

The Sinner's Tragedy (Part 2)

Genesis 4:1-16

January 15, 2017

Introduction

Review Sinner's Tragedy (Part 1)

Genesis 4:6-16

6 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."

- Lord said to Cain
 - Direct conversation
 - Cain knew who was speaking to him
- Why are you angry
 - God is not asking because He doesn't know
 - God is omniscient—He knows everything and all things
 - God is challenging Cain to look into his heart
 - Cain is angry at Abel and at God
- You do what is right
 - God will forgive and bless
- Sin lies at door
 - Like an animal waiting for a kill (lion hiding in the grass to kill an animal)
 - It will kill you

James 1:14-15 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. **15** Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

- Cain's heart was hardened
- Sin only seeks to enslave, never to liberate
- The sinner can never master sin on his own
- Heart attitude
 - Cain's problem was not that he was religious
 - The problem was that he was self-righteous
 - He offered what he thought was best
 - He thought that he should have gotten God's blessing for his own hard work
 - He never humbled himself before God
 - He offered to justify himself

8 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.

- Cain rejects God's warning and becomes a murderer

1 John 3:12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.

- Cain talked with his brother

- Cain sets a trap
 - Either before the field or at the field
- This was a willful, motivated killing
- Cain kills instead of receiving God's mercy and forgiveness
 - Why?

John 3:19-20 *This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.*

- He hated the light
- He loved the darkness and sin
- The same reason the Jews killed Jesus
- Killed him
 - Hebrew word is murdered
- First conflict of the seed of Satan and the seed of the woman

9 *Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"*

- Cain is not with the body
 - Some time has passed
- God does not need the information
- Not my brother's keeper
 - I do not know—I'm not responsible for him
 - He is hiding his murder and lying to cover it up

10 *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."*

- What have you done?
 - How could you have done this?
- Your brother's blood crying out from the ground
 - God sees and knows all
 - All sin is sin against God
 - Violence against His people is a testimony to the Lord

Hebrews 11:4 *By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.*

- God questions Cain as a judge, then renders His judgment on him
- Cursed the ground
 - The crops will not grow for Cain
 - He once harvested the crop as an offering to the Lord
 - He will no longer make such an offering
- Vagabond wanderer
 - He will never settle anywhere
 - Purposeless living

13 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. **16** Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.

- This is not fair
 - This is an unrepentant sinner's reply
 - This punishment is too much
 - As a response, I will go away
- I will be killed
- Sevenfold vengeance
 - God does not kill Cain, even though he deserves death
 - This is God's mercy
 - He shows grace so that others will come to repentance

Romans 2:4 *Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?*

- Here God institutes His own vengeance against anyone who kills Cain
- Mark of Cain
 - What is this?
 - We do not know!
- Saddest verse in the Bible
 - Cain went from God's presence
 - He continues to live a life apart from God
 - He loved the world more than sin

Coram Deo

This is most tragic. Sinners encounter God and then reject Him. God offered Cain mercy and grace, but he refused. God still shows mercy and grace to sinners. Consider the thief on the cross.

Matthew 27:44 *In the same way the robbers who were crucified with Him also heaped insults on Him.*

Luke 23:39-43 *One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" **40** But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? **41** We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this Man has done nothing wrong." **42** Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." **43** Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise."*