

1-29-23 MESSAGE
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CAIN RELIGIOUS CROWD

SCRIPTURE READING:

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.

Here in this passage we read about the first

Note: The first Religious Apostasy
 The First Murder

The first murder took place over religion!

**THE CROWD THAT FOLLOWS CAIN
STILL LIVES WITH US TODAY:**

Cain means Possession Cain was actually preferred by his parents...
The word Cain (qayin) means to acquire or possess something also can be used for the word SPEAR.. The etymology of his name means coin or king..

Abel means Vanity Abel was not a child of hope but of vexation and vanity... The word 'hable' means to be empty, often translated as vain or vanity in the sense of being empty of substance. The etymology of his name is wind.. empty

From even the naming of these two sons it is obvious that Cain was preferred.

Cain no doubt was the one that Eve thought would be the promised child
he was the favored of his parents

Abel was they thought a child of vanity... travail and pain... Little hope in this world..

Some actually think they were twins.. don't know that this can be proven..

Fundamental to all worship is the bringing of the offering to God.....
Honor God with the first fruits... Abel's offering was the firstlings of the flock.. Cain's offering was just the fruit of the ground. No mention of the first fruits or that it was anything special.

So a person's character and religion can be determined by the type of offering they bring to God!

Abel's offering was a better offering..

I. THE CAIN CROWD IS A SELF WILLED RELIGIOUS CROWD THAT LOOKS GOOD ON THE OUTSIDE..

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:

Cain brought his offering and Abel brought his offering...

Imagine in the day in which they lived.... they were not meat eaters....
Imagine..... whose outward offering would have looked better...

Cain.... brought a beautiful, basket of produce... bright colors, looks good, smells good... Why wouldn't God accept it?

THE RELIGION OF CAIN OUTWARDLY LOOKS BETTER THAN ABEL'S RELIGION!

Abel's offering... Firstling, and the fat thereof...
Didn't bring a live lamb but a dead one, with the fat...

Kid.... with grandfather from Italy.....
Bought a goat... came home from school.... goats head was hanging...
All bloody.. etc... We were horrified!

The bloodless religions of this world at first glance look kinder and nicer and more loving than Bible preaching... Christianity...

A liberal crowd looks pretty good... Fruit looks better than meat.. who decorates their house with meat..

Liberal crowd talks nice.. kind... never offends....

Fire brimstone hellfire preaching... looks kind of tacky... at first glance...
Too many people are worshipping God the way they want to worship...

Baptism.... people get sprinkled...
People baptized as a baby
Attend church the way they want.. when they want.. how they want..

Baptist can be guilty also.. Many come to Church as often, and whenever it pleases them.....

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT WORSHIP IS WHAT SACRIFICES WE MAKE FOR GOD! DO WE SACRIFICE ANY OLD WAY WE PLEASE, OR DO WE SACRIFICE AS WE ARE TOLD..... and as He commands...

CONSIDER WHAT ARE THE NEW TESTAMENT SACRIFICES?

If the most important thing about ones faith and religion is based on our sacrifices than we need to ask.. what kind of sacrifices does God want us to make today?

**A. Does God want you to bring the blood of bulls and goats today...
NO NO NO**

Hebrews 10:4 For [it is] not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Hebrews 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Hebrews 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

Hebrews 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [for all].

Hebrews 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

THIS IS THE NEW TESTAMENT:

Hebrews 10:16 This [is] the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

Hebrews 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Hebrews 10:18 Now where remission of these [is, there is] no more offering for sin.

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

THE NEW TESTAMENT SACRIFICES MUST BE INWARD NOT OUTWARD... TAKE PLACE WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP AND PRAISE HIS NAME BUT STILL THEY NEED TO LOOK TO CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR..

John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

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

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

John 4:24 God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of [our] faith without wavering; (for he [is] faithful that promised;)

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Let us worship in the Spirit.. The spirit produces the fruit of the spirit

Let us worship him in truth.. All truth comes from God's word..

B. THE NEW TESTAMENT SACRIFICES ARE WRAPPED UP IN YOUR FAITHFULNESS TO THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to his name.

Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that [is] unprofitable for you.

These sacrifices should not be based on our own ideas, like Cain's..

These sacrifices should not be based on what looks good outwardly.. like Cain

These sacrifices need to be based on faith in the message of Scripture.. the gospel..

Abel's offering spoke about the promise of salvation and look forward to Christ's sacrifice..

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.

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.

So our sacrifices to God need to be based on faith .. which comes from the word of God. We look back to what he did. How are we suppose to look back to his sacrifice? How do we picture that sacrifice today?

