



Lesson #2: Am I My Brother's Keeper? (Genesis 4:9)

Essentially what happened in Genesis 4 is that Cain had a bad temper to start with, but he didn't deal with it. Eventually, it turned him into this other person, an evil person. However, Cain's problem was ultimately not an anger problem. Cain's expression of inappropriate anger was symptomatic of a great problem. His problem was a _____ problem.

"Am I my brother's keeper?" This is a phrase that comes _____ Cain had murdered his brother Able out of wicked jealousy. Cain shows himself to be a liar in asking this question. He was wicked and profane in thinking he could _____ his sin from God; unjust in denying himself to be his brother's keeper; obstinate and desperate in not _____ his sin. But even in the midst of the first murder in human history we see a glimpse of a gracious God. Even when his creation is obstinately rebelling against Him, God still graciously comes beside him and seeks a just recompense.

GOD EXPOSES THE _____ OF THE REBEL (4:1-5)

- A. The rebel's character is expressed in his _____**
Born in the same home, educated by the same parents, trained to the same duty of devotion, the first brothers (Cain and Able) became worshippers of the same _____, yet their service to Him was vastly different.
1. Their offerings were different in _____
 2. Their offerings were different in _____
 3. Their offerings were different in _____
- Able offered to God because he had _____, while Cain did not. Motives matter to God. God is not impressed with those who do the right thing for the wrong reason.
- B. The rebel's character is expressed in his _____**
Cain became angry with God. Rather than being concerned about remedying the situation and pleasing God, he became very angry. God was not pleased with Cain's offering and clearly indicates in verse 7 that Cain knew what was _____, yet Cain refuses to address it.

GOD EXPRESSES HIS _____ OF THE REBEL (4:6-7)

In 4:9, Cain foolishly thought he could hide his sin from God. He's following in the footsteps of his father (Gen. 3:8). Yet, God seeks Cain just like he sought Adam and Eve.

- A. God confronts the rebel by _____**
One person wisely said, "_____ soften the conscience while and _____ hardens the will." It's interesting to note that God first comes to Cain with a string of questions and not accusations.
- B. God confronts the rebel by _____**
Earlier in our text Cain had been instructed thoroughly by God.
1. **A Word of _____** - *"If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?"* (4:7)
 2. **A Word of _____** - *"And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door."* (4:7)
 3. **A Word of _____** - *"And unto thee shall be his desire"* (4:7)

Now the Lord stops asking questions and says, *"The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me"* (4:10). This is a key sentence. The words *"unto me"* demonstrates how seriously God takes first-degree _____.

GOD EXACTS THE _____ OF THE REBEL (4:8-15)

Jude 11 warns us against going down the path of Cain. As a consequence of Cain's act of deliberate sin, God _____ him.

- A. The rebel will be _____ in his labor**
While the spirit of the martyr (Able) ascended to God, God came to arraign the red-handed murderer. Those same hands that had once killed Able would _____ and _____ from that moment forward (4:12). The application is this – Those who live in open rebellion to God will find no task _____, no relationship _____, and no job _____.
- B. The rebel will be a _____ for his life**
The ultimate penalty for a Hebrew is not death, but _____, a loss of roots. Cain complained that this was too much to bear (4:13-14). But notice that Cain's complaint was peppered with _____ personal pronouns. All Cain cared about was himself.

Concluding Thoughts

In 4:16 we read these sad words: *"And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord."* One question is asked: Did Cain ever repent? My answer would be "probably _____." The NT speaks of Cain in negative terms (Jude 11, 1 John 3:12; Matthew 23:25). What we do know is that Cain was never beyond God's _____ and neither are you. It is part of God's grace that allows mankind to decide. So what will you decide today?