

Genesis



Part 8

East of Eden

Genesis 4:1 - 16

What Genesis tells us about God and life.

Sin is Powerful and Invasive

²³ Lamech said to his wives:

“Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
you wives of Lamech, listen to what
I say:

I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.

²⁴ If Cain’s revenge is sevenfold,
then Lamech’s is seventy-
sevenfold.”

Genesis 4:23 & 24

Sin is Powerful and Invasive

A white lioness is the central focus of the image, looking directly at the viewer with a serious expression. The background is a soft, out-of-focus natural setting.

“But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

Genesis 4:7

“That explains what always used to puzzle me about Christian writers; they seem to be so very strict at one moment and so very free and easy at another. They talk about mere sins of thought as if they were immensely important: and then they talk about the most frightful murders and treacheries as if you had only to repent and all would be forgiven.

(Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis)



But I have come to see that they are right. What they are always thinking of is the mark, which the action leaves on that tiny central self which no one sees ... but which each of us will have to endure—or enjoy—forever. One man may be so placed that his anger sheds the blood of thousands, and another so placed that however angry he gets he will only be laughed at.”

(Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis)



“But the little mark on the soul may be much the same in both. Each has done something to himself which, unless he repents, will make it harder for him to keep out of the rage next time he is tempted, and will make the rage worse when he does fall into it. Each of them, if he seriously turns to God, can have that twist in the central man straightened out again: each is, in the long run, doomed if he will not. The bigness or smallness of the thing, seen from the outside, is not what really matters.”

(Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis)





Sin is Powerful and Invasive

¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged



away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

James 1:13 - 15

Sin is Powerful and Invasive



You start by doing sin, but then sin does you.

1 Corinthians 10:13

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

Genesis 4:7



“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

How do you master sin instead
of being mastered by it?



1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

A lion is the central focus of the image, looking directly at the viewer. It is surrounded by tall, golden-brown grasses that fill the background. The lighting is warm, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

