

## Give God Your Best

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 4:1-16

### The Story of Two Brothers

- Both Cain and Abel were sons of Adam & Eve. Cain, the first born was a farmer while Abel was a shepherd.
- Both of them presented offerings to God. Abel had brought the first of his flock and their fat portions to offer, while Cain had brought the fruit of the ground. Because of their choice in their offering the Lord had a regard for Abel but not for Cain.

### ABEL

- Abel had come and offered God his first and his best, while Cain although he had brought an offering it was not pleasing to God. God favored Abel's offering over Cain not because He favored Abel over Cain but simply because God not only looks at the offering but more importantly He looks at the condition of the heart.
- God also looks at the attitude of the heart. It is the same attitude of the heart that is expressed in every aspect of our lives and in all our actions. If we truly believe that God is worthy of our best then the overflow of our heart will bring an offering that is the best of us.
- Abel also presented his offering by faith and with faith. This is an example that we should emulate because it is pleasing to God.
- Hebrews 11:4 says ***By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.*** Abel was motivated by faith that is why he had chosen the best for God.
- We must constantly bear in mind that without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6) and anything that is not of faith – is sin.

### CAIN

- When Cain noticed that God had favored Abel's offering, his countenance fell. God had asked Cain about it and gave him a warning about his countenance. He warned Cain that if he continued in this disposition, sin was knocking at the door of his heart.
- Cain had become jealous of God's favor on Abel and allowed it to darken his heart. He later on acted on this anger and killed Abel.
- When God had confronted Cain about Abel, Cain was called to accountability.
- 1 John 3:11-12 tells us there was more than just the offering that was unacceptable to God, we are told that Cain was of evil one and his deeds were evil. It was because of this that Cain was able to take his brother's life.
- Jesus gave us a new meaning of the word murder when He taught us in Matt 5:23-24 ***Therefore if you are presenting your <sup>[a]</sup>offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your <sup>[b]</sup>offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your <sup>[c]</sup>offering.*** This tells us that our offering is not acceptable and not pleasing to God if we bring it with an unclean heart.

### God's continued Grace on Cain

- When God confronted Cain, He also told him that from that day forward he will be a wanderer and that working the ground will be harder (Gen 4:12) which was a fitting punishment for his deed.
- Cain was punished by taking away his livelihood, driven from his home, but the more painful punishment was to be separated from the presence of God.
- But when Cain cried out to God in verse 13- 14 ***"My punishment is too great to bear!"<sup>14</sup> Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth,***

**and whoever finds me will kill me.”** God comforted Him with the promise that whoever kills him, vengeance will be taken sevenfold.

- This is God’s grace on Cain. . . inspite of what he did God’s goodness was still extended to him as he received the promise of protection

What can you give to God?

1. Treasure (Luke 21:1-4, Malachi 1:6-8 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
  - We are merely stewards of the treasures being given to us by God. That is why we have to constantly remind ourselves to be aware – where our hearts are, there our treasures are also (Matt 6:21)
2. Time (Luke 9:59-62)
  - We tend to give God only our leftovers. We exhaust ourselves with numerous other things putting God last in our list.
3. Talents (Ephesians 4:11-12)
  - We have all be entrusted with certain talents. Talents entrusted by God to be used for His glory and for the work of His Kingdom.
4. Heart (Isaiah 29:13)
  - More importantly, let us give God our hearts.





Why does God want your best?

- God demands our best because He gave us the best. John 3:16 says **For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”**
- We have to believe in God’s goodness, we have to trust in God’s grace. It is only when we completely believe and trust God . . . and have surrendered our lives to Him by faith then we will experience His faithfulness in our lives. Romans 8:32 reminds us **He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?**
- We are His materpieces, created by love . . . created for love. . . created for His glory. We should live our lives as the masterpieces we were designed to be and not as rip offs or copies. We have been equipped to be the best, but the only time we can see this in our life is when we live a life in the center of God’s will.

God gave us the best gift possible – the gift of His first born. . . let us begin a new day offering back to Him the firstlings of our life – our first thought when we wake up in the morning, our first word, our first praise. . . because He wants and deserves the very best of us.

**APPLICATION:**

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: Do you regret sin because you were caught or because you have grieved the heart of God? Do you identify with Cain or Abel? When do you see yourself like him? Why do you say so? What are the things that we are willing to offer to God? Is this the same as what God is asking of us?</p>
	<p>Family: <i>God deserves my best.</i> How do we as a family intentionally offer our best to God? Have we really surrendered every area of our life to God?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Are you your brother’s keeper? How have you acted on the call of discipleship? Have you assumed responsibility to make yourself accountable?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Is God prompting you to work in His ministry? How can you best reflect God’s grace and love in your community?</p>

**PRAYERS:**

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.