

Genesis 4. Cain and Abel. The first portrait of life after the fall. It's grim. **Sin crouching at your door.** What a phrase. And Murder. You know the story. Bible history. But so much more than meets the eye. Like standing at a war memorial or grave of loved one. So much more story to be told.

Here, Genesis 4, after the promise of a Savior in chapter 3, you also see, as the Church has always seen, the profound prefiguration of Christ's passion, the life giving Sacraments of the church, even the mysteries of Mary the mother of God, our Lord. It's all there. All connected to the Church today and you.

Hearts are exposed, revealed, even as yours today. The Shepherd Abel's offering given in faith, sacrifice of a life, a firstborn. Second recorded death; the first, with an innocent lamb to cover Adam and Eve's sin after the Fall. Cain, with faith in himself, who himself defines worship, defines what God accepts, comes judgment. **Where is your brother? Am I my brother's keeper?** Yes! Abel's blood cries from the ground, as Cain exiled, wandering like you in the world. Abel, pre-figured Christ, Jesus, a righteous Shephard, with acceptable offering of an innocent life offered in faith to God; firstborn, incarnate of the Virgin Mary, murdered by the hands of His brother's, all humanity; whose blood cries from the Calvary. **Father forgive them, they know not what they do...** Jesus blood cries for mercy, reconciliation with mankind, to those murders, for all humanity, Jesus blood cries for you.

In Hebrews it's written, **sprinkled blood of the New Covenant speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.** Christ's blood cries out, and brings vindicate in His resurrection, that answer's Abel's cry.

Jesus says, **take, drink, the New Covenant in My blood,** the Eucharist, for the forgiveness of sins, His blood answers for you. The sacrifice of the true Abel.

In baptism, joined to His death and resurrection; you're washed in Christ's cleaning blood. Even more, you've a baptismal mark of the Christ on you. A cross. **The Lord put a mark on Cain,** a sign of mercy, to spare a murder's life. The word 'mark,' also the letter 'T'. You are marked by Him, to spare you vengeance, spare your life for eternity.

At the beginning, Eve's exalted cry, better translated, **I have gotten the Lord,** she though she gave birth to the Savior promised in 3:15. but Eve's firstborn brings death, murder into the world, the Virgin Mary conceives, bears a life, firstborn into the world, that will conquer death. Eve, the first

mother ever to mourn the death of a son, Mary at the cross mourns her slain Good Shepherd. By the incarnation, Jesus humanity, a sacrifice, blood answers Abel's cry, and answers the mourning of every mother; father, son, daughter, answers every cry with His blood with eternal life.

At the cross, Jesus says to Mary, **Women, behold your son**, as she goes into John's care. Women, used twice in Luke's gospel, also at the Wedding Feast in Cana, Jesus say, Women what does this have to do with Me, my hour has not yet come- referring to His death, Jesus gives supernatural wine. By calling Mary, **Women**, Jesus connects her to the first women, Eve, even today in Gen. 4. It's all connected. To the Christ, to the Church. To you. A sacrifice. Wedding feast. Eucharist, New Covenant in Blood. God's baptismal mark on you spares you from death to life. It's all connected, for you to receive by grace.

What have you done? If you do not do well, sin is crouching at your door. It's desire for you, but you must rule over it. Sin crouching at your door. Satan like a roaring lion, prowling about seeking to destroy you. And every relationship you have. What will you do? Live for yourself. Excuse your sins. Like Cain, make excuses for your works and offering before God. Live by your wants; passions of the flesh St Paul notes. Exalt yourself.

Or will you fight? Of course, it's hard. The fight against sin is a fight. It's not easy to deny passions of the flesh; but you do it. Even if you manage by the grace of God to restrain yourself from scandal, public sins, you've the wickedness of your heart, your secret thoughts. You aren't better than the Pharisee. You need grace, forgiveness.

Humble yourself. Live repentance. Fight temptations. Sin, **its desire to have you, but You must rule over it. You must rule over it**, everything you've got. He gives you His Word, use it, live by it. Live for God and others, deny yourself. It is always worth it. The Hymn, "For All the Saints" **Oh may Thy soldiers faithful true and bold, fight as the saints who nobly fought of old... And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ears, the distant triumph song. And hearts are brave again and arms are strong.** Faith, that you know the Lord fights for you, whose blood covers you, His sacrifice, His blood covering you, who truly did humble Himself, death on a cross; exalted over death in resurrection. This is grace. This is your life. Receive it. Believe it. Trust it. Thus, **go down to your house justified. You also humble, will be exalted.**