

## Observations About Sin From Genesis 4

### Introduction:

1. My good friend Tommy Peeler teaches at Florida College and preaches at the Brandon church in Tampa.
2. I have known him since he was a high school student. We met at the first gospel meeting I ever held. It was in Dickson, TN. in 1978 or 1979.
3. I have always been impressed with Tommy. He is a great mind and a serious bible student.
4. The lesson that I am presenting tonight stems from a list of thoughts he made on Gen. 4. I have added some things to the list and the elaborations are mine, but appropriate credit goes to him.
5. As you are aware Gen. 4 rehearses the history of the family of Adam and Eve after their sin in Gen. 3. It includes the account of Cain and Abel. It traces the lineage of Cain and concludes with the birth of Seth, the third son of Adam and Eve.
6. The last sentence of the chapter gives us insight into the point that Moses is trying to make as he records the history of Cain. It says, "Then (that is, after Seth) men began to call upon the name of the Lord."
7. Before this, sin's deteriorating effect went on unchecked in the descendants of Cain. So, Gen. 4 is a significant passage as far as our understanding of sin is concerned.
8. In the next few minutes I want to read and make some observations with you about sin as it is revealed in Gen. 4.

### Discussion:

1. Sin may occur in the context of worship (1-5).
  - A. Such was the case with Cain.
  - B. When we make worship more about ourselves and less about the Lord we have a serious problem. Worship, by definition, is God focused.
2. Sin often results in anger and a fallen countenance (5).
  - A. Cain did not receive what he was looking for and so he was angry.
  - B. Do you find yourself angry when you do not get what you want from your worship?
    1. Is that because you are looking for the wrong thing?
    2. What if you changed your perspective from what you can get to giving what the Lord requires?
3. Sin often sets us at odds with those closest to us (8).
  - A. Cain was at odds with Abel because Abel was doing right and Cain was not.
  - B. Are you at odds with those closest to you?
4. God tries to talk us out of sin (6-7).

- A. Isn't this what the bible is all about?
  - B. Cain was resistant to God's attempt.
  - C. Are you resistant to God when He tries to talk you out of sin?
5. Sin, crouches at the door, like a wild beast, to devour (7).
- A. Do we see it as God sees it?
  - B. Or in the way that Satan paints it? Attractive. Pleasing. Cf. Heb. 11:25.
6. The sinner seeks to divert attention from taking responsibility (9-10).
- A. Cain knew what had happened to Abel. He lied about it.
  - B. It is useless to try to avoid the truth with God. Might as well confess and take responsibility.
7. Sin is disastrous both to the sinner and the innocent (8, 12-13).
- A. Some say, "It only affects me." That is not true. Sin has far reaching effects.
  - B. In this case Abel, even though he was innocent, suffered as a result of Abel's sin. You may object saying it is unfair for the innocent to suffer as a result of the guilty person's sin. Yes it is unfair, but it is the fact nonetheless. If you don't want others to suffer unfairly then don't bring its disastrous effects on them. Avoid sin.
8. Sin mars relationships (12-15).
- A. With the ground.
  - B. With other people.
  - C. With God.
9. The sinner thinks his punishment is too great (13).
- A. Maybe this is because we do not understand how damaging sin is. We underestimate the damage and think the cost is too much.
  - B. Do you think Christ's crucifixion is too great a punishment for sin? Do you find God repulsive for requiring such a severe payment?
  - C. Sinners think their sin is "not all that bad."
10. The Lord protects sinners (14-15).
- A. Ironic isn't it that He cares so much?
  - B. Sinners should care as much about themselves as He cares for them.
11. Sinners seek to distance themselves from the presence of the Lord (16).
- A. Cain moved out! He left.
  - B. Sin separates.

12. Sinners can build cities, perpetuate their families, become prominent in business, develop culturally and industrially (17-22).

- A. Cain's family accomplished many things in the world. This was their focus.
- B. They distanced themselves from the presence of God and found another focus.
- C. Isn't that the way it is?

13. Sin tends to escalate (23-24).

- A. Eve had been talked into sin. Cain could not be talked out of it.
- B. Adam and Eve shifted the blame for their sin. Cain blatantly lied (9).
- C. Abel went from bringing an offering to God to anger, to murder, lying, going out of the presence of the Lord, and refocusing on the things of the world.
- D. The escalation is evident in his descendants.
  - 1. Lamech marks the apex of the escalation.
  - 2. Seth and his family mark a different direction. "Then men began to call upon the name of the Lord."

14. Gen. 4 what happens when men take the direction of sin against God.

- A. It all began with worship.
- B. It ends in death (Gen. 5).

Conclusion:

- 1. What observations do you make about sin in your life?
- 2. In what direction are you headed?
- 3. Perhaps it is time for a life change?