

Consequences

Let's go ahead and get started.

We live in a society today where we like to put the blame on the woes of society.

- The school shootings
- Gang Violence
- The deterioration of family values

We tend to place the blame on the following items...

- The lyrics in some of the music our kids listen to
- The violence in some of the video games
- movies out there
- The schools are children go to
- Television
- The internet
- Social Media
- Drugs
- Pornography

Now, I agree up to a point, these are definitely things that the enemy uses to cause us to stumble – however, none of these items are the cause of the chaos that surrounds us.

There is only one real cause and that is sin.

This is what happens when we decide to pursue our own will instead of God's will.

This is the result of being disobedience to the word of God! – This is what sin is.

Tonight's study is going to feature two individuals. One of the individuals took it upon himself to willingly disobey God. He wanted to do it his way. Because of this, he was unable to please God.

And scriptures provide us with the error of his ways.

The other individual, the scriptures only tell us that he walked with God and that pleased God.

Both of them had one decision to make. Whether or not they were going to obey God's will.

And church, this is important because this is the same decision that applies to both you and me.

By faith, do we walk according God's will or not?

May we take heart and learn the lessons from the lives of these two individuals.

Let's pray...

Our first event covers the first sixteen verses in our text today let's go ahead and read through it.

[Gen 4:1-16 CSB]

This is where we stand right now, Adam and Eve have been kicked out of the Garden of Eden and have been blessed with their oldest son, Cain.

Cain is the first child born in scriptures. Remember, Adam and Eve were both created.

Now, I want to remind you with a verse that we studied last week,

[Gen 3:15 NKJV] 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Satan's tactic from the time that God pronounced the curse upon him in the Garden of Eden was to corrupt/destroy the Seed.

We see this when Pharaoh sent out the decree to kill all the Hebrew male babies in Egypt. King Artaxerxes was planning on exterminating all the Hebrews before Esther intervened, we find Satan behind Herod in the slaughtering of the innocent babies in Bethlehem. In attempting to kill the baby Jesus, Satan was trying to keep Jesus from fulfilling His mission.. All in an effort to destroy the Seed.

He also does this by tempting Jesus and later by trying convince Jesus to bypass the cross –

Here in chapter 4 we see Satan wasted no time as he sets his eyes upon Cain.

But first, notice the words that are spoken by Eve, "I have had a male child with the LORD's help."

Adam and Eve did not have access to an Obstetrician that was going to walk them through childbirth.

There was no *What to expect when you are expecting* book during this time. All of this was going to be new to them.

Morning sickness, Eve telling Adam to go get her pickles and ice-cream in the middle of the night – all new.

Listen, God guided them through everything.

I believe that this speaks of His love for us that despite their disobedience in the Garden of Eden, God still demonstrates love and grace by helping them as they were obedient in His command to multiply and populate the earth.

In verse two, the scriptures provide us with the occupations of both Cain and Abel.

Cain was a tiller of the ground while Abel was a keeper of sheep.

This is extremely significant – Why?

God does not allow man to eat the animals until after the flood.

How do I know this? Because God's word states this.

[Gen 9:1-4 NKJV] 1 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. 2 "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move [on] the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. 3 "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. 4 "But you shall not eat flesh with its life, [that is], its blood.

So with that being said, why would Abel be a keeper of sheep then if animals were not allowed to be eaten?

How many wool outfits did they need? Remember it was a tropical climate.

The answer is - For sacrifices to God.

Abel's occupation was one of making sure that there would always be an acceptable sacrifice available for God.

God had already demonstrated to Adam and Eve that there is no remission of sin without blood.

God taught this to them in chapter three when God provided them both with tunics made of skin to cover their sin. This was the first animal sacrifice.

I pointed that out last week to you.

Listen, true worship is something that we must learn from God Himself. For He alone sets the rules for approaching Him and pleasing Him in worship.

This is very important because I hear many people make the claim that they worship God in their own distinct way.

The word of God sets the rules, it is up to us to follow them or disobey.

My first boss, Ed, God used him to share the gospel with me and he is the one who invited me to go speak to one of the pastors at his church. It is there that I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. This was back in 1991.

However, Ed disliked worship. He would stand there with his arms folded and would not worship.

I remember him telling me that the only reason that he would go to services was to listen to God's word. So he disliked the worship portion but enjoyed the bible study portion.

Worship is "to give honor, homage, reverence, respect, adoration, praise, or glory to God."

