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The Way of Cain

The events that have taken place in the USA over the last few days will be forever ingrained into people's memories. The vivid images of death and suffering that was shown on our TV sets and in our newspapers to me showed the fragility of life. There were many heroes, the Firemen and Police who put their lives on the line to save others and in turn lost their lives so that others could escape. The reports of male passengers taking on the hijackers on one of the 4 airliners who in turn sacrificed their lives to save many hundreds, I will never ever forget. What you have witnessed is pure evil personified.

What you have seen is in a nutshell "The way of Cain".

The question you may ask is "What is the way of Cain?" Firstly what you have to distinguish " what is the way"

Jude 11 clearly warns believers about false prophets that are moulded like the character of Balaam who is represented as a person with an adulterous mind and Korah who rebelled against God's appointed authority and Cain who was a murderer at heart.

Jesus said, " I am the way the truth and the Light no one can come to the father except through me" (JOHN 14v 6)

There are two ways to walk. David spoke a few months ago on the ancient paths and the two ways you can walk. You can either walk the way of the Cross or walk in the way of the devil. You can decide to walk the straight and narrow or you can walk the wide road.

The term "way" is used figuratively in the Old Testament for a manner of a way of life either of righteous or wicked people. In the NT the word is often used as a metaphor for moral behaviour. (Matt7v3-14) in other words righteous living as opposed to ungodly behaviour.

Let us look in the Word of God to where Cain is first Mentioned.

GENESIS 4v1

The name Cain comes from the HEB word "qayin" which is similar in sound to the verb ("I acquired") (qaniti), which can also mean create.

Cain was a farmer a tiller of the soil like his father Adam. His brother Abel was a shepherd. You now have to understand that Adam would have taught his two sons about God and how to approach God. You also have to realise here is that each and every one of us has a job to do whether it is up front here or cleaning toilet bowls. God has called us all to do his work . We all belong to a priesthood of believers and we should be content in what he calls us to do.

Verse 3 An offering is brought. Here we see at the very beginning of mankind worship is offered up and God has a standard that he has set. God wants us to honour him with what he has blessed us with, after all everything belongs to God.

Cain brings his offering as a sacrifice to God and so does his brother Abel , but let us look at the difference.

Why was Abel's offering was accepted by God and Cain's rejected. WHY? Abel offered up to God the firstlings of his flock and the fat there of.

In other words Abel gave unto God his very best or as one commentary puts it "the best of the Best" There was no spot or blemish in his sacrifice. What does scripture say about this.

Hebrews 11 v 4 1 John 3 verse 12

The underpinning theme is that Abel offered up to God his sacrifice in Faith and having a righteous Heart. He wanted to do the whole will of God. We too must have that attitude when we go before God because the word says that without faith it is impossible to please God.

Now let us look at Cain. He offered up the fruit of the ground .Don't let anyone tell you that his sacrifice was not accepted because it was bloodless .In the O T many of the sacrifices were done without blood. No it was an attitude of his heart. He did not give God the Best .He just offered up anything.

I am just suggesting this in passing in that how do we know that Abel's sacrifice was acceptable .What I think happened was that God sent fire from heaven on Abel's sacrifice and Not on Cain's.

Now here is the CRUCIAL Point Verse 5. Cain was extremely wrath ,But who with ? GOD. He was angry with GOD.

From this Point on we will be able to see that because of his anger envy and Jealousy grew which finally led to murder.

The First mark in walking in the way of Cain is unresolved anger against your Brother.

VERSE 6 God begins to reason with Cain. He asks why has his countenance fallen. As a father speaking to a child God is trying to bring Cain to a point of knowing why he has anger. Cain has no reason at all to be angry with God . God says to him in verse 7 Cain you know what I expect and if you do it right I will accept your offering. Just think how stubborn we can be .God addresses sin in our lives by the conviction of the Holy Spirit but how often do we brush him aside.

God sets before Cain life and death Blessing and Curses. In essence God is preaching the Gospel to Cain. Can you see it. Cain has to come to God on God's terms not his own But what happens instead of Cain humbling himself before God he sets his heart against God.