Sin is Subtle

Able's sacrifice involved blood,
Cain's did not

The *quality* of the two offerings

Cain's was grown from cursed ground

The difference is in the *hearts* of
the two worshipers

Sin is Subtle

The difference is in the *hearts* of
the two worshipers

resentful

harbored anger and
killed his brother

lies

self-interested



Sin is Subtle

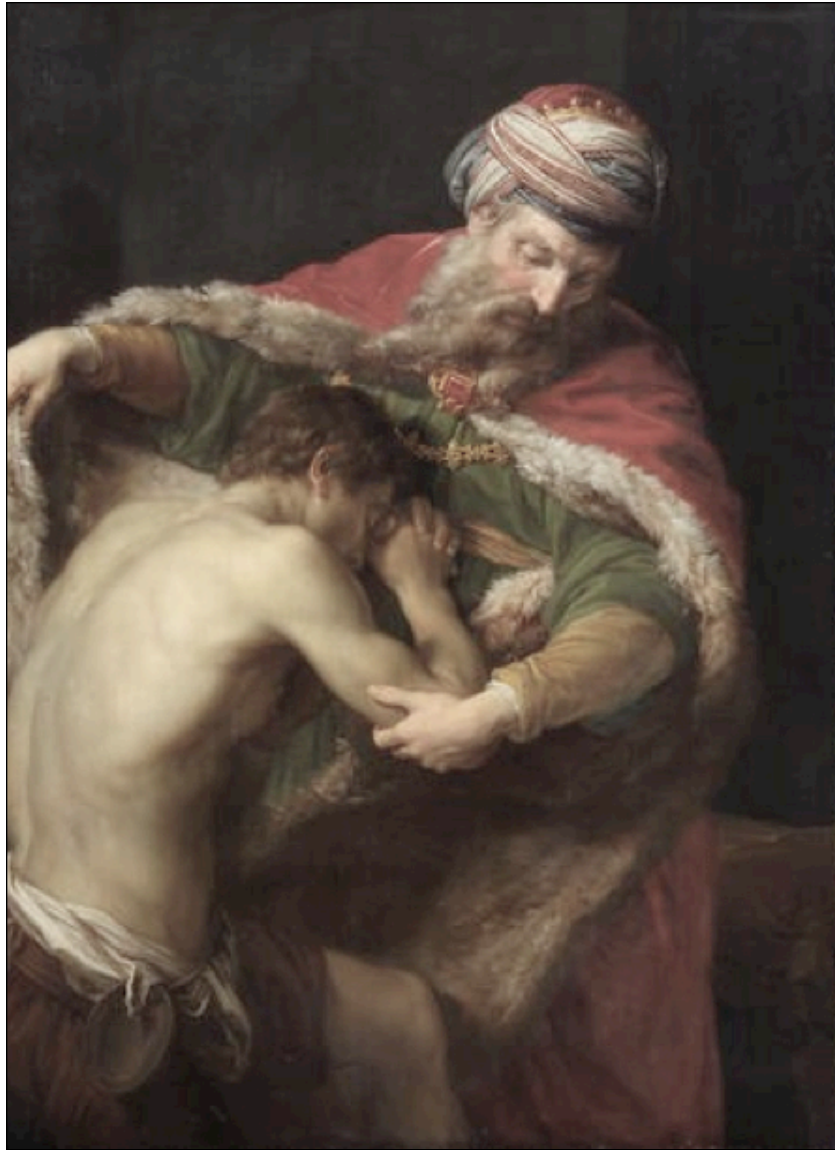
Genesis 4:3 & 4

“Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering . . . But Abel brought fat portions from some of the *firstborn* of his flock.”

Sin is Subtle

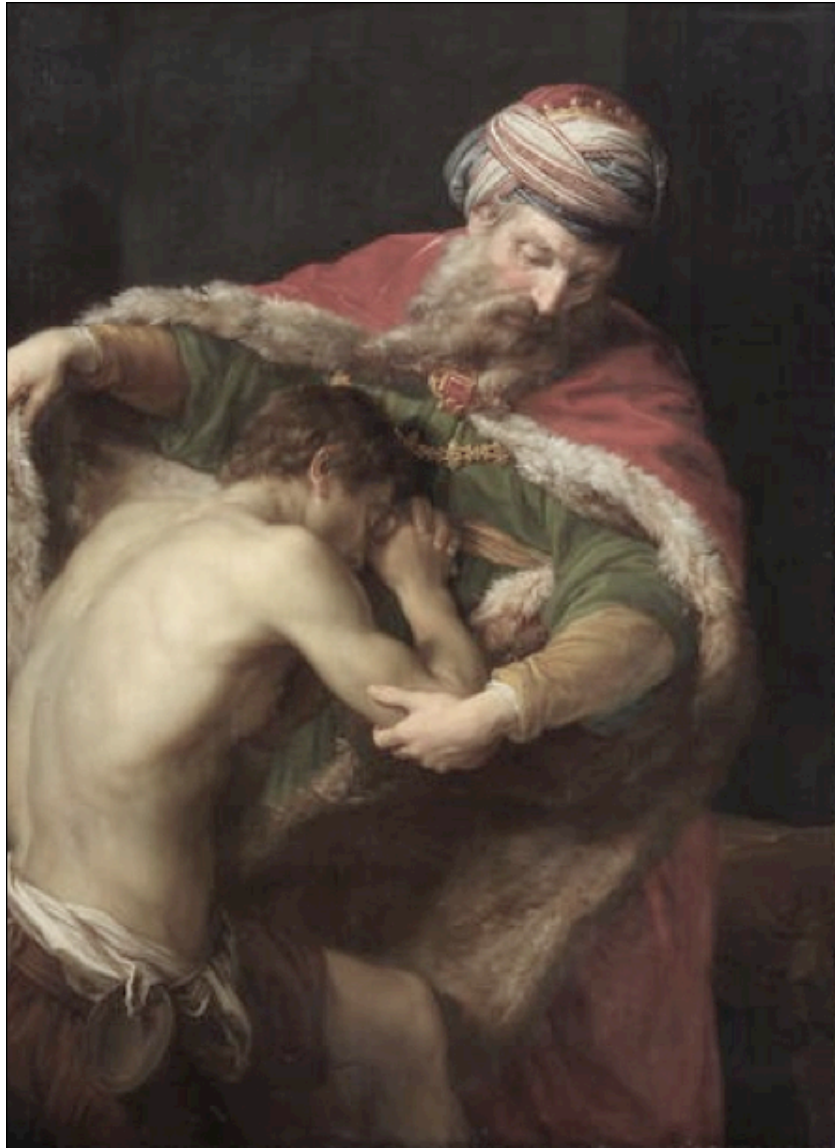
Abel made his sacrifice and offering
in *faith*, but Cain did not.





