

“Basic Bible Stories – Cain and Able” *Genesis 4:1-16*

Open: Story

- After the fall of man, God kicked man out of the garden of Eden. **Gen 3:23-24**
 - Man would no longer be living in the perfect place that God created for him. – “*Our sin will always take from us what God wanted for us.*”
 - Man would live the rest of his life with a sinful nature. – “*Sin will always complicate God’s plan for life.*”
 - Man would now struggle with the conflict of choosing to do what God wanted or what man wanted.
- Cain and Able, were born to Adam and Eve. **vs. 1-2**
 - Cain was the older and was a tiller of the ground (Farmer.)
 - Able the youngest of the two brothers was a keeper of the sheep (Shepherd.)
- Cain decides one day he is going to try to please God by doing his own thing. **vs. 3-4**
 - **God required a blood sacrifice.**
 - Able was obedient and brought an acceptable sacrifice. (a blood sacrifice)
 - **Cain was disobedient and brought what he thought should be accepted.** (the works of his hand)
- Cain becomes angry with God, jealous with his brother, and begins to harbor bitterness in his heart toward God and his brother. **vs. 5-6**
 - Cain gets angry at God for rejecting his sacrifice.
 - Cain gets jealous of his brother’s sacrifice being accepted.
 - Cain could not see that it was not the actions of others causing his turmoil it was his own disobedience.
- Instead of taking advantage of the second chance he had been given, Cain decides to take matters into his own hands and kill his brother Able. **vs. 7-8**
 - God gives Cain a chance to rectify his wrongdoing, but Cain did not seek forgiveness he sought revenge.
- Cain, upon the murder of his brother Able, continues to disobey and begins to make excuses as well as lie to God about his actions. **vs. 9-10**
 - Cain no doubt would have still been punished, but if he were honest with God and sought forgiveness the punishment may not have been as severe. (*i.e. ...Moses, David, Saul.*)
- God tells Cain what his punishment would be, and Cain leaves the presence of God. **vs. 11-16**
 - Cains punishment
 - Work will not yield fulfillment.
 - Rejected by man because of his attitude and interactions.
 - Cains response
 - Accepts his punishment but does not seek restoration with God. **vs. 14**
 - Cain made a choice to never return to God’s favor. **vs. 15**

- “Cain’s downfall was not murder; it was his choice to reject God and disobey...murder was the end result of his disobedience to God.” **Rom. 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death...”

I. 3 things to recognize in your own life.

A. Man’s sin nature.

- i. You must recognize the reality of your sin nature. **Rom. 7:19, 21-23** “For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. [21] I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. [22] For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: [23] But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”
- ii. You must realize that whoever you yield to you will be servant to. **Rom. 6:12-14, 16** “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. [13] Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. [14] For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. [15] What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. [16] Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

B. Man’s natural selfishness. – Man has a built-in desire to please God, but because of the other law in his members has a fleshly desire to do what his flesh wants to do.

- i. **Rom. 7:24-25** “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death. [25] I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”
- ii. **Gal. 5:17** “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

C. Man’s normal response to sin.

- i. Blame others – Adam & Eve
- ii. Hide from God – Adam & Eve, Cain
- iii. Take out the anger I have towards myself, for the decisions I made, on those around me. – Cain

II. 3 observations from Cain and Ables Life.

A. Able did not have an easier path to doing right.

- i. Able still had to choose the bring the right sacrifice.
- ii. Able still had to follow the guidelines for the sacrifice.
- iii. In your eyes it may seem that someone else has an easier life and is successful because doing right just comes more naturally. **Ps. 73:3, 17** *“For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. [17] Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.”*

B. Everyone has the same opportunity to do right.

i. Cain an Able had the same...

1. Parents
2. Environment
3. Opportunities
4. Knowledge

ii. You and I have the same...

1. Sin Nature
2. Holy Spirit
3. Word of God
4. Free will.

C. Able chose to obey, while Cain chose to disobey.

- **Joshua 24:15** *“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*

- i. Obedience is the deciding factor in the outcome of individuals lives.
- ii. The more I obey the more blessed by God I can be.

Col. 3:20

“Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord..”

“Review Questions”

1. What sacrifice did God require of man? **A blood sacrifice**
2. Who chose to bring an unacceptable sacrifice? **Cain**
3. Ultimately what was the downfall to Cain? **Disobedience.**
4. It is important that to whoever we _____ yield ourselves will determine who we serve. **Yield**
5. Everyone has the same _____ to do right. **Opportunity.**