

Cain And Abel

Adam and Eve

Can't say "why don't we see other people"

Can't complain about their in-laws

[Gen 4:1-14 ESV]

1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD."

2 And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.

3 In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,

4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,

5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

6 The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?"

7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it."

8 Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

Now it hadn't been that long since the fall, less than 130 years

[Gen 4:25 ESV] 25 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him."

[Gen 5:3 ESV] 3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

So it wasn't like GOD being around would have been forgotten, I am pretty sure that the whole Garden of Eden and eating the fruit thing must have come up once or twice around Adam's and Eve's dinner table...

Cain probably knew better then to give kind of a "flip" answer when GOD directly asked him this question (top tip)

10 And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.

11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

12 When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

13 Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear.

14 Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

Cain was more worried about Abel's offering than his own, Cain choose to not offer to the LORD the best he had as his offering, Abel did offer his best "the firstborn of his flock" and had Cain heeded the words of the LORD when he said "if you do well' will you not be accepted" and concentrated on his own relationship with the LORD instead of being angry with Able he could have regrouped and made a proper offering that would have found him favor with GOD

Do I get mad with George Clooney? I could, after all he has all the money and fame and I have all the talent and good looks.

But you say "how does this apply to me?" I haven't killed anyone over an offering

To this I say: I think each of us experiences some momentary jealousy at times when we hear good things happen to other people, for example

When I heard Kris and Sara just got a new car, was my first thought "I am glad the LORD blessed them in that way" they do so much for others here at the church, they are such kind people, good for them I am truly happy for them and their family.

Heck no, my first thought was, they better not have just gotten the Ferrari GOD wants ME to have. Then when I found out it wasn't a Ferrari that's when I said "I am glad the LORD blessed them in that way" they do so much for others here at the church, they are such kind people, good for them I am truly happy for them and their family.

It seems to me that we spend way too much time looking at this or that with others and way too little time looking at our relationship with GOD, if you focus on GOD and get that right then the other relationships will be “right “as a matter of course.

Do not be angry that the LORD blesses someone else, be happy for them, look at the blessings you have and realize there are others that are surly much worse off than yourself, help them, pray for the LORD to increase his blessing on all, none of us deserve anything from GOD, we are saved by GRACE, we receive the blessings we have by his GRACE and we should spend more effort to please him than worry about “how someone else got a new car or a better job then you have or any other earthly thing”

Be honestly happy for your Wife, Kids, Friends, Coworkers, don't be like Cain

[1John 3:11-15 ESV]

11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.

13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Hold yourself humble before GOD and man, not pride full and arrogant (I deserve that, they don't) GOD should bless me at least as much as he blesses (fill in the blank)

For instance, Yasmin sings with the voice of an Angel, I on the other hand, well let me put it this way, there is a reason I am on the other side of the sound board, as far away from the microphones as you can get is so you don't have to suffer by hearing my singing voice.

Do I get upset that she can sing and I can't, I assure you that I would love to be able to sing, however I rejoice over the gift that GOD has given to her, it in no diminishes me that she is blessed in this way and I am not, GOD didn't take away from me and give to her.

It isn't a "zero sum game" GOD is unlimited, if he wants you to have a gift or blessing, he doesn't need to take it from someone else and redistribute or reapportion between you and them, he is GOD the CREATOR he can just create it if he wants to.

Be humble before GOD, get your relationship right with him, let his love flow into all your other relationships.

Focus on GOD, Focus on genuinely putting others first and truly caring about them and rejoice in their blessings, be pure in your heart

[Luke 18:10-14 ESV]

10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Be upright in your deeds and actions towards others

[Proverbs 15:8 ESV]

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him.

Be of a humble spirit

[Proverbs 11:2 ESV]

2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

Let your exaltation come from GOD not man

[1Peter 5:6 ESV]

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you