**SIN IS CROUCHING AT YOUR DOOR**

Have you ever tried to talk with someone who was angry, but they would not respond at all? In some people anger is like a sickness. It closes their hearts to others, and it closes their mouths completely. This is the way it was with Cain back in Genesis.

When Cain was not shown favor by God, Cain became angry, and his face was downcast. God always confronts sin and sinners, so he confronted Cain. It was not Cain’s sacrifice that was rejected. It was Cain himself.

Hebrews 11 tells us that Abel offered his sacrifice in faith. Cain, on the other hand, must have just “done the religious thing,” thinking God would accept him because he gave out of his livelihood. I John 3 says that Cain was an evil-doer. He must have already been mistreating his siblings, perhaps even showing disrespect to Adam, his father. (Genesis 5 says Adam and Eve had many other sons and daughters.) So God accepted Abel due to Abel’s faith. Because of what Hebrews and I John say, Cain apparently did evil and also did not believe the God who was still with them.

So God confronted Cain. He asked Cain several questions: 1) Why are you angry? No response. 2) Why is your face downcast? No answer. 3) If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? No answer. Then came God’s warning to Cain: “If you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door. Its desire is for you, but you must master it.” The phrase, “its desire is for you” is similar to what God had told Adam about his wife, “her desire will be for you.” This is idiomatic Hebrew, meaning “its (or “her”) desire is to rule over you.” God told Cain that *he* must master *it.* In other words, if Cain doesn’t rule over the sin in his life, sin will rule over Cain. The phrase, “sin is crouching at your door” means that Cain’s sin had made an opening in his heart. Sin is like a demon ready to pounce on Cain and dominate him. If we don’t rule sin, sin will rule us. This is God’s warning in scripture.

Satan’s lie had been “You will not surely die.” Satan has always denied the penalty for sin. But here, God honestly faces what Satan wants of us; Satan wants sin to rule our lives. God wants us to rule over sin. Here is the dilemma: either we will rule or we will be ruled!

It turned out that Cain was ruled by his sin. Later he was in the field with Abel and he murdered him. He did something to Abel which caused his blood to flow into the ground. So God confronted Cain again: 4) Where is your brother Abel? Cain’s answer is right out of the mouth of hell. He asks a rhetorical question: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” This question is answered a thousand ways in the rest of the Bible as “YES! YES! YES!” That is why we are on earth—to care for our brothers and sisters. Cain may have believed he was not responsible for Abel, but he was. We are all responsible for each other. We are even responsible for those who abuse us. No one else ever taught the way Jesus did. He said, “Love your enemies. Do good to those who abuse you.”

So what is our response to this? God had to punish Cain because of his evil deeds. Why is murder so awful? In his killing of Abel, Cain also destroyed all the future offspring of Abel—generations and generations of people. Murder is really genocide.

Later in Genesis, Adam had another son named Seth. He was put in place of Abel. His generation is listed in Genesis 5.

God confronts sin in us, too—by his Spirit, by his word, and in our consciences. We must be sensitive to God in order to overcome sin in our lives.