

“DON’T TAKE SIN LIGHTLY”

GENESIS 4:7-10

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INTRODUCTION

God in His grace had given Cain a chance to reconsider and repent of his anger against Abel—and God! He said,

- “Why are you angry?” Why has your face “dropped?”
- If you do well, won’t your face be lifted up again?
- If you don’t do well—beware—**sin is crouching at the door!**
- Sin’s desire is for you. SIN WANTS TO RUIN AND DESTROY YOU.

You must take sin seriously. **YOU MUST MASTER SIN.**

I. CAIN’S DUTY (7c)—“you must master it.”

- How can man conquer sin and master it?
- This statement does not advocate salvation by works.
- The Word of God, as a means of grace, empowers man to resist sin and come for deliverance.
- God’s presence guaranteed the possibility of His salvation, but Cain rejected God’s grace.
- The verb shows obligation—you “should” rule over it.
- Cf. the similarity of Gen. 3:16—the woman desires her husband—he rules over her.
- Rule over sin—not like Adam yielded control and fell into sin; sin will continually desire Cain as Eve continually desires her husband.

II. CAIN’S DEED—The Murder (8)

- A stubborn silence after God’s address; Cain refused the grace of God!
- He likely accused God of favoritism.
- His jealousy ends in hatred, leading to murder.
- **Sins that seem insignificant, when come to full fruition, can lead to devastating results.**
- We can see the vicious nature of sin.

A. His “friendly” and “harmless” conversation—e.g. “Let us go out into the field.”

- This does not mean that Cain told Abel what God had said.
- Why would he when he was so unimpressed with God’s words?
- Cain pretended friendliness—**just like Satan does!**
- What he said is omitted—like 3:22.
- Cain deliberately plotted against Abel.
- They went to the cultivated fields where no one would see what happened.

B. His cold and calculated crime

- He rose up against Abel, attacking him in hostility
- “His brother”; personal relationship meant nothing to him.
- “He killed him.” Just like that!
- This is the world’s first murder—fratricide; the seed of the serpent rises against the seed of the woman.

- Likewise, Christ, as the Lamb, was led to the slaughter, meekly and without resistance, having been captured by deception.

III. CAIN'S DESTINY (9-15)

A. Guilt (9-10)

- Cain must have purposed not to revisit the place of worship.
 - He did not go to seek God; now, God goes to seek him!
1. Awareness (9): "Where is Abel your brother?"
 - God's question is pedagogic—to teach.
 - He reminds Cain; God knows where Abel is!
 - Contrast with God's confrontation with Adam and Eve.
 - They were humble, while making excuses; Cain was impudent and hardened.
 - Defiance grows with sin; the heart becomes hardened, one's senses perverted.
 - a. He lies—"I do not know."
 - b. He denies responsibility—"Am I my brother's keeper?"
 - The form of the question implies a 'no' answer.
 - Am I responsible to be always watching him? (present tense)
 - Implies a *mild rebuke* to God. *Since he is God's favorite, let God watch him!*
 - God's protective powers must be indeed weak!
 2. Accusation (10)
 - a. The enormity of Cain's guilt: "What have you done?" **What horrible thing?**
 - b. The Certainty of Cain's guilt (10b): "The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground."
 - God knows about the murder.
 - "Crying out"—showing persistent and continual.
 - The blood is insistent on demanding justice.
 - "Voice"—a figure of speech since blood represents the **life** of the person (Lev. 17:11). The person cries out for justice—cf. Rev. 6:9-10; Lk. 18:7-8.
 - This incident represents the sufferings upon the righteous of all ages by the children of the wicked one—the seed of the serpent.
 - This activity reached a climax in Christ: "His blood be upon us and on our children" (Mt. 27:25).
 - God does require (avenge) bloodshed (Gen. 9:5; Ezek. 33:6; Ps. 9:12)—even of the wicked; how much more of the righteous whose death is precious in His sight (Ps. 116:15)?

CONCLUSION

Satan's final defeat awaits the glorious return of Christ.

Yet, Christ's blood speaks better things than Abel's (Heb. 12:24). It speaks of forgiveness and cleansing (I Jn. 1:7).

Have you been to the cleansing fountain yet?

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them." Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

And if you are, you must take sin seriously in your life and must have the victory won by Christ's blood.

YOU MUST MASTER SIN.

If you don't, sin can and will bring about some awful consequences in your life also!