

WEEKLY REFLECTION

In Genesis 4, we see how quickly the rebellion of the Garden spirals out of control. Genesis 4 is "Genesis 3+1"—the fallen falling further. The tragedy begins at the very first worship service. Abel gives God his first and best, but Cain merely offers his leftovers. God's rejection of Cain's offering reveals that the root of all sin is defective worship. When we mistrust God, we also misvalue God and devalue His glory. Because we were made with a God-shaped hole, holding back our best from the Creator doesn't just insult Him—it leaves us restless, anxious, and deeply unsatisfied.

God graciously warns Cain that "sin is crouching at the door." We cannot manage, control, or domesticate our sin. If we crack the door open even a little, it will pounce. We must kill sin, or sin will kill us. Tragically, Cain ignores this warning. He kills his brother and shows absolutely no remorse, complaining only about his punishment. Because sin always leads to more sin, this sets off a generational downward spiral. By the seventh generation, Lamech is actively boasting and singing songs about his own violence. Unchecked sin hardens our hearts and completely alienates us from God and one another.

If the story ended with our sin, we would be utterly hopeless. Like Cain, we are all guilty, and no amount of human effort can wash the stain away. The blood of Abel cries out from the dirt for justice, declaring us condemned and unclean. But God provided a Savior. On the cross, Jesus shed His blood to crush the serpent's head. Where Abel's blood cries out for condemnation, Jesus's blood speaks a far better word over us today: justified, spotless, redeemed, and fully forgiven.

Right now, there are two knocks at the door of your heart. Sin is crouching, waiting to destroy you; but Jesus is knocking, eager to restore you. May we shut the door on sin and open our hearts to the Savior.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

What's a situation you were in that kept getting worse and worse and worse?

QUESTION TWO:

All sin is ultimately a misvaluing of God, when we prefer to trust and worship counterfeit gods. Where in your life are you tempted to give God your leftovers because you are giving your firstfruits to an idol?

QUESTION THREE:

God describes sin as a wild animal "crouching at the door" whose desire is for you. In what areas are you tempted to think you can manage or tame your sin rather than killing it completely?

QUESTION FOUR:

Abel's blood cries out words like Guilty, Murderer, Failure, and Shameful. But Jesus's blood cries out Justified, Spotless, Redeemed, and Forgiven. Which voice do you find yourself listening to more often when you fail? How can you practically tune into Christ's better word this week?