God demands worship because He and He alone is worthy of it. He is the only being that truly deserves worship. He requests that we acknowledge His greatness, His power, and His glory.

We worship Him in songs and praise but we also worship Him with our lives.

[Rom 12:1 CSB] 1 Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

So both Cain and Abel have these jobs and one day they both bring an offering before God.

[Gen 4:3-5 NKJV] 3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

So each of the children (I am using the word children lightly because it is believed that Cain was over 100 years old at this point) so they each bring a different type of offering to the Lord.

Notice that Abel brings forth of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat while Cain brings a fruit offering.

Abel is bringing forth his best to God. The firstborn in scripture is very important. It is supposed to be the best of the best.

So Cain brings this fruit plate and God did not respect it but He does respect Abel's.

So the question is why?

There are two thoughts.

There are some that say that the reason that God rejected the offering of Cain was that God had given them specific instructions on what would be acceptable offering. That God required a blood offering.

The problem with this is that God allows the children of Israel later on, to do grain offerings and first fruit offerings.

I think the answer is found in the Lord's question in the following verse.

[Gen 4:6-7 CSB] 6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? 7 "If you do what is right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

If you do what is right, won't you be accepted?

There is something missing in Cain's offering. God is giving Cain a second chance to present a better offering and at the same time He is giving Cain a warning because He sees his heart.

If Cain will change the way he worships, He will be accepted by God. All he has to do is change. God is telling Cain to "repent", to turn around.

[Heb 11:4, 6 CSB] 4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was approved as a righteous man, because God

approved his gifts, and even though he is dead, he still speaks through his faith. ... 6 Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

I believe that the scriptures show us that it wasn't the sacrifice that Cain brought forth – Cain could have gone to Abel and asked him for a sheep and offered it to God.

I believe that God would have still rejected it because Cain was bringing the offering without faith.

The problem wasn't the offering – the problem was with Cain. It was his heart.

The next thing that happens is that Cain kills Abel. Just like that.

He murdered one of his brothers because he was jealous of him.

What happens next is very similar to what we saw in chapter three after Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit.

- God questions the whereabouts of Adam and Eve after they ate of the fruit. God questions Cain on the whereabouts of Abel here in chapter four.
God questioned them not because He doesn't know (He knows all) He questions them because He wanted to give them a chance to repent.
- In both instances they try to cover up their sin. Adam and Eve with the fig leaves and Cain being evasive in his answers to God about Abel's whereabouts.
- Adam and Eve get expelled from the Garden of Eden and here Cain becomes a rejected wanderer of the earth.

God puts a curse upon Cain and we see Cain show remorse but no repentance.

Listen, there is a big difference between remorse and repentance.

Remorse is simply being sad that you got caught.

Many of the criminals that are in prison right now, I am pretty sure that many are remorseful they got caught.

I used to watch cops when it came out. Many times we would see the drunk driver start crying because she was going to go to jail – that is remorse.

However, as soon as they are let out, they do it again.

That is not repentance. This Sunday we will see an example of what true repentance is when we see Nineveh's response to Jonah message.

So Cain is showing remorse he got caught and is now worried about what the others are going to do with him if they find him.

Who are these others?

These others are his other brothers and sisters.

The scriptures only reveal the line of Cain and later on, we will see the line of Seth. Adam and Eve had other children besides Cain, Abel and Seth.

So despite Cain's transgressions, (murderer and a liar) God still shows grace upon Cain.

[Gen 4:15-16 CSB] 15 Then the LORD replied to him, "In that case, whoever kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." And he placed a mark on Cain so that whoever found him would not kill him. 16 Then Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

God puts a mark upon Cain – we don't know what it is. Some people speculate it was a tattoo. That is just speculation. This mark was supposed to keep people from killing Cain.

So let's go ahead read over the next portion...

[Gen 4:17-26 CSB] 17 Cain was intimate with his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain became the builder of a city, and he named the city Enoch after his son. 18 Irad was born to Enoch, Irad fathered Mehujael, Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. 19 Lamech took two wives for himself, one named Adah and the other named Zillah. 20 Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of the nomadic herdsman. 21 His brother was named Jubal; he was the father of all who play the lyre and the flute. 22 Zillah bore Tubal-cain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools. Tubal-cain's sister was Naamah. 23 Lamech said to his wives: Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, pay attention to my words. For I killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. 24 If Cain is to be avenged seven times over, then for Lamech it will be seventy-seven times! 25 Adam was intimate with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, for she said, "God has given me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him." 26 A son was born to Seth also, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.

