

Abel's Sacrifice

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Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Genesis 4:3-5 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

- I. This example of faith is given to show us the difference between those who come to God by faith and those who try to come by their own merit.
 - A. Abel's sacrifice was accepted by God because he offered it in faith.
 - B. Cain's sacrifice was not offered in faith, but in pride and selfishness.
 - C. Abel came to God a beggar and Cain came to God as a rich, self-made man, trying to impress God with his skill and his success and buy God's favor with his gifts.
 - D. It is the same difference we see in the Gospels between those who came to Jesus.
 1. Those who came crying and begging and casting themselves on his mercy were accepted.
 2. Those who came with their questions and their pride wanting to know what they could "do" to inherit eternal life were turned away.
 - E. True saving faith in God is found in a truly humble soul who has "come to himself" and realized the true condition of his soul in the sight of God.
 1. That he is lost and helpless and has nothing to offer God.
 2. That the problem between him and God is what he is clinging to, not what he is willing to give as a token gift.
 3. That he must abandon his right to himself and submit himself to God lock, stock, and barrel.
 4. He must die to himself, in order to live.
 - F. The way of Cain is to come to God your own way, in a carnal, selfish mind, with self as the object in view and not God.
 1. It is to make myself the savior by doing something or giving something to atone for my sin and purchase God's favor, or to appease his displeasure.

1 John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Jude 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

- II. After coming to God in faith with an acceptable sacrifice we must then continue to walk with God by faith.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

- A. It is interesting that the narrative here skips from Abel to Enoch.
 - 1. We know that when Seth was born men began to call upon the name of the Lord. (Genesis 4:26)
 - 2. So there were others who came to God by faith during that time, but Enoch is put forth as an example of not only coming to God by faith, but living for God by faith.
- B. Living by faith is walking with God and trusting Him in everything, as a child trusts and relies on his parents.

Genesis 5:22-24 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

- C. Enoch walked with God while living his life in an ungodly and sinful world.
 - 1. The book of Jude in the New Testament gives us a window into what Enoch was like by giving us an excerpt from one of his sermons:

Jude 14-15 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

- D. Enoch had this testimony BEFORE he was translated, that he pleased God.
- E. Enoch lived for God and his life was all about believing and trusting in God.
- F. Therefore he had hope for eternity.

Psalms 24:3-5 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

- G. All the saints mentioned in Hebrews 11 did not simply do one thing in faith that sufficed for the rest of their life – they all lived by faith and walked in faith after they first believed.
- H. They also died in faith.

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

- 1. They staked all they had on the things that they could not see, but that they knew God had promised.
- 2. They did not base their faith upon circumstances, but on the Word of God.
- 3. They believed God, and just like Abraham, it was accounted unto them for righteousness.
- 4. They walked with God in midst of a crooked and perverse world and shined as lights

III. Now it is our turn and our generation.

- A. It is the same crooked and perverse world and the same good and faithful God.
- B. It is still by faith that men must come to God and by faith in Him that they must live and die.
- C. The way of Cain is still rejected and the Abel's sacrifice is still accepted.