in greater obedience.

Memorize: Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Additional Questions:

What beliefs, attitudes, or emotions led Cain to murder Abel?

Cain's failure teaches us that there are no "pet sins" – small sins we falsely believe we can indulge and control without negative consequences. Are there any seemingly small sins that you are living with? What specifically will you do this week to grow in victory over one of these areas of sin?

Many of us struggle with anger towards God during difficult times. When we feel anger towards God, what must we do to keep it from leading us into sin? For help, see how the authors of Psalm 13, 44, and 77 dealt with their frustration towards God (see especially 77:11-12).