

The Gospel in Genesis

Worship

Genesis 4:1-8

You were created to work (4:2)

You were created to worship (4:3)

Is your heart overflowing?

The Gospel in Genesis

[Worship]

Introduction

- Someone has said that the seven deadly sins of society are these: Policies without principles; wealth without work; pleasure without conscience; knowledge without character; commerce and industry without morality; science without humanity; worship without sacrifice.
- **What we see in Genesis 4 is two brother's in worship (NICNT).**
- **Psa. 24:3** Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in His holy place?
 - 4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who has not set his mind on what is false,
and who has not sworn deceitfully.
 - 5 He will receive blessing from the LORD,
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
 - 6 Such is the generation of those who seek Him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
- As week look intently into God's Word, may the Lord look at our hearts and may our worship be pure, purposefully, and fruitful.

Read [Gen 4:1-8]

You were created to work (4:2)

- We live in a broken world that says work does not equal worship. Why not? God created us to worship in and with our work.
- **Introducing the two sons in terms of their occupations is more important for the narrator since it establishes the plot for the murder that follows.**
- Job Stats
 1. 80% of people are dissatisfied with their jobs

- 2. the average Joe spends 90,000 hours at work over their lifetime or 10.65 years you spend 25 years sleeping.
 - You spend 5 years sitting at a desk
 - You spend 2 years sitting in meetings.
- **We worship with our work.... We do not worship our work.**
 1. Climbing the corporate ladder and keeping up with the neighbors can quickly become an idol.... Do not worship your work.
- **Worship through your work**
 1. **Col 3:23** Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,
 2. Do you waste time at work?
 3. Do you have a strong work ethic?
 4. Do you steal/ borrow when you should not?
 5. Do you prioritize family and worship over work?
- **Work is the greatest mission field you have**
 1. if you spend 10 years with someone... God is giving you an open door to share the Gospel.
 - Are all your co-workers believers?
 - **Everyone in your working environment should know about Jesus because you are there.**
 - Monday at Children's seeking a family in need sitting at the same time, same section, that was broken

You were created to worship (4:3)

- Course of time→ may imply that the practice of giving offerings was customary for the brothers, perhaps learned from Adam.
- **You worship when our hearts are Full**
 - In the fruit of the labors they felt gratitude to God for His bounty. Their offerings were spontaneous, not a response to divine command (JPS)
 - Your heart and overflow with the goodness of God even when it is broken
 - **Worship→ the narrative conveys the fundamental principle of Judaism that the act of worship must be informed by genuine devotion of heart.**
 - **Worship reveals your true heart**
- **You worship with the First of what we have (4:4)**
 - Some→ Cain's purpose was noble, but his act was not ungrudging and openhearted.
 - There is no indicates that these are the first or the best (Waltke)
- **You can only worship when our heart and faith is right (4:5)**
 - His sin is tokenism. He looks religious but in this heart he is not totally dependent on God,

childlike, or grateful.

-
- **You worship in response to the Lord**
 - Worship leads to right response
 - Cain fails at the altar and because he fails at the altar, he fails in the field. Because he fails in his theology, he will fail in his ethics (Waltke)
 - Cain's anger revealed his true nature. For Cain, his downward gaze told the whole story (NAC).
 - Crouching→
 - Meaning the animal is resting, ready to stir if incited (NAC).
 - This pictures sin temporarily at bay and subject to its master but coming alive when stirred (NAC)
 - We see that Cain denies God's gracious offer for help.... Again revealing his heart.

Conclusion

- **Is your heart overflowing?**
-
- **Why does it Matter?**
 - We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
 - We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
 - We escape God's wrath (reconciled)
 - We are adopted in to a new family
 - We gain a new identity (New Creation)
 - **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**

• **You can put your faith in Jesus right were you sit**

- Opportunity to respond publically
 - Come forward
 - Connection card.. we will follow up and encourage you

Notes

- the preceding narrative focuses on the role of greed and unbridled ambition and the present chapter deals with the place of the irrational in human conduct. (Jps). The former offense was against God; now it is man against his brother, which is also an offense against God.
- This account is the 1st mention of a sacrifice in the Pentateuch (Collins).
- What we see in Genesis 4 is two brother's in worship (NICNT).

Gen. 4:1 Adam was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, “I have had a male child with the LORD’s help.”

- It was the fruit of the tree that led to the downfall of Adam and Eve now it is the fruit of the soil that leads to Cain’s undoing (JPS).
- Parallels→ The name Eve occurs here (also in chapter 3) and never again in the bible. The verb “to know” appears four times in each chapter. Verse 7 almost identically reproduces 3:16. Like his parents Cain is banished and settles to the east of Eden (JPS).
- Know→ knowing in the Bible is not simply an existential intellectual activity. It involves experiential, emotional, and above all, relational (JPS).
 - There is nothing biblical that substantiates the idea that sexual relations originated only in sin outside of the garden. Rather, the Hebrew lends to a reading where Adam and Eve were intimate in Eden (JPS).
- Cain = K-N-H usually meaning “to acquire, own” or “produce create”
- Lord→ the most sacred divine name is here uttered by a human being, a woman, for the first time (JPS).
- Eve’s commentary on the birth of the child reflects her renewed dependence on the Lord (NAC).

2 Then she also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground.

- Abel = hevel means “breath or nothingness” which could insinuate the fleeting nature of life or may be a reflection of his fate (JPS).
 - Eve’s lack of comment is fitting in light of his name.
- Introducing the two sons in terms of their occupations is more important for the narrator since it establishes the plot for the murder that follows.
- **Abel’s vocation is not anticipated in Chps 2-3 though the garden permits it.**
 - **The biblical setting of these occupations was worship... and the factor that led to Abel’s death was Cain’s exaggerated pride (JPS).**
-

3 In the course of time Cain presented some of the land’s produce as an offering to the LORD. **4** And Abel also presented an offering—some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, **5** but He did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent.

