1 - **Lessons Learned from Cain & Abel**

Genesis 4:1-7

2 - **God cares about the worship we give**

* We read in **Genesis 4:2-4**, *“Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 So it came about in the course of time that* ***Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground****. 4* ***Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock*** *and of their fat portions.”*
* We then read of **God’s response** to two different sacrifices in Genesis 4:4-6, *“And* ***the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; 5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard****. So Cain became very* ***angry*** *and his* ***countenance fell****.*
* Was God just showing favoritism? (Romans 2:6-11; Acts 10:34-35)

3 – **God cares about the worship we give**

* We then note in Hebrews that *“****By faith*** *Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain”.* (Hebrews 11:4)
* *“****Faith****” that “****comes from hearing****, and hearing by the word of Christ.”* (Romans 10:17)
* One approach to worship says “**anything is good enough**”.
The other approach is that **nothing is good enough** other than the **humble worship of faith**.

4 - **God cares about the worship we give**

**What was Cain thinking?** (Matthew 15:18-19)

* Just as good? It’s more convenient? What does it matter?
* We’re not told but we know he was thinking about something and we know **it wasn’t an expression of faith towards God. We see the fruit of his thinking!**
* He did not have thoughts of **humble obedience.** (1 Corinthians 4:6; James 1:21)

5 - **God cares about the worship we give**

**What was Abel thinking?**

* His thoughts were of **pleasing God by faith**.
* **Abel the prophet** (Luke 11:49-51), the first to suffer for his faith, conviction and stand for the truth. (1 Peter 2:19-20; 3:14; 4:19)
	+ What is a prophet? (Exodus 7:1; literally, a spokeman. “A person who **spoke for God** and who **communicated God's message courageously**…” (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)
* **Abel is yet teaching** us… (Hebrews 12:24 c)

6 - **God cares about the worship we give**

We see the work of Satan continuing in Genesis Chapter 4 as **Cain’s actions are described as being “*evil*”** and was “***of the evil one***” who also led his parents into the condemnation of sin. (1 John 3:12)

There was a ***“way”*** (Jude 11) of **thinking and living** that Abel had pursued long before he offered his sacrifice and before he killed his brother. (Note **the context of Jude 8-11** that speaks of that way and speaks of who **Cain** is aligned with in that context of both **Balaam** and **Korah**)

* Fleshly, “*reject authority*”, blasphemous, unreasoning, rely on instincts, eager for base gain (Balaam), hungry for power and authority (Korah).

7 - **What makes us angry?**

God asks Cain, ***“why are you angry?”*** (vs. 6)

* It’s more than this one sacrifice, it’s because ***“the way of Cain”*** rejected God’s authority.
	+ Remember James 1:19-22 and that the context for being “quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger”
* Do we “***have good reason to be angry***”? (Jonah 4:6)

Does the discipline of the Lord make us angry?

8 - **God Gives us opportunities to make things right**

God kept the door of fellowship open to Cain: “***If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up?***” (vs. 7)

The choice was his (and ours) on how we will respond to our sin.

*“****If you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it****.”* (Romans 6:12-14)

Satan is lurking every time we turn away from God tempting us to harden our hearts and complete our apostasy. (Hebrews 3:12-15)

There ought to be a sense of urgency! (Acts 8:20-23; 18:24ff)

9 - **The consequences of sin and wickedness are severe**

A punishment “*too great to bear*”:

* “*Cursed from the ground… it will no longer yield its strength to you*.”
* “*You will be a vagrant and a wanderer*”. (vs. 12)
* “*Hidden*” from the face of God. (vs. 14)

“*The wages of sin is death*”. (Romans 6:23)

10 - **Summary of lessons from Cain and Abel**

* Learning to walk by faith.
* It matters how we worship the Lord.
* Take a stand for what God has said.
* The need to control what makes us angry.
* Take advantage of opportunities to make things right with God.
* Don’t under estimate the consequences of sin.