One of the questions that people ask frequently is who did Cain marry?

As I mentioned earlier, Adam and Eve had other children, Cain marries his sister.

He had to marry his sister because that was all that was available. God didn't forbid marrying one's own sister until we get to Leviticus 18:9.

Later on, we will see that Abraham marries his wife Sarah who is also his half-sister.

All this was ok until God forbade it.

So Cain had children of his own and they had children and so on – until we get to Lamech

Lamech is the first bigamist in scriptures.

Not only is Lamech violating God's word regarding the institution of marriage, he is also a murderer and is very boastful.

“pay attention to my words. For I killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. 24 If Cain is to be avenged seven times over, then for Lamech it will be seventy-seven times!

He even speaks of himself in the third person.

What Lamech is stating here is that he deserves a greater protection to one bestowed upon Cain. He is bragging about his wickedness to God.

Church, we can see the deterioration of humanity in as little as seven generations from Adam.

Yet through all this, God is still in control and He has a plan.

The chapter ends with the birth of Seth.

Notice Eve's words, “God has given me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.”

Things haven't exactly started out on the right foot for Adam and Eve.

They blow it in the Garden of Eden.

They were kicked out of Eden.

Their first son kills their second son.

Cain is banished to wander the earth. Not exactly off to a great start, huh?

Yet Seth apparently begins a line of people who will follow God.

After all the heartache that has happened, there is hope for the family of Adam and Eve.

And that hope begins when people start to seek God. This is what was different from Seth's line, they began to call on the name of the Lord.

Chapter 5 –

Now, I am not going to read the entire chapter. That is your homework.

I am simply going to expound on a few verses.

The entire chapter traces the genealogy from Adam until Noah's children through the line of Seth.

The first thing that comes to the mind of people when they come across chapter 5 is the years that many of these patriarchs lived. **We have it recorded that six people actually lived to be over 900 years.**

Adam was able to see Noah's dad.

The question becomes, "How could these people live that long?"

We must remember that the pre flood earth was very different than the post flood earth. Genesis 1 tells us that there was the canopy of water over the earth and many believe that this canopy of water blocked out much of the radiation.

Once we get passed the flood, we will start to see life spans drastically go down.

What's missing, the canopy of water is no longer over the earth after the flood.

By the time we get to Abraham, he dies at the age of 175 years old.

Enoch

[Gen 5:21-24 NKJV] 21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. 22 After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. 24 And Enoch walked with God; and he [was] not, for God took him.

We don't know much about Enoch, all we know **is that he walked with God.**

In the Holy Scriptures, walking with God is also connected and described as walking in agreement with God (Amos 3:3)

[Amo 3:3 NKJV] 3 Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

Paul in his epistles, challenges us to not walk according to the world

[Eph 4:17 NKJV] 17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

We, as believers, walk with a purpose and that is to walk in the path that God has set forth for each of us.

Paul writing to the church in Philippi writes the following,

[Philippians 3:17-21 NKJV] 17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, [that they are] the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end [is] destruction, whose god [is their] belly, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

The world walks in order to feed their fleshly desires. To feed self. We just read in Philipians' that their god is their belly. They live to please themselves.

It could be fame, money or pride.

The problem with these things is that we tend to want more and more and more of these things. Our appetite for these worldly desires can never be satisfied.

However, Jesus Christ can satisfy us. He told the Samaritan woman "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst." (John 4:14)

The book of Hebrews gives us more insight on Enoch...

[Heb 11:5 NKJV] 5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Enoch's walk pleased God, Why?

Because Enoch walked by faith.

There are only two individuals in scripture that did not have to face death, Enoch and Elijah.

In these two individuals, we have a picture of the church right before the tribulation period as they will be taken up as well. They will not experience physical death.

Of course we read about the rapture in 1 Thess 4:17

In closing tonight,

We started this study with Cain who couldn't please God with his offerings due to lack of faith. God gave him the opportunity to repent and he chose to kill his brother instead.

We finished with Enoch who pleased God because he walked by faith and God took Enoch and he didn't have to face the consequences of sin, which is death.

Church, it is by grace through faith that we are saved. And only by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior will we be able to partake in eternal life.

God has given us free will – the choice is ours to make.

Amen.

Let's pray...