



April 23, 2017

“By faith the people crossed the sea” - Hebrews 11:29

Scripture: Read Hebrews 11:1-4, Genesis 4:1-26

- What does Scripture say about faith and belief?
Romans 8:24, 2 Corinthians 4:18 and 5:7, 1 Peter 1:8-9, James 2:14-26

- What does the New Testament say about Cain?
Hebrews 11:1-4, 1 John 3:11-12, Jude 11

- Leviticus 2 and Numbers 18:12-13, 17 describe offerings. We are not told why the Lord rejected Cain’s offering, but can we deduce a possible reason?

Equipping

- Each example of faith throughout Hebrews 11, begins with “By faith ...” The implication is that true, saving faith works in obedience to God. Both Abel and Cain presented offerings in obedience to God, and accordingly, Cain’s offering / obedience / faith was lacking. How might this look today? What is the correlation between obedience and faith?

- Cain responded to God in anger, revealing his heart toward God and others. Do you see the progression of disobedience, anger, murder in Cain's life? Any additional observations or thoughts regarding Cain's response and that of our own sinful human nature? Can you hear Jesus' Sermon on the Mount teaching equating the anger of the heart with that of murder?

- God judges Cain (Genesis 4:13-14) - What do you notice most about this judgement passage? What is lacking on Cain's part? What tragic situation is created for Cain; similar to what we find with Adam & Eve's Garden judgment and what we find with eternal punishment?

*A*pplication

- Reflecting on the lives of Abel and Cain, what do you want to change in your - life, faith, heart, relationships - right now? How could you go about making that change happen this week?

Lord, may our offerings to you (our lives, our treasures, our worship) be pleasing to you, not because of what they are, but because of how we approach you with them. May our hearts seek to obey you, and may we daily reject the anger, jealousy, and unrepentant attitude of Cain. By faith, we come before you and offer our everything to you. Amen.