Do you see your faithfulness in church attendance as an acceptable sacrifice?

Do you see your faithfulness in giving as an acceptable sacrifice?

Do you see your faithfulness in service as an acceptable sacrifice?

We need people to be faithful to serve.. so many people are reluctant to serve in ministries.. So many .. What service do you do for Him? What sacrifices do you make for Him?

Cleaning church,

Talked about need for people to help with sound room,

Sunday School teachers

youth workers..

Even just helping out with meals for church..

Choir,

workdays,

Inviting people to church,

Witnessing,

Giving,

There are a host of ways you can minister for God..

These are all acceptable sacrifices for God..

C. THE SPIRIT OF CAIN IS STILL AMONGST US...

People are forsaking the Church
People are not supporting the work...
People are attacking God's leadership.... They are not obeying...
People worship and serve as they see fit..

Religion of the people, for the people, by the people, ruled of the people...
LAODICEAN AGE....

Everything Satan ever did he did with mob rule...
Jesus was voted on to be crucified..
Moses lost the vote of the people and they wanted to stone him...
People voted not to go into the promise land and rebelled against Moses..

Apostasy congregational rule is where the will of the people is done.....
Theocratic rule.... is where the will of Christ is done..
Congregational stewardship is where we are all stewards of God's work..
Congregational stewardship not headship is a Biblical concept

Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

So the Cain crowd worships based on their own will and own ideas.. self willed service.
So the beat goes on ..

II. THE CAIN CROWD IS THAT RELIGIOUS CROWD THAT CAN'T TAKE REBUKE

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

Genesis 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wrath? 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.

Notice the nature of the rebuke:

- A. Do well and you will gain favour....
- B. If a person does wrong they sin and sin lies at the door.. to lead to greater sin and punishment..

One sin leads to another and another...

SAME WORD

HEBREW WORD SIN IS THE SAME WORD WHICH CAN BE TRANSLATED PUNISHMENT ALSO THESE TWO WORDS ARE A KIN!

2403 chatta'ah, khat-taw-aw'; or chatta'th, khat-tawth'; from 2398; an offence (sometimes habitual sinfulness), and its penalty, occasion, sacrifice, or explanation; also (concr.) an offender:-punishment (of sin), purifying (-fication of sin), sin (-ner, offering).

----- Dictionary Trace -----

chata', khaw-taw'; a prim. root; prop. to miss; hence (fig. and gen.) to sin; by infer. to forfeit, lack, expiate, repent, (causat.) lead astray, condemn:-bear the blame, cleanse, commit [sin], by fault, harm he hath done, loss, miss, (make) offend (-er), offer for sin, purge, purify (self), make reconciliation, (cause, make) sin (-ful, -ness), trespass.

Sin lies at the door like a lion ready to punish the sinner...

Sin will find you out....

Numbers 32:23 and be sure your sin will find you out.

This rebuke against Cain was not very hard... not mean ...
God was in fact kind... etc

As a Pastor... many times I try to gently warn people... and in fact many times these warnings do not work and people go on into sin and are punished in the end.

Sometimes I think to myself...

Maybe I should have been tougher....

Maybe I was too tough

Maybe I should have given greater warning.

At times it really bothers me... until I realize that God himself is rejected of people.

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.

What did Jesus do wrong with Judas? Where did he go wrong?

Where did Adam and Eve go wrong with Cain?
The Lord himself warned Cain.. what went wrong?

Paul warned that in the end times, doing the work of the ministry will be tougher and tougher... WHY because men will not listen to preaching and rebuke...

II Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

II Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

II Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

II Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

C. Unto thee shall be his desire and thou shalt rule over 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.

Religious favor does not disannul human relationships and rulership...
Cain was fearful that Able would be the ruler not him...

The Lord says clearly that this one set back does not disannul your birthright...

SO SAD IT IS THAT PEOPLE WILL NOT HEED GOD'S REBUKE....

An evangelist friend (Hal Webb) shared how a Pastor didn't ask him back because two ladies in the Church came to him and said they would boycott the meetings if he preached because they didn't like his rebukes..

God did not accept Cain's offering...

Today we have too many things that we do to please the people and not enough to please God...

We are in the Laodicean age.... age where the laity rules the Church...
We have:

People wanting to hear good things about themselves.. Itchy ear people..

People wanting their ears tickled

People wanting a leader who flatters them.....

Flattery is nothing more than deceitful praise... a lie made to look good and please others...

If I lie to you and tell you something that is untrue to gain money... you would say that is thievery, that is fraud.. etc...

