Genesis 4 The First Brothers

Introduction: Brothers are often alike and different at the same time. We want to look at two brothers that were as different as night and day, but we can probably relate to both of them.

**I) Cain and Abel, v. 4**

**A) Cain was more physically minded.**

1. Like Esau or Ishmael. **Colossians 3.2**

**B) Abel was more spiritually minded.**

1. People eventually develop a way of looking at lie; some think first of the physical and temporal. Where to work, where to live, recreation, friends, etc. This would be Cain.

2. Others place the spiritual first (Abel).

a. They think first about serving God, where to worship, where to live, recreation is not the first priority but worship, studying His word is important. It is not that they don't work, or live, or recreate but their sense of priorities are different.

**II) Both offered sacrifices.**

**A) Both recognized God and their need for forgiveness.**

**B) Cain offered the produce of the ground as his sacrifice.**

1. While we are not told specifically what God required we know that the sacrifice was not acceptable to God. Whether it was an animal sacrifice God wanted or it was Cain's attitude that caused the sacrifice to be rejected, we know no.

2. Produce of the ground -- convenient, better to look at, etc.

3. Why did God reject the sacrifice? It was not what God commanded. God does not accept vain worship, **Matthew 15.7-9.**

**C) Abel offered an animal sacrifice.**

1. He offered it by faith, **Hebrews 11.4; Romans 10.17.**

2. God accepted his offering. This is after all what it is all about.

3. God tells us what He will and will not accept, **2 Timothy 3.16-17.**

**III) Cain's Reaction**

**A) He got angry-- people do the same today.**

1. When told they are not living right, not worshiping in the way God says.

2. People often get angry over religion. Money, politics, and religion.

a. Jews killed the prophets

b. Stephen was stoned to death.

**B) God warned Cain about sin-- it lies at the door. vv. 6-7.**

1. He could and should rule over it. We either control ourselves or sin will control us.

2. Knocks in the head the doctrine of total depravity.

**C) He killed his brother, v. 8**

1. **1 John 3.12, 15** he did not love his brother, did not love God.

2. He loved himself and was self-willed.

**IV) God's two questions**

**A) Where is your brother? What have you done?**

**B) Why did God ask those two questions?**

1. Not to find out the answers, **vv. 10, 11-12**

**C) To get Can to confess what he had done, 1 John 1.9.**

1. Confess means to say the same thing as, **Matthew 10.32.**

**D) God did not ask why?**

1. The why of disobedience is not really important.

**V) The Consequences of Sin**

**A) Physically, vv. 12-15.**

1. Life got harder after Adam and Eve sinned against God.

2. Life got harder after Cain killed Abel.

3. Sin is a hard task master, **Romans 6.16.**

**B) Spiritually - separated from God, Exodus 32.33. *Whoever sins against me, I will blot his name out of by book.***

**Conclusion: God still cared for Cain. The mark of Cain was not a sign of punishment but protection. God cares for us today. The worse of sinners, the most rebellious have a pathway to God. No sin is so bad it cannot be forgiven if we are willing to submit ourselves to God.**