

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

2019

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of Gods word.

Is my punishment truly greater than I can bear.

## Genesis 4: 3 – 13

What makes right – right and wrong – wrong, God as creator, making sovereign choices over his creation. Gods choices are always reasonable because he is the creator of reason.

**Isaiah 55: 8,....**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

God respects and rejects for his own reasoning. His word reveals to us the knowledge of himself and the reasoning we need to understand and obey his word.

Our duty is to make sure that our actions are right, and that our hearts are in the right place. We must humbly give of our labor with a cheerful heart, understanding that works alone cannot save us.

So.... In our journey of faith, we must make choices:

To choose between:

2 kinds of life – natural and supernatural.

2 kinds of death – physical and spiritual.

2 kinds of wisdom – human and divine.

2 kinds of fear – Fear of the Lord, Worldly fear of not being excepted.

**Genesis 4: 3 – 13**,...Cain brought an offering....Able also brought an offering...the Lord respected Able and his offering....he did not respect Cain and his offering....

We will look at the example given to us in Gods word with Cain and Able.

Here we have examples of 2 different characteristics of worshipers, making choices of life, death, wisdom, and fear.

Cain who represents those that are proud, which have worldly characteristics and Able who represents those that are humble which have heavenly characteristics.

Although we would rather be looked upon as ( an Able ) we were at one time and sometimes still are, as believers, ( Cain ).

We will talk about Cain first.

Cain had an unbelieving heart.

Cain attempted to please God of his own devising, meaning: What he offered was to credit himself. His confidence was in himself not God. Cain chose to glorify himself.

Cain came before God in his own righteousness, with the fruit he produced with his own labor. Cain was not interested in atonement or the need of anyone but himself.

Cain is our first example of rebellion against God, he could have made things right with God but chose not to.

Cain's failure began at the altar of God and because of this he failed to master sin so sin became his master. Cain's repentance was not genuine.

We must understand, what Cain gave was not wrong, but it was not his first, it was not of his best. Cain kept from God what he should have given, he did not provide the sacrifice of acknowledgement that God expected from him.

Like Cain, when we fail at the altar, we will fail at eternal life.

Able, on the other hand came in faith with a willing heart. His sacrifice was one of atonement, expressing humility, sincerity, obedience, and seeking the benefit of salvation.

Able's humbleness showed his unworthiness and the need for atonement through salvation.

Able came to the altar looking and expecting the will of God and his glory with the promise of salvation.

Able gave of his first, Able gave of his best, he did not withhold anything from God. Able offered his sin sacrifice for atonement to establish true fellowship with God.

For us, Christ offered himself a sacrifice, we except the atonement. Immediately, the descent of the indwelling Holy Spirit begins to fulfill in us the fruits of God, Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control. These are not characteristics of the creature, but, genuine characteristics of the creator. God who was well pleased with his son, is well pleased with his people, he loves us, he takes delight in us, he accepts us. We now are encouraged and motivated to follow him, and we now realize that our punishment is not greater than I can bear, for Christ bore my punishment.

As believers, God asks of us to have true fellowship with himself, through the Son, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Fellowship with God must begin with God, and obedience to him and his word. It has nothing to do with ourselves.

We must recognize that God is, absolutely Holy.

**Genesis 4: 3 – 5, 13,....**and Cain said to the Lord, my punishment is greater than I can bear....

As we look back at Cain and Abel, when God called them to come to him, to come to the alter of sacrifice, the alter of repentance, he ask of them only to give of their first and their best.

Abel knew and understood what his first and his best was, and gave of that to God.

Cain also knew and understood of his first and his best, but would not humble himself to give it. Because of pride and worldliness he tried to present to God that which was not spiritual or truthful. So, this morning we want to learn more about: What our first and our best truly is.

**1 Corinthians 15:23,....** But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterwards those who are in Christ, at his coming....

This part of Paul's letter explains the risen Christ, which in order for this to happen, there first had to be a death. This would be the crucifixion of Christ and his death on the cross.

Simply stating: We ourselves, who are humbled before an almighty God, show our obedience to Christ and the cross through salvation. Excepting our eternal destination, being predestined and created in the image of God the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

We must make the same choices that Cain and Abel had to make.

Our life begins at the Alter of God. That means everyone that is born, including Christ.

Since Cain did not give of his first and his best, his failure began at the altar of God. Cain failed to humble himself, therefore did not become the master of the sin that came through prideful temptation. Sin became his master, Cain's repentance was not genuine.

If like Cain we fail at the altar, then like Cain we begin to feel our punishment is greater than we can bear. To understand and to overcome, we must give to God by worshipping him, coming to the altar in spirit and in truth. Now when we come to the altar, these next three things God expects of us to give.

God asks of us to have true fellowship with himself and the son.

God wants us to give unto him our first and our best.

Not always do we give God our best, this interferes in our worship with God. We give to God through worshipping him.

#1 We give of our possessions. Which is what we have, this is ourselves.

#2 We give of our praise. In what we say, this is our service.

#3 We give of our performance, This is how we act, this is our worship.

#1 Giving of our possessions, is what we have, it is giving of ourselves.

God owns everything, including what he gave to us in our hearts.

**2 Corinthians 8:5,....**they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God....

**Matthew 16: 24 – 27,....**then Jesus said to his disciples, if anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me....

We must fill our minds with the word of God, and fix our thoughts on Godly things.

**Philippians 4:8**,....whatever things are true....noble...just....pure....lovely....of good report....

#2 Giving of our praise, is the way we say we our giving of our service.

**Psalm 100**,....make a joyful noise unto the Lord....

We are not to serve God as though he needed anything.

**Acts 17: 24 – 28**,....God,....does not dwell in temples made with hands....

God sees our service as glorifying to him when it is moment by moment from his supply.

**Joshua 24: 14 – 18**,....now therefore, fear the Lord, serve him in sincerity and in truth....

#3 We give of our performance, in how we act, and in our giving in worship.

To love God, to worship God, is to give him our very best.

**Hebrews 11:4**,....by faith, Able offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain....

Able's faith was a foreshadowing of Christ. His blood cried out for justice against sin and exposed Cain's wretchedness, all Abel was trying to do was worship God.

Christ's blood, cried out for mercy for the sinner, and covers our wretchedness, this makes us acceptable to God, which allows for a spiritual service of worship in our faith through Christ.

**Colossians 3: 22 – 24**,....bond servants, obey in all things your masters....in sincerity of heart, fearing God....

**John 4: 21 – 24**,....you worship what you do not know....but the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipper will worship the father in spirit and in truth....

So how do we overcome the feeling of: My punishment is greater than I can bear.

Through our salvation, giving of our first, giving of our best, God will, and does protect our life. God provides the opportunity to seek repentance. God promises a redeemer, he gives us reconciliation through Christ and a renewed relationship through salvation with the hope and promise of eternal life.

Let us pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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