

# Crouching Sin – Hidden Anger

Genesis 4:1-16

**Part of Matthew series – six mirrors...last week: Matthew 5:21-26**

**Slander of 'raca' – mental competence;**

**Character condemnation of 'fool' – moral competence**

**Intro:** Only one generation removed from the Fall of man, Original Sin rears its ugly head, manifesting itself in a vicious, brutal killing. Original Sin resident within each of us (the sinful nature) is continually lurking in our hearts as well. If left unchecked, it will either erupt in an alarming outpouring of violence resulting in devastating loss of life, or the more 'acceptable' version of murder where seething hostility seeps into our conversations and interactions with others systematically crushing the spirit and killing those around us. That reality forces us to take a look at our hearts and see our need of a Saviour and One who alone is able to conquer our hearts.

God gives us a glimpse into our own hearts as we see *the story of Cain...*

## **1. See Two Brothers' Offerings**

A picture of worship – a heart's devotion

Cain – farmer, Abel – shepherd

Heb. *minah* (offering) vs. *zebah* (sacrifice implying shed blood)

See Deuteronomy 26:1-11

***Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.***

*~1 Samuel 16:17*

## **2. See an Offering Accepted and an Offering Rejected**

The difference is in the heart of the ones offering not the offering itself

The Scriptures give us insight: Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12

### **3. See God moving toward Cain to call him to repentance**

Cain's heart was on display immediately – countenance fell

*We are fearfully and wonderfully made – including our emotions!*

Cannot hide from the Living Omniscient, Omnipresent God

***Confession is simply agreeing with reality.***

Crouching beast...waiting to pounce

*If we would master sin, we must first be mastered by Him who mastered it.*

See the cross in all its glory!

1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 John 4:4; Hebrews 2:14-15

### **4. See the anatomy of a murder**

In order to see the way of escape, Cain must HUMBLE himself and acknowledge that God is right! - how about you?

- nursed his grudge against God
- fostered his self-pity
- allowed his anger to fester and boil
- self-deceived in his worldview (what is reality in this situation?)
- took NO responsibility for his actions
- projected onto Abel all that was wrong with his life.

### **5. See the deceitfulness of the flesh**

God asked a question that He already knew the answer to...the Q was for Cain!

### **6. See God's grace in the pronouncement of the punishment**

The mark of Cain is a sign that Cain's killer would be accountable to God

Ramification of sin: that which was Cain's vocation (his passion, livelihood, love?) would no longer yield fruit.

Seeing our self-centered, seething hearts is a call to repent and trust!

Hebrews 4:12 is a call to action...

Powilson quote

“Where in the Bible do we see a kind of endlessly self-analytical process – looking for the idols in your heart? Nowhere. That’s for starters. Nowhere do we see that self-analysis as the thing that is going on. The Bible is about self-knowledge. It is about knowing yourself. But it locates that process of self-knowledge in a much wider and deeper context. ...

the problem is excessive introspection. ... Somehow thinking if I could only get to the bottom of why I do what I do I would be different. ...Analysis changes nothing. Mere analysis is never the goal. And introspection, the idol hunt if you want to call it that, the exploration of the heart, actually what you are trying to explore is an endless onion where you can peel layer after layer after layer after layer and there will be more layers after layers after layers, and on the day that each of us and all of us die, when this life is ended, there will still be sins of our heart that we never discovered that we never got to and that’s okay because when we see Him face-to-face we become like Him and the transformation is complete.

The goal of the process in this life is not simply looking in the mirror of my own soul. Because where there becomes a fascination of self-analysis it leads to paralysis. A paralysis of faith. A paralysis of action. A paralysis of obedience because somehow I think that unless I understand everything I can’t pray, I can’t repent, I can’t change, I can’t love. And that in fact is not so. It is not the vision that God gives to us.”...

“the only goal of understanding yourself is to push you out of yourself into prayer, into repentance, into seeking. That self-knowledge is meant to be a doorway of grace. It is only meant to be a doorway of grace.”

~David Powilson, *In the last analysis – look out for introspection*