The second step of walking in the way of Cain is hardness of Heart and not humbling yourself before God. Does this apply today in the Church Of Jesus Christ? Hardness of heart makes it very difficult to hear what the Lord is saying .It will envelope you and Bind you up in sin. The love for many will grow waxed cold in the last days

Cain is warned by God that if he does not deal with this anger and by the way the Term in Hebrew for sin is first mentioned , then sin lies at the door. God uses an analogy of a wild beast ready to devour him. If sin goes unchecked then it will consume you. God wants Cain to master his sin and he wants you also to do the same thing. He wants him to have dominion over it .He too wants us to have Victory to master it.

Envy : Proverbs 3v31 Prov 27 v 4 Prov 14 V 30 and Job 5 v 2
Ps 37 v 8 Sin now has hardened his heart.

Cain now is angry with God and envious of his brother Jealousy hatred and Bitterness begin to Grow. We are given no time frame In the NT there are a group of religious and Political men who have walked in the way of Cain. Who are they?

The Pharisees .They become envious ,jealous at the Miracles and the Power of Jesus and they plot to kill him. Tuesday this week , Sept 11 you have seen with your own eyes the way of Cain. These

purely evil men had bitterness ,Jealousy and Anger against a Nation the USA that led to murder. of so many innocent people.

Verse 8 The world's first murder now takes place.(Fractacide) The text is clear that murder came immediately in the wake of jealousy., by the hand of a stubborn man committed to his own selfish way. I know one or two men like that.

1 John 3 verse 12

In killing his brother Cain struck directly at God himself. He hated his brother Abel because God loved him. It is always the case the righteous suffers firstly at the hands of the ungodly. You only have to look at how many Christians die each year for the name of Jesus Christ. Mainly at the hands of Islamic extremists.

Jesus said if you have anger in your heart against your brother ,then you have committed murder in your heart you have walked in the way of Cain.

VERSE 9 : God questions Cain . This I believe gives a picture of a court setting. God is sovereign and knows all things. He knows that Cain has killed his brother ,for the Blood cries out. What God is doing here is trying to draw out from Cain a confession. An admission of his sin for God is a just God who delights in Mercy. God knows Cain's heart is hardened. He wants to draw him to a point of repentance, but Cain pleads "not guilty" I am not my brother's keeper. How that has rung down the corridors of time. The standard reply when you want to shift the guilt. I didn't do it. It wasn't me.

The third Mark of walking in the way of Cain is Non accountability Lies and deception. Pastors exaggerating the truth Does this happen today. YEP and on a big scale. Lies and deception .Do I need to say any more.

Cain deliberately lies to cover a murder. Thus in Cain, the Devil was both a murderer and a liar from the beginning .You really have to be STUPID to think you can hide your sins from God ,who is all seeing and all knowing. The God in which we serve is a God who pardons only those who confess their sin. Cain should have humbled himself and confessed. However the evidence against Cain is great. The Blood cries out . It is as if the Blood is the prosecutor here and it cries out directly to God. I wonder after this week the blood is crying out to God. for vengeance .

The Blood that Jesus spilt was more than sufficient to atone for us because Heb 12 v 24 says so. Interestingly enough Abel's blood cries out for vengeance ,but Jesus' blood cries out for pardon.

Verse 11 for all those who walk in the way of Cain there comes judgement. The Just and Righteous King of the Universe must punish unrepented sin. Cain being a farmer has the Ground cursed This is similar to the curse God put on his father Adam. His means of support is cut off. He is cursed. He becomes a fugitive and vagabond

Notice how he cries out against the sentence .There is no repentance for his Sin. His conscience is seared. Like Judas Iscariot there are tears but no true repentance. Like those who walk in the way of Cain their conscience is seared by their evil deeds. This is another mark of those who walk in the way of Cain

His own guilty conscience will now haunt him wherever he goes. He thinks he has been dealt with unfairly .He thinks he is a target for every man ,but God is long suffering and gives him grace in the form of a mark .What that mark is ,is unknown. It shows however that vengeance belongs to God.

But God wants all men to come unto a knowledge of him. Please pay particular notice of how sin is passed on from generation to generation Lamech verse 23-24 thus the ungodly line of Cain is shown. They are not worshippers of God

The way of Cain is marked by men who harbour envy and Jealousy and murder in their hearts. Their father is the devil and they are liars and deceivers .God wants us to walk in the paths of righteousness so let us put away all evilness from our hearts and walk in the love of Christ.

1 Peter 2v1.