

Living on Purpose “Overcoming Your Cain Experience”

Genesis 4:1-16

Staying Safe During This Season

- Wash your hands and sanitize wherever you go and when you come back home
- Practice Social Distancing
- Check up your family members and love ones
- Do your best to eat healthy and stay active in your house
- Take time each day to learn and grow your mind
- **Pastor Ray’s Sermon**

Reflection:

“I sought my soul but my soul I could not see. I sought my God but he eluded me. I sought my brother and I found all three.”-Martin Luther King Jr.

Questions to Consider

1. What brother or sister have you lost connection with?
2. Is God calling you to reconciliation?
3. How are you finding God in moments of isolation and in moments with your family?

Living on Purpose Definition:

“Living with divine intention, a divine plane, a thoughtful pursuit towards self-discovery, community and intimacy with God.”

What we want to accomplish:

- Review of the inductive Bible Study Method
- A tangible understanding of the framing of Living on Purpose
- A deeper concept regarding the formulation of Genesis
- Review of Genesis 1 & 2
- Insight into historical criticism and the sources of the Pentateuch
- Theological Highlights of rejection & brotherly & sisterly love

Understanding Genesis:

- The Bible is more of an anthology a library of sorts that give testament to a people searching after God. The bible is not an ideological monolith. Each book can have its own distinctive note or tone. Genesis is looking at the origin of things and is wrestling with the existence of evil and tries to make sense of a world of suffering despite the existence of a good God.
- The Biblical narratives are not pious parables about saints but rather the characters in the text are real people with real problems. Real people that do bad things but have the potential to grow. Jacob is a deceiver, Noah a Drunk, Kain a murderer, Abraham had a whole lot of problems.
- We should not try to vindicate the characters of the text to quickly because we can miss the teaching or lesson behind their actions and predicament.
- The Good news of Genesis is that God can renew and save no matter how the story unfolds.
- God is always trying to Initiate Blessing
- God is presented as being supreme and unlimited. This is a departure from the ancient Mediterranean religious culture.

More on Understanding Genesis

Reading Genesis as a testimony of God's goodness and God's love for humanity despite the failings of humanity.

The good news of Genesis is that God renews no matter how the story unfolds, God is the one that initiates blessings,

Genesis moves from the universal to the particular- it moves from answering the big questions of why do we die, why does violence exist, how the world came to be formed into the particular. The of how God unfolds in the life of the Hebrew People.

Can God renew in moments of crisis? God covers Adam & Eve when they realized they were naked.

We will look at how God responds to Cain in the passage

God of Israel

1. Ancient Israelites shared this world view, over the course of time, some ancient Israelites, was there one divine God, this God transcends nature, this God is greater than natural phenomena, this God can be known through history. Events, A real relationship with humankind. In some ways this is revolutionary and a departure from the ancient Mesopotamian practices. They are not lost to history because they have an identity rooted in a personal God that can be known. No matter what happens, there is meaning, and that God has a plan that is possibly discernable.
2. Epic of Gilgamesh- The God's are capricious, This God is just, this God has a will, that is good, that is discernable.
3. God exist independently from God's creation, but God remains relationally tied to God's creation.

Review of Last week's lesson

- **We are co-creators with God** (You can co-create Good with God) You can create against God's will for your life.
- **The Principal of creating never changes for God or for you**
- God is speaking before the foundations of the world. When no one was able to listen, God was organizing the world with you on God's mind
- Naming and re-naming things in your life
- We are made in the image of God

Bible Investigation

- J** The 'J' Source:
- Called after the name for God it uses in Genesis (YHWH).
 - Highly anthropomorphic God
 - Close relationship between God and humans

- E** The 'E' Source:
- Called after the name for God it uses in Genesis (Elohim).
 - God is more distant from humans and usually communicated with people by dreams or intermediaries such as heavenly messengers or prophets.

- P** The 'Priestly' Source:
- Strong interest in order and boundaries.
 - Overriding concern with the priestly family of Aaron and the Temple-based religious system.

- D** The 'Deuteronomist':
- Characterised by its preaching style
 - Insists strongly that God cannot be seen
 - Uniquely insists that God does not physically dwell in the temple or Tabernacle
 - Insists that God must be worshipped in one place only – understood to be Jerusalem.

Notes on Cain and Abel

- In the first Generation, Humanity is separated from God
- In the Second Generation they are separated from each other
- God asked Adam where are you?
- God asked Cain where is his brother?

The Omnipotent deity was no longer in control of his creation-

Both offered sacrifices to God, without giving any reason for God's preference, found only Abel's offering acceptable. The Hebrew lets us know that he was shocked almost like a child.

We bring our own theological history to the text.

- **Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings. Malachi 3:8**
- **4 By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. Hebrews 11:4**

We are a lot like Cain

Your Cain experience-when you have to deal with unfair, untimed, undeserved rejection. At the core of our souls we desire to be accepted by our family, our jobs, our culture, our partners and by society.

Have you ever been rejected?

In some translations God tells Cain to hold his head up high. God gives Cain the opportunity to create-

God reinforces that Cain had the power to do what is right.

- This is the first sign in Hebrew Bible that God shows partiality or favor which is a theme throughout Genesis

Time and time again in Genesis we see God favor the younger son, over that of the Older son

The story of Jacob & Esau, Joseph and his brothers, David and his brothers-

Shows the cultural rivalry between herdsman and farmers

Application

1. God is asking us where is our brother and our Sister? God is trying to make the invisible persons of society be made known
2. Your Offering has to be made out of faith. Its not the size of the offering but the faith that you put in God as you give your offering. Isaiah 1:11. 13, 16-17
3. We must humble ourselves and ask why
4. God is still making provision in your mistakes