

5. The dawn of the sinful world

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Many people who are in humanism believe that mankind is basically good and a few rotten people cause problems against the mankind. If you believe that, you have more faith than I do for the mankind. I have only one kind of faith for the mankind – without Jesus, every single person will end up in hell.

Throughout the history of humanity, we don't see anything but hostility to one another and ultimately against God. From the dawn of this sinful world, we find a murder, not taking responsibility for their actions, spiritual pride and rejecting the Creator.

Many of us remember the news story about the slain Tucson Police Department Officer Patrick Hardesty. John Cruz who killed Officer Hardesty denied his killing throughout the trial. When the sentence was handed down, he finally admitted that he killed the officer. Yet, he and his family don't think that he should be executed for killing the officer. Their mindset is that it is OK for him to take away a police officer's life, but it is not OK for the government to punish him with an execution. What a typical twisted human logic!

In Genesis 3 we have the root of sin and in Genesis 4 we find the fruit of sin.

A. THE BIRTH OF CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4:1-2 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." 2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

I am sure that Eve remembered what God told them:

Genesis 3:15 between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.

She was hoping and expecting that the child she just bore would be the one who would bruise satan's head and take the curse back. Little she knew that he would become the first murderer of the mankind.

Genesis 4:3-5 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

Let's not think that God didn't care to have fruit from the ground. Nothing wrong with the fruits. It was not the choice of fruits or animal in this case. It was a matter of obedience to God's instruction.

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

Cain's offering was the effort of dead human religion and simply discharging a duty, while Abel's offering was made in faith, in a desire to worship God in spirit and in truth.

We are not born as children of God. We have to be born-again to be children of God. Man is separated from God from birth. Cain refused to recognize that, and multitudes today refuse to do so.

You may say, "Maybe Cain didn't know what to bring." I don't think so. I am sure that his mom and dad told him what happened in the Garden of Eden. I am also sure that God gave them instructions for the sacrifice. Cain simply ignored what God said and he did whatever he wanted. We can see his attitude from his reaction to God.

Sacrifice requires life to cover the sins of person. Cain ignored it just like many people today including some Christians who think lightly of the Atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Cain's lack of faith shows up in his response to God's rejection of his offering of fruit. Rather than repenting from his wrong doing and pleasing God, he was very angry.

Cain's anger was undoubtedly rooted in spiritual pride and jealousy. He couldn't bear that his brother was accepted before God and he was not.

B. GOD'S ADVICE TO MAKE IT RIGHT

Genesis 4:6-7 So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

In His grace and love, God reached out to Cain to teach to be godly instead of being sinful. He made it clear that he would be accepted if he did well.

Of course, God knew the outcomes of these questions, but He wanted Cain to know and stop what was happening inside himself. God warned Cain about the destructive power of sin. Cain can resist sin and find blessing, or he can give in to sin and be devoured.

We can prevent sin from ruling over us by allowing God to master us first. Without God as our master, we will be slaves to sin without an exception.

"*Sin lies at the door*" is such a great description of our spiritual dilemma. We all are born with sinful nature. If that is not bad enough, the enemy of God, satan, entices our sinful nature day and night to ignore the Holy Spirit's warnings and convictions. The devil also encourages us to conveniently forget about any possibilities of consequences of our sins. Indeed, sin lies at the door to pounce on us at any given opportunities. More often than not, we walk right into his booby trap knowingly and unknowingly. How stupid can we get? When God warns us, we must take heed His voice.

Prov 7:21-22 With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him. 22 Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks,

C. THE FIRST MURDER

Genesis 4:8-9 Now 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 killed him. 9 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

This shows that Cain committed premeditated murder, and therefore clearly ignored God's way of escape.

Now Adam and Eve's hopeful redeemer is a murderer, and their second son is the victim of murder.

God knew the answer of His question. He asked Cain because He wanted to give him the opportunity to confess his sin and start to do right after doing wrong.

How useless it was for Cain to lie to God! It was madness for him to think God didn't know where Abel was, or that he could actually hide his sin from God.

This reply of Cain, "Am I my brother's keeper?" is well known. The fact of the matter is that he was supposed to be his brother's keeper, but he became the murderer of his brother. He murdered him for the lowest of reasons. Cain's murderous rage was inspired purely by a spiritual jealousy.

Jude 1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Jude 11 warns of the way of Cain, which is unbelief, empty religion leading to jealousy, persecution of those truly godly, and murderous anger.

