

## He Cried for The Wrong Reason

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Genesis 4:1-16** tells the story of Cain and Abel and the sacrifice that they made for God. Cain was a farmer and brought of the fruit of the ground. Abel was a shepherd and brought of the firstlings of his flock. Not only were there two different kinds of offering, but two different kinds of men. Although they were brothers they had widely differing views on things.

We may wonder how much they knew about God. Adam and Eve must have told them about the Garden of Eden and all that happened there. We don't know what they were told about how to worship God, but it is evident that they were taught to sacrifice to the Lord. A sacrifice is good, but only if it is given in the right way. Not just anything given in any old way will do. In **Malachi 1** God rebuked the nation for giving lame sacrifices to him. This showed that they didn't respect the Lord, nor care about how they worshipped him.

God had respect unto Abel and his offering. He brought of the first and best of his flock. It was not just that he brought an offering but he put some thought into it. Abel and everyone should give God their best, not just go through the motions of worship.

Cain and his offering was rejected. Some think it was because his was a vegetable offering, but there were such offerings accepted under the law. The main problem was his attitude. **Proverbs 21:27**, "The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?" Cain was offended then his brother was accepted, but he was not. Instead of trying to see why, he got angry. I have seen those who did a poor job become angry when someone else was praised for their work, but not them. They wanted to be accepted, bad attitude and all. God will not accept anything but our best, even if it is not as much as what someone else has. Jesus said that the woman who put in two mites had given more than they all had. (**Luke 21:3**).

God spoke to Cain and gave him counsel. Think of it, Cain had a talk with God and was told what to do to be accepted. We can have the best counsel, but if we don't follow it, it will not help

us. Cain didn't listen and continued to be angry. Some time later he met with Abel in the field. They talked for awhile, but it soon turned to violence. Cain let his anger at Abel get out of hand and he killed him. **1 John 3:12**, "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."

Cain had no trouble lying unto God. Did he really think that God didn't know what he had done? His deeds were told to him and punishment was pronounced on him. He cried out, "My punishment is greater than I can bear" (**Genesis 4:13**). Notice this, he didn't cry out in repentance, nor grieve for Abel. No crying for his sin, just his punishment. Like so many others he was only concerned with what affected him personally.

How sad when someone can do harm to others, lie, and distance themselves from God and only think of their own comfort. His sin was found out because God sees all of a man's deeds, and his thoughts too. Cain's offering was rejected because of his attitude. As someone has said, "Man sees what we do. God sees why we do it."

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