BUT.... a man gets in the pulpit or a politician stands behind a podium lies and tells people all kind of nice things that are not true and that is all right...

Anti-Christ will gain power through flatteries...

Very few people are willing to accept correction and rebuke today....

As soon as you correct people they are out the door looking for another Church

Chooses leadership... As soon as the preacher turns up the heat..... people are throwing in the towel.... quitting left and right....

Invitation:

Don't be part of the end time Cain religious crowd...
Don't follow the end time crowd....

EVENING MESSAGE PART II

III. THIS CAIN CROWD IS THAT RELIGIOUS CROWD THAT LACKS NATURAL AFFECTION

This is the crowd without natural affection?

Am I my brothers keeper???? YES! LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF

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.

We are living in a day and age where people do not have a natural love and affection for each other....

Children to Parents..... Children turn parents in to authorities in school...

Parents to Children Abortion... children turned out in streets age 18

Twins.... doctor was amazed that we were crying and praying asking God to not let us loose the Baby

It is not natural that people are so quick to abort their children.
THIS IS NOT NATURAL..

I have a niece who was told by doctors that her Baby had Down Syndrome and suggested she abort the pregnancy

Brothers and Sisters.... hate one another... murders

Neighbors hate each other.. no natural care and affection.
No kindred love... your neighbor as yourself..
Today it is do to others before they do to you...
Survival of the fittest...

THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF CAIN THAT STILL LIVES WITH US TODAY...

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER...

WHAT A WISE GUY! As if God didn't know what he did...

How sad it is that people really think God is so stupid as to not know what they are up to....

IV. THE CAIN CROWD IS THAT RELIGIOUS CROWD THAT VIEWS THE GOD OF THE BIBLE AS BEING TOO HARD

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.

Lamentations 3:39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

I'm amazed God has let me live as long as I have..

People complain when they are getting sick at age 80...

I remember what old Chris Repolt used to say each time I saw him and asked him how are you doing? He always answered the same.. BETTER THAN I DESERVE..

I just recently heard his unsaved wife.. is attending church each Sunday!

God is good to us... why do we complain?

Sitting in our house.. amazed that God was as good to us as he has been...

I am amazed all he has done for us in our Church...

Some folks all they can do is complain....

It would do us good to praise God for his mercies ..

Praise him for all he has done for you..

I remember the day we took a family vote to determine if we were going to build a house. Everyone wanted to build a house. Then I said, now don't complain when it gets hard. I had to remind my kids of that the whole two years we worked on the house..

A. My own children after we got into the project started complaining ..

When we did the Footer... Melody and Joseph were fighting..

Block work..

Framing... each time we had to sweep up .. they complained..

Siding

Electrical

Plumbing

Insulation

Let us thank God..

- B. We are like children in the Church likewise...
All right we have a few problems here or there.. so what..
We don't even deserve anything

Cain deserved to be smitten of God and destroyed...

Instead God casts him out of Eden...

AND HE COMPLAINS??

Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Romans 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Romans 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Romans 2:7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

Romans 2:8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Romans 2:9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

Romans 2:10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

Cain started indicting God... my punishment is too great..

I was talking to a man years ago.. I remember him saying..

I won't give my heart to Christ because of one thing...

Niece was crossing the street and a fellow hit her and killed her..

I asked if the fellow was drunk.. he said yes..

I said to him God did not kill your niece liquor did.. Why are you not upset at the liquor business..

Why are they not on a rampage against liquor and drunks... Fellow had a bar in his house and beer in the refrigerator.. all kind of booze in his possession.. BUT HE WAS UPSET AT GOD AND NOT LIQUOR!

So many complain.. One complains of the death of a loved one.. another complains about a bitter experience... another it is some hardship...

WHO ARE THOSE THAT FOLLOW IN THE CORRUPT SPIRIT OF CAIN... WHO SAYS MY PUNISHMENT IS MORE THAN I CAN BEAR...

I. THOSE WHO HAVE A SELF WILLED RELIGION

II. THOSE WHO CAN'T TAKE REBUKE

III. THOSE WHO LACK NATURAL AFFECTION

IV. THOSE WHO VIEW GOD AS BEING TOO HARD AND FORGET HIS MERCY

Invitation: The error of Cain is still with us..

The Spirit that worked in him still works now in the children of disobedience...

Repent of this Cain spirit and give your heart to the Lord.

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.

Instead of repenting Cain killed his brother...

The more people hear the message and reject the message the worse their state will become.

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

Hebrews 3:8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Hebrews 3:9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

Hebrews 3:15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.