

1-22-17
The Many Faces Of Reprobate As Seen In Cain
“IF THOU DOEST WELL”

Genesis 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

Genesis 4:2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Genesis 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

Genesis 4:4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

Genesis 4:5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Genesis 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

Genesis 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Genesis 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Genesis 4:9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

Genesis 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

Genesis 4:11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

Genesis 4:12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

Genesis 4:13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

Genesis 4:14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

Genesis 4:15 And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.

Genesis 4:16 And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

Genesis 4:17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.

Cain had every opportunity to please God. All he had to do was what was right. But he didn't. The Lord made it very clear to him. All he had to do to be accepted is to get his act together and do what was right. If he did well, the Lord said, “HE WOULD BE ACCEPTED..” Instead, he chose the path of being a reprobate. Consider the following observations about his path that lead him in this direction.

I. A PERSON MAY MEAN WELL BUT NOT DO WELL AND WHAT IS RIGHT. WHAT YOU THINK IS WELL AND RIGHT, AND WHAT ACTUALLY IS ACCEPTABLE ARE OFTEN TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!!!

Proverbs 21:2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

Cain was a tiller of the ground, and why would he not think that what he was doing was better and more acceptable than his brother's trade of being a shepherd? The only problem was, in Genesis 3 God showed how man was to bring a propitiation for sin and that was through a blood sacrifice.

Here we have people worshipping God the way they think they should worship.

We are still doing that.
Why do we offer God what we like???

We choose the messages we like.
We choose the preachers we like.
We choose the music we like.
We choose the clothes we like.
We choose to give what we want.
We choose to serve the way we want.

This goes all the way back to Cain.

We may be sincere, but sincerely wrong.

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

SEMINARY: Some people say it was not the offering that was wrong, it was Cain's heart.

A persons heart is reflected by their actions.

The Bible says Abel's offering was made in faith.

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

His offering was a picture of Christ.

Hebrews 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Cain may have thought he was doing well, but doing well is not doing well by our own standard, doing well is based, and judged, by God's standard.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DOING WELL.

I hear it all the time, "I don't need to go to church to do well."
Who says that?

God knows I am a good person and he will accept me.
Where is that written?

God accepts us as we are?

No. God came to save us from our sin and bring us out of the bondage of sin. Jesus came to set us free and make us new creatures in Christ.

SO MANY PEOPLE THINK GOD IS JUST GOING TO ACCEPT THEM ON THEIR TERMS AND NOT ON HIS.

**II. A PERSON'S ATTITUDE WILL DETERMINE IF THEY DO WELL.
PRIDE KEPT CAIN FROM DOING WELL.**

CAIN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS REBUKE EXPOSED WHY HE DID NOT DO WELL.

Genesis 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

Genesis 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

The Lord said:

Why are you angry?

Why is your countenance fallen?

Sin is the root of the problem. That sin was the issue.

Pride kept Cain from offering the right offering.

GOD GAVE A SEVERE WARNING TO CAIN.

NOTE: All God ever did was warn people. All we can do is warn people. God never forces people to do His will. He could do so, but He has chosen to allow man the freedom to choose. He warned Cain what would happen if he did not do well. He also said it was in his power to choose to do well.

**III. WHEN A PERSON CASTS BLAME FOR THEIR FAILURE,
THEY WILL NEVER DO WELL BUT ONLY GROW WORSE!**

1. CAIN CAST BLAME AT HIS BROTHER ABEL AND KILLED HIM.

Genesis 4:8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

Why did he kill Cain? He killed him because he was convinced it was his fault that he was not accepted.

HATE comes from jealousy, envy, and strife.

So often people do things that cause others to not prefer them.

Then they get angry and cast blame at others for why they are not preferred.

Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Sometimes we do things to make people not prefer us, or have a disdain for us, and then we cry and complain because we are not accepted. The Lord said to Cain if you do well you will be accepted. If you do not well it is because sin lies at your door like a roaring lion seeks to devour you. If you succumb to sin than sin will rule over your life.

CAIN WAS UPSET THAT GOD PREFERRED ABEL.
CAIN DID NOTHING TO MEND HIS ACTIONS THAT CAUSED THIS DISAPPROVAL.

We blame: Circumstance.

We blame: People.

We blame.: Everyone and everything. And sometimes we even blame God!

THIS IS A TRICK OF THE DEVIL.
HE BLINDS A PERSONS MIND SO HE CANNOT SEE THE REAL PROBLEM.
THE REAL PROBLEM IS OUR ACTIONS.

II Timothy 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

II Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

II Timothy 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

HERE IS THE SCENARIO: THEY WANT TO BE ACCEPTED.
BUT INSTEAD OF DOING THINGS THAT WOULD CAUSE THAT APPROVAL THEY DO JUST THE OPPOSITE.

