



Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. – Genesis 3:22-23

In this passage we have many firsts: the first birth, the first brothers, the first shepherd, the first farmer, the first offerings, the first worship service, the first murder, and the first cover-up. The shock of this story is not simply that Cain killed a man who made him angry. That would be bad enough. No, Cain killed his brother.

- The first murder takes place within the _____.
- The first murder takes place after a _____.

A Tale of 2 Sons ... 4:1-16

I. The Perfect _____ ... (4:1-5)

II. A Better _____ ... (4:6-8)

III. A Weighty _____ ... (4:9-16)

- Cain denies _____.
- Cain's sentence is _____.
- Cain experiences _____ and _____.
- God Promises _____ amid Punishment.
- Cain Lives a Life _____ from God.

So What ...

1. Small Sins Soon Become _____.
2. Great Sins are Never as _____ as they Appear.
3. Even the Worst Sinners can be _____.

Truth for Life

For the week of February 28, 2021

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear you need to give God your best? What does that entail? How can we determine whether we have done that or not?

How does this requirement relate to Matthew 22:34-40?

2. Read Matthew 25:14-30. How does this passage clarify what giving our best looks like (note – modern day equivalents to a talent could be skills, abilities, money, possessions, positions of influence, roles in relationships, etc.)? How does this contrast with Cain's efforts to give God less than his best?

What are one or two things you think you're good at and/or resources you believe God has given you? Of those things you are good at, how many of them have you given to God? For His benefit? Can you think of any way you could better invest what God has given you? If so, explain.

3. Read back over Genesis 4:1-16 and compare with Hebrews 11:4 and 1 John 3:12. You may want to read in various translations. Do you see it as unfair in any way that God was more pleased with Abel's offering? If so, why? Why did God favor Abel's offering? What could we learn from this so that our offering to God would be pleasing to Him?

4. The result of the brutal conflict between Cain and Abel is about as intense as it gets. It's a tough and pointed reminder revealing once again the result of sin and the conflict it brings in human relationships. The enemy's goal in all this is to keep us isolated and afraid to engage with and care for those around us. The good news is God gives us hope and strength to make a difference and stay connected. What insight does Romans 12:14-20 give us on how to deal with the intensity of conflict and still make a difference? What principle is most critical for you to learn and put in practice?

5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.

- a. What should we do if we don't feel like worshiping God? Is it hypocritical to do it without feeling it?
- b. It is possible to work up feelings apart from God. How can we have genuine feelings of adoration from the heart?
- c. The psalmists sometimes complain to the Lord. Is all complaining wrong? When would it be okay?



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- The first murder takes place within the **Family**.
- The first murder takes place after a **Worship Service**.

A Tale of 2 Sons ... 4:1-16

I. The Perfect **Family** ... (4:1-5)

II. A Better **Gift** ... (4:6-8)

III. A Weighty **Punishment** ... (4:9-16)

- Cain denies **Responsibility**.
- Cain's sentence is **Restless Wandering**.
- Cain experiences **Fear** and **Uncertainty**.
- God Promises Protection amid Punishment.
- Cain Lives a Life **Wholly Apart** from God.

So What ...

1. Small Sins Soon Become **Big**.
2. Great Sins are Never as **Sudden** as they Appear.
3. Even the Worst Sinners can be **Forgiven**.

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