

Sermon Series: New Beginnings (Genesis)

Sermon Title: From Bad to Worse

Sermon Text: Genesis 4

"Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace!"

God is a fountain of blessing! We have received from Him in abundance!

Yet how do we respond to Him for such grace? How should we respond?

Adam and Eve responded by questioning His goodness, by being dissatisfied with His provisions, and by disobeying that which He commanded of them!

Their hearts weren't attuned to sing of God's grace! Their hearts were led astray. Their hearts became corrupt! And sin became their master!

But hope was still present - a promise was given, that a descendant of the woman would come and overpower the evil one, and break the chains of sin upon our hearts, and provide for a new beginning! The first gospel!

Would this next chapter in God's story provide such a descendant? Such a savior? Let's read Genesis 4 to see what comes of Adam & Eve's descendants!

Vs 1-"Now Adam knew Eve his wife, & she conceived & bore Cain, saying, 'I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.'" Could this be the one?

And if not Cain, then maybe his brother Abel, their second born? Adam & Eve must have had a sense of relief at the birth of these 2 sons! Their failure in the garden, and the consequence of it, might finally be undone!

Unfortunately, that is not how it played out! Things went from bad to worse! One act of disobedience turned into a chain reaction of wickedness!

Cain, the first of Adam & Eve's descendants would kill his brother Abel, and with this one act, destroy all hopes of either of them being the fulfillment of Gen. 3:15 - Abel is now dead, & Cain is banished - cursed by God for his sin!

But even then, sin was not finished! The downward spiral of wickedness continued! Sin is never satisfied in the heart of fallen man! Just as God said to Cain, "it is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you..." To destroy you...

Genesis 4 reveals how quickly sin increased – from eating a forbidden fruit, to taking a life in cold blood. And it was still just the beginning (4 chapters in).

Cain's descendants would do even more despicable things, and fall further and further away from God & His design for creation and all mankind!

Lamech, the 5th generation descendant of Cain, would marry 2 wives, which was a direct rejection of God's plan for marriage & then he too would kill in cold blood just as Cain did, but claiming his vengeance to be even greater!

So much for God's "good" creation, huh?!? So much for man being an image bearer of God – a reflection of the life-giver! Man had become a life-taker!

How appropriate to be reminded of this reality on a day like today, "Sanctity of life" Sunday! Do we see man as a reflection of God – made in His image? Are we life-givers? Or is man seen only thru the lens of the fall, as disposable?

We are "Prone to wander" do we feel it? "Prone to leave the God (we say we love)!" But... "He to rescue us from danger interposed His precious love!"

We need rescuing - from ourselves! Denial of that reality was the first step in Cain's demise! It is for us as well! Let's look at the fall of Cain more closely!

"In the course of time Cain brought the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and the fat portion."

What descriptive words are missing from Cain's offering? Firstborn & fat portions

Cain's heart wasn't tuned to respond to God's provisions of grace as it should! What he gave to God was NOT an act of worship! What about us?

Cain had the opportunity to repent and change course (vs. 6-7), but he hardened his heart against God, and against his brother, and gave into sin!

His sin was birthed out of anger, & his sin gave birth to death! Do we harden our hearts towards God? Do we ever let our emotions get the better of us?

Abel's death was not "involuntary manslaughter", it was "1st degree murder." There was a preconceived plan, & Cain carried it out in full! Sins wickedness

Cain's hardened heart got even harder when he tried to deny it, & took no responsibility for the life of his brother! Do we respond any different to sin?

There were consequences for Cain's sin, but God was still gracious in sparing his life! God still put a mark of protection on him! Why? Because that is who He is! Just as Gen. 3 ends in hope, so does Gen. 4 with Seth! Vs. 25-26

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