There is no greater curse on the earth than empty and vain religion, those who have a form of godliness, but deny the power of God. Many are deathly afraid of "secular humanism" or atheism, but dead religion sends more people to hell than anything else.

Cain had a chance to turn from his sins of anger, jealousy and pride to God. He could come clean by being obedient to Him. But Cain would rather kill his own brother.

I've seen the same kind of behaviors from many brothers and sisters in the Lord. When I see their sins, I talk with them and remind them as the Holy spirit leads me that there is satan's traps waiting ahead of them if they continue. More often than not, they ignore my warnings and go straight into the traps. Then they wonder how they end up there.

You might be in that situation. You might be at the blink of decision to commit sin against God. I plea with you, please turn away from your sin. Your heart might justify whatever you are planning to do with all the garbage excuses, but God is not going to let you get by. Don't ignore God's warning to you, the consequences of your action will not ignore you for sure.

D. FACING THE CONSEQUENCES

Genesis 4:10-12 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. 11 So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."

The curse upon Cain was that Adam's curse would be amplified in regard to him. If bringing forth food from the ground would be hard for Adam, it would be impossible for Cain who was a farmer. If Adam were driven from the Garden of Eden, Cain would find no resting place on all the earth and he would be a fugitive and homeless person.

Genesis 4:13-15 And Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! 14 Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me." 15 And the Lord said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

Just like John Cruz who killed Police Officer Patrick Hardesty didn't want to be executed, Cain didn't want his punishment. Cain didn't feel bad about his sin, but only about his punishment. What about you? If you don't mind committing sin against God, you shouldn't mind getting consequences, either. Because they always go together.

One of the side effects of sin is that it makes the sinner pity himself instead of causing him to turn to God. One of the first signs of new life is that the individual takes sides with God against himself or herself.

In His great mercy, God set an identifying and protective mark upon Cain. Despite the a lot of speculations, nobody really knows what this mark upon Cain was.

E. GODLESS CIVILIZATION

Genesis 4:16-18 Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden. 17 And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son--Enoch. 18 To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.

Here is a Bible question: Where did Cain get his wife? We don't know where.

Genesis 5:4 says Adam had several sons and daughters. Cain obviously married his sister. You might say, "Does it mean God is OK with incest?"

Though marrying a sister was against the law of God according to Leviticus 18:9, 18:11, 20:17, and Deuteronomy 27:22 which even prohibits the marrying of a half-sister, this was long before God spoke that law to Moses and the world.

Here, necessity of populating the earth demanded that Adam's sons marry their sisters. And at this point, the "gene pool" of humanity was pure enough to allow close marriage without harm of inbreeding. But as a stream can get more polluted the further it gets from the source, there came a time when God decreed there no longer be marriage between close relatives because of the danger of inbreeding.

Even Abram married his half-sister Sarah in Genesis 20:12. God did not prohibit such marriages until the time of Moses in Leviticus 18:9. Marrying a brother or sister was not forbidden until God forbade it. So, the God's answer for incest is 'ABSOLUTELY NOT'.

Here we see the beginning of industry and of urbanization. It is strongly man-centered and ungodly, not God-centered. The fall of the human race continues to pick up speed.

Genesis 4:19-22 Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. 20 And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. 21 His

brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. 22 And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.

The name Lamech may mean, "conqueror." He was the seventh from Adam on Cain's side. Lamech's arrogance is a contrast to Enoch, who was the seventh from Adam on Seth's line and walked with God.

Lamech was the first bigamist in history, going against God's original plan for one man and one woman to become one flesh. Lamech now does that which is contrary to what God intends, contrary to what God has for man. You will never find anywhere in the Scriptures that God approves of polygamy. Yes, some of the godly characters had multiple wives. But that doesn't mean that God approved it.

Here are the descendants of Lamech – having livestock, making musical instruments, and working with bronze and iron. It sounds like they have honky tonk country music and blacksmith business.

Genesis 4:23-24 Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me. 24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."

In this ungodly boasting, Lamech was challenging God with his own power. However, I am sure that he doesn't feel so invincible now in hades while he is waiting for God's judgement for last 6000 years .

Genesis 4:25-26 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." 26 And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.

In strong contrast with this ungodly society was the righteous. In the line from Seth there was faith. Seth himself was a provision from God, according to Eve's statement of faith. In the days of Enosh, Seth's son, men began to call on the name of the LORD 'Yahweh'.

F. APPLICATIONS

1) We must not think that we can escape the consequences of our sins.

Our sins will find us out.

2) Just because God does not punish us the moment we sin against Him, it doesn't mean that He winks at our sins.

He is giving us time to repent.