

Gen 4 Jude 2 Sermon Q's

Gathering –

1. What was your family situation when you are growing up? Did you have siblings and how close are they in age to you? How did that affect you life?
2. Can you relate the worst family fight you went through? How long did it last and were you all able to reconcile later?

Looking at the Scripture

Read Jude 1-13

Jude is concerned about “certain individuals” who have snuck into the church and are using their positions as leaders for their own gain and the doctrine of grace as a license for sin. He makes several allusions to the Old Testament as well as to apocryphal Hebrew stories popular in his day (re: the death of Moses and Enoch).

Notice what he says in verse 11. These false leaders have taken the way of Cain, have rushed into Balaam’s error and are rebellious like Korah. We are going to look at one of these stories. In Genesis 4 we learn about the “way of Cain.”

Read Genesis 4:1-16

1. Where does this narrative fall in Bible history?
2. How are Cain and Abel’s origins different from Adam and Eve’s? How does Eve feel about this?
3. In the course of time Cain and Abel take up different vocations but they both bring offerings to the Lord. How does God respond to their offerings?
4. There is a lot of speculation about why God received one offering and not the other. What does it say – and not say – in the text? Compare this to Hebrews 11:4.
5. God confronts Cain about his response. What does he say and what do you think he wants Cain to see about the situation?
6. Why do you think Cain responds as he does? What makes you think his actions are not spontaneous?
7. God confronts Cain again. What has happened to their relationship? How has it changed?
8. God does not directly respond to Cain’s question “Am I my brother’s keeper?” But what does God’s response show us about caring for one another?
9. Cain feels overwhelmed by God’s sentence. Why do you think God doesn’t just kill Cain as punishment? Why do you think he protects Cain in the future? (I don’t know that there are simple or easy answers to these questions but they are worth discussing).

Application

1. Jude tells us that the false leaders are “godless” and that they have taken “the way of Cain.” Having looked at the narrative in Genesis, what do you think is the way of Cain?
2. How is Cain’s response to God different than what God intends for us as his created people? How is Cain’s relationship to his brother different than what God intended?
3. God says that Abel’s blood cries out. What does this say about God as a just God?
4. How is Abel’s blood different from Jesus’ blood. Both speak but they say different things?
5. How does Jesus’ blood keep us from the way of Cain?