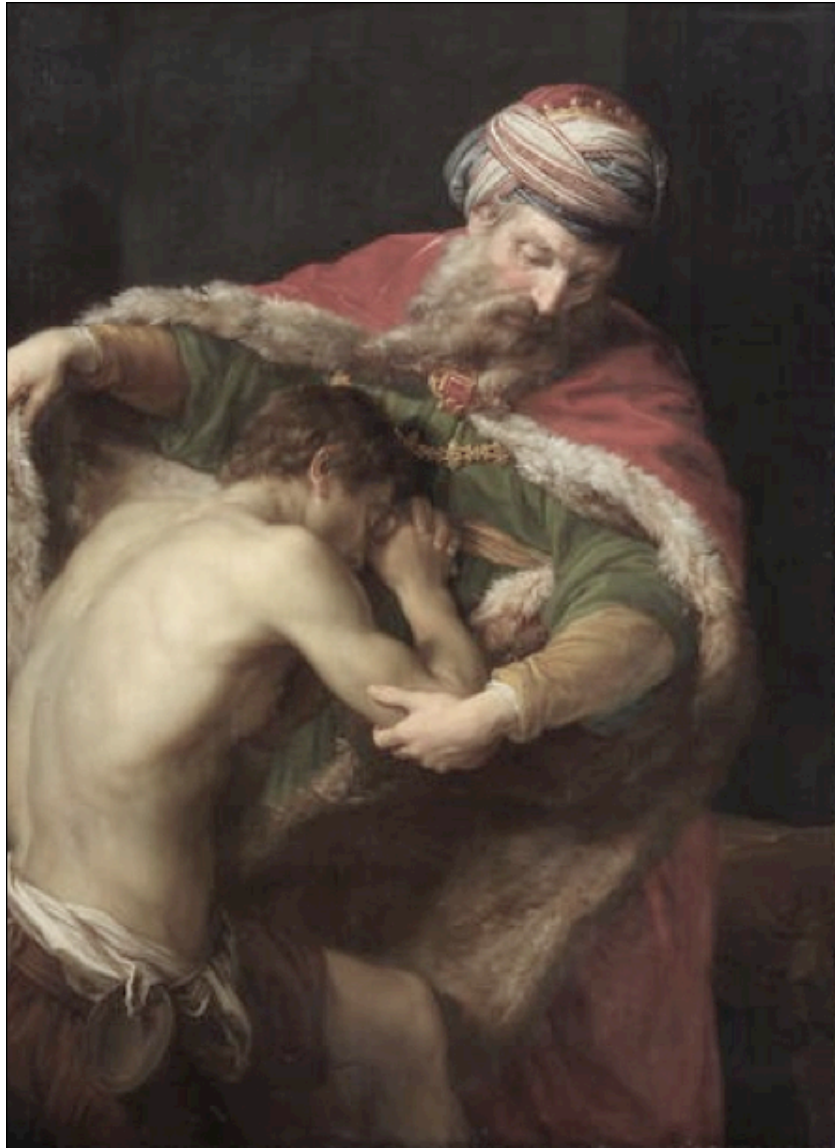
Luke 15 NLT

²⁵ Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, ²⁶ and he asked one of the servants what was going on. ²⁷ “Your brother is back,” he was told, “and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.”



Luke 15 NLT

²⁸ The older brother was *angry* and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, ²⁹ but he replied, "All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends.



Luke 15 NLT

³⁰ Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!”



Sin Will Be Defeated

Justice



Grace



**“Your brother’s blood cries out to me
from the ground.”**



Hebrews 12:23 & 24

²³ You have come to God, the Judge of all . . . and ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.



Isaiah 53:5 & 6

⁵ But he was pierced for *our* transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on *him*, and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on *him* the iniquity of us all.

His sacrifice fulfilled all of God's requirements for justice.

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”