Cain was angry because he did not get the favor of God.
Instead of changing his actions to gain God's favor, he gets angry at Abel.

This is crazy. When a person's actions do not make sense, mark it down the devil is involved.
He is the author of Confusion.
He is the one crouching at our door to devour us. He is the man of sin.

THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN RECOVER A PERSON OUT OF THIS IS IF THE PERSON HIMSELF COMES TO THE REALIZATION THAT THE PROBLEM LIES WITHIN HIMSELF!
CAIN WAS THE PROBLEM, NOT ABEL.

II Timothy 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

How often I see people follow this same pattern..

Someone might say people in the church do not accept me. Yet what do you do to gain that acceptance? You gossip about people, you accuse people, you distance yourself from people. If you do what is right and you do well you will be accepted. You alienate people from yourself because of your actions and then you wonder why people don't accept you.

I have heard people say the Pastor doesn't give me a ministry.

Someone may say, why am I not asked to do this or that?
Maybe it is because you do not make yourself available.
Maybe it is because you are not faithful.

I never get a promotion at work. Do you deserve a promotion?
Cain was acting like a spoiled brat. Did he deserve to be accepted of God?

2. WHEN A PERSON REFUSES TO REPENT HE NEVER DOES WELL. BUT HIS STATE ONLY GROWS WORSE AND WORSE. He deceives himself.

SPIRAL DOWN HILL. HIS CONDITION ONLY GROWS WORSE AND WORSE!!!

Genesis 4:9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

Genesis 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

Note: does he really think he can lie to God?

So a person who refuses to accept the truth about himself expects others to believe his lies.

This person lives a lie.

This person continues in his lies.

His condition only grows worse and worse.

IV. WHEN A PERSON REFUSES TO DO WELL. THERE CAN BE A POINT OF NO RETURN. HE LOCKS HIMSELF INTO A CONDITION OF CONDEMNATION.

Instead of doing well Cain went on the attack and killed his brother.

Genesis 4:11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

Genesis 4:12 When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

Genesis 4:13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

Some sins will have long term lifetime repercussions.

God warned him.

Genesis 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

What is amazing is that God knows what we are about to do that is wrong, yet He does not stop us. He lets us make wrong choices. He put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil right in the middle of the garden. If it were me I would have put it somewhere where it was not accessible. You see, when we tell our kids not to go into the cabinets in the kitchen we also put child proof catches on the doors to prevent them from being able to open the cabinets. Why do we do this? We do it because we don't want to be dealing with disciplining our children. God is not like that He is teaching and disciplining not only us but the whole human race. So He warns

us and then it is up to us to heed His warning. He warned Cain that he needed to repent and do well or else sin would rule over him.

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

Romans 6:16 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?

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Romans 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

This is an amazing verse:

Cain wanted to be accepted.

Cain wanted to be approved and have the position of the first born.

Was the verse talking about Abel, and his position of preference over his younger brother, or was the verse talking about Satan the tempter being personified as sin.

What is amazing, the application can be for either. He was upset that his younger brother was preferred above him. The Lord said the problem is easily solved. Do well, do right, and you will be accepted. If you do not right it is because of sin. Sin crouches at the door of your life seeking to devour you. Unto you shall be his desire. Satan desires to sift us like wheat.

Also a similar expression is used in Genesis 3:

Genesis 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

In this case the issue is one of leadership and rulership. There may have been a hint of the desire of a women, in her fallen sinful nature, to desire to lead her husband, but God says he will lead her. Any society where women dominated, in time became weak because of a breakdown of the family. We are seeking that in our society today. He will rule over you, God said.

V. FINALLY SOME PEOPLE WILL NEVER DO WELL. THEY JUST DON'T HAVE IT IN THEM.

Genesis 4:14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.

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Notice what Cain said:

MY PUNISHMENT IS MORE THAN I CAN BEAR! WHAT NONSENSE!

HERE WE HAVE IT.

Why is it some people just do not see? So Cain did not see that his punishment was not even equal to his sin and crime.

Is it not that sin has blinded their minds?
Do they really think that they deserve mercy?

Why was God merciful to Cain?
Why did he let him live?

Since there was no declared penalty for murder, God did not take Cain's life.

SINNERS ALWAYS SEE THEIR ACTIONS THROUGH THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW OF THEIR DEPRAVED NATURE.

SAD. SAD. SAD.

This is a pattern of a reprobate. He refuses to do well, to be accepted.

It is My Brother's fault.
It is everyone else's fault.
Ultimately they think it is God's fault.

Cain was the first reprobate and one who led the way to all others.