- **Cain fails at the altar and because he fails at the altar, he fails in the field. Because he fails in his theology, he will fail in his ethics (Waltke)**
- This is the first recorded offering in the Bible, there is no indication that the narrative is announcing the first occasion of sacrifice (NAC)
- Course of time→ may imply that the practice of giving offerings was customary for the brothers, perhaps learned from Adam.
- In the fruit of the labors they felt gratitude to God for His bounty. Their offerings were spontaneous, not a response to divine command (JPS)
- **Offerings**
 - **Both offerings are referred to as the minha or the gift offering. So the passage does not contain the common language of the Mosaic sacrificial legislation (zebah).**
 - **With this offering the giver acknowledges the superiority or rule of the receiver (Lev 2:14) (Waltke)**
 - **Why not accepted?**
 - Josephus said “god was more pleased with Abels offering because he is honored by the things that grow of themselves and according to nature, but not the things forced from nature by the ingenuity of a covetous man” (Collins)
 - Biblically we have no answer so we must rely on showing and not the telling of the narrative.
 - **At no stage in the life of Israel was the operation of sacrifice automatic: the sacrifice is effectual only for those who will offer it with a believing and contrite heart (Collins)**
 - There seems to be no obvious distinction between the two offerings. A fruit or vegetable offering is neither superior nor inferior to an animal offering (NICNT).
 - **Heb. 11:4** By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was approved as a righteous man, because God approved his gifts, and even though he is dead, he still speaks through his faith.
 - There is no direct evidence of lack of faith or the nature (bloodless) of the sacrifice.
 - Choicest→ Abel appears to have demonstrated a quality of heart and mind that Cain did not possess.
 -
 - Some→ Cain’s purpose was noble, but his act was not ungrudging and openhearted.
 - There is no indicates that these are the first or the best (Waltke)
 - **His sin is tokenism. He looks religious but in this heart he is not totally dependent on God, childlike, or grateful.**
- **Worship→ the narrative conveys the fundamental principle of Judaism that the act of worship must be informed by genuine devotion of heart. It also teaches the two aspects of divine worship—the cultic act and the verbal element (JPS).**
- Furious//despondent→ Cain’s mood is depression not anger. (JPS)/
- Why rejection (NAC)?
 - This is before the Law so the blood offering was not yet preferred over the grain offering. (Both are acceptable in the Law).
 - Does not show divine disapproval of the farmer vs. the shepherds

- Does not show that divine election is a mystery. This would incur a pessimistic view of the text.
- **Cain's anger revealed his true nature. For Cain, his downward gaze told the whole story (NAC).**
 - **Cain's failure in worship and subsequent anger are basic to his unethical behavior.**

Gen. 4:6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? ⁷ If you do what is right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

- Crouching→
 - Meaning the animal is resting, ready to stir if incited (NAC).
 1. This pictures sin temporarily at bay and subject to its master but coming alive when stirred (NAC)
- We see that Cain denies God's gracious offer for help.... Again revealing his heart.

Gen. 4:8 Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let's go out to the field.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Gen. 4:9 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

- “I don't know,” he replied. “Am I my brother's guardian?”
- Cain's bad feelings against God spill over into irrational behavior and jealous rage against his brother. (Waltke)
- Am I my brother's keeper? This question is absurd (Waltke).

Gen. 4:13 But Cain answered the LORD, “My punishment is too great to bear! ¹⁴ Since You are banishing me today from the soil, and I must hide myself from Your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, whoever finds me will kill me.”

- Bear→ Nasa = same word used in 4:7 .

Gen. 4:15 Then the LORD replied to him, “In that case, whoever kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” And He placed a mark on Cain so that whoever found him would not kill him. **16** Then Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

- Kills→ used four times in this chapter showing the extent of violence that sin has introduced into the family line.
- Mark→
 - Mark is the common word used for sign and the exact nature textually is unknown (NAC).
 - The the mark is not a curse for protective.
 - Can be of three types (NICNT)
 1. Can be a sign of proof or evidence of God’s power (Exod 7:3)
 2. It can be a symbol (sun dried brick in Ezek 4:3)
 3. It can be a sign of cognition, awakening knowledge of something in the observer
 - Refers not to a stigma of infamy but to a sign indicating that the bearer is under divine protection. (JPS).
 1. Probably involved some external mark
 2. Possible was a sign to Cain that confirmed God’s promise (ie a rainbow)
- **Nod→ the name means wandering. The person alienated from God is a person without an abiding place (Waltke).**

Illustrations

- Job Stats
 1. 80% of people are dissatisfied with their jobs
 2. the average Joe spends 90,000 hours at work over their lifetime or 10.65 years you spend 25 years sleeping.
 - You spend 5 years sitting at a desk
 - You spend 2 years sitting in meetings.

Application

- We worship with our work.... We do not worship our work.
- Work is the greatest mission field you have
 - (we work unto the Lord and not unto men) (Col. 3:23)
- There is a difference between some and the first
 - **1Cor. 15:20** But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
- God's response toward Cain and Abel was not due to the nature of the gift per se, but the integrity of the giver (NAC)
- The worshipper and his offering are tied together.
- **Cain's failure in worship and subsequent anger are basic to his unethical behavior.**
 - **See James**→ if you don't hold your tongue your religion is worthless
 - At no stage in the life of Israel was the operation of sacrifice automatic: the sacrifice is effectual only for those who will offer it with a believing and contrite heart (Collins)
-