

[Slide 1 Cow]

Have you ever been jealous of another person? Have you ever wanted to be praised like you hear another being praised?

There is a Russian proverb that "I wish my neighbor's cow would die!"

Not that I had a cow, but that his would die. Hallmark of Christ?

Cain had a similar thought, except it was his brother who was killed.

[Slide 2 Cain & Abel]

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Why was this tragedy perpetrated?

Abel's offering was pleasing to God, but Cain's was not accepted. It was a heart issue. Remember last week when we read those verses that the Lord knows the heart?

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Psalm 44:21

Would not **God** find this out? For He **knows the** secrets of **the heart**.

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Proverbs 15:11 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹¹ Sheol and Abaddon *lie open* before the LORD,
How much more the hearts of men!

He was counselled that his behavior was unacceptable. How many of us have heard that? How many of us liked when we heard it? How many of us needed to hear it? How many of us did something about it?

Well Cain did something about it. Instead of working to make his behavior better, instead of turning to God for help, he put the kabosh on the one who was doing well. Isn't that how some people do? They lash out at the corrector or at the one demonstrating proper behavior. Let's take them down instead of doing right myself.

It reminds me again of Russia, but under communism. If Josiah works really hard but Joram does not, they get paid the same. If Josiah sees that Joram, who is not doing good, is rewarded the same as him who is doing a hard day's labor, he might wear down in doing good and start coasting like Joram. Then production slows, lines form at the stores, waiting lists of years for a washer and dryer or car form.

Often Joram will tell Josiah, "slow down, you are making us look bad." In one TV show I saw, the slacker tempted the worker with marijuana to get him hooked, slow him down AND get part of his paycheck for drugs he is now addicted to! Yikes!

How did Cain improve himself and his lot?

Let's read the story together. Genesis 4:1-7

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4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions.

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And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

The Life in the Spirit Study Bible writes that “The Lord accepted the offering of Abel because he came before God in true faith and dedication to righteousness” (14).

Hebrews 11:4 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

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John 4:23 English Standard Version (ESV)

²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

“Cain’s offering was rejected because he lacked a sincerely obedient faith and because his deeds were evil” (Life in the Spirit Study Bible p. 14).

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1 John 3:12 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

“God takes pleasure in our offerings and thanksgivings only when we are striving to live out a righteous life according to God’s will” (Life in the Spirit Study Bible p. 14).

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Deuteronomy 6:5 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

“God seeks fellowship with His people and gives them this one indispensable command that will attach them to Himself. (1) By responding to Him for His love (4:37), they will come to know and enjoy Him in a covenant relationship. (2) On this, ‘the first and great commandment,’ along with the second commandment to love one’s neighbor (cf Lev 19:8), ‘hang all the law and the prophets (Mat. 22:37-40). (3) True obedience to God and His commandments is possible only when it springs from faith in and love for God” (Life in the Spirit Study Bible p. 285).

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Matthew 22:37-40 English Standard Version (ESV)

³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Mat 22:39 Note “Children of God are required to love all people (cf Gal 6:10; 1 Thes 3:12), including their enemies (5:44). They are also commanded to love all true born-again Christians in a special way (see John 13:34, note; Gal 6:10; cf. 1 Thes 3:12; 1 John 3:11). (1) The love of believers for their Christian brothers and sisters, their neighbors and their enemies must be subordinated to, and controlled and directed by, their loving affection for and devotion to God. (2) Love for God is the ‘first and great commandment’ (vv. 37-38). Therefore, in our practice of love for all people, we must never compromise the supremacy of

our love for God and the righteous standards of His Word” (Life in the Spirit Study Bible p. 1456).

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John 13:34, note; John 13:34 English Standard Version (ESV)

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

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Galatians 6:10 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.; cf.

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1 Thessalonians 3:12 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

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1 John 3:11 English Standard Version (ESV)

Love One Another

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

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John 14:15 English Standard Version (ESV)

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

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John 21:16 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁶ He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

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1 John 4:19 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

The Family of God loves each other in a deep way, and tries to get more people to join the Family. *"I got an offer you no canna' refuse!"* Except God does let us choose with free will!

Choose God!

As Christians we counsel one another, and offer Gospel solutions and Biblical Wisdom, like God did to Cain. Cain could have adjusted and done better. He could have learned from his mistake. He could have asked God for help.

Cain took a wrong turn on the road of life.

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⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Just like his father, he tried to hide from God, this time verbally.

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⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

He did not fear the Lord!

¹⁰ And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work

the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”¹³ Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear.¹⁴ Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

He was judged and punished for his murdering of his brother. Instead of being his brother’s keeper he was his brother’s killer.

And God showed him mercy by letting him live and giving him a mark not to be killed. It was not an eye for an eye.

I think he still could have corrected things, but instead he became the father of society trying to live without pleasing or submitting to God.

Cain and his descendants were the pioneers of human civilization estranged from God. A basic motive in all humanistic societies is the attempt to overcome the curse, find pleasure and regain ‘paradise’ without having to submit to God. In other words, the world’s system, in its revolt against God is founded upon the principle of self-redemption for the human race (Life in the Spirit Study Bible p. 15).

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1 John 5:19 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁹We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

We must fight the battle against apathy and depression. We must share the good news and free as many captives into the Kingdom of God as we can. Jesus paid the price, let our actions attract people to Jesus. Let our words offer His salvation. Let us not grow weary in doing good. Let us pray without ceasing and be in relationship without ceasing.

Let us choose Him above all else.

Let us help redeem the world in the Cross of Calvary.

What happened to Abel's parents?

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²⁵ And Adam knew (yada) his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him." ²⁶ To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

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Let us call upon the name of the Lord!

Romans 10:13 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

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Cain chose shame and killed his brother.

He was jealous and struck out at the role model.

In God we get love and deal with our shame and jealousy.

Jesus was wounded and died for His brothers.

Be uplifted and help your brother live.

Do we have to kill someone so no one knows?

Shame Fear and Control are the weapons of the enemy.

Father Loves You!

Let us pray,

“Lord I am a sinner. I need a savior.

I know that you died for our sins and that you rose from the grave, resurrected into new life again. I believe that.

I trust you to save me, to forgive me and to give me new life.

Thank you for helping me die to sins and live for you. Help me take up my cross daily.

Help me love my brothers and sisters in the church and love those outside the church into the church in your saving Holy Spirit conviction.

Help me live for you. We give you our lives so we can live your life. Help us care for your sheep, especially widows and orphans. Help us love one another and choose growth and maturity every day. Let us accept Godly counsel and bring one another the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every situation.

The kingdom of heaven is at hand and we are now living in it!

Thank you for loving us always, and right now! Amen.

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Lord's Prayer