

Part 8

***East of Eden***

**Genesis 4:1–16**

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<sup>1</sup> Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.” <sup>2</sup> Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. <sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup> And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup> 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 rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup> Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

<sup>10</sup> The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. <sup>11</sup> Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup> When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

<sup>13</sup> Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear. <sup>14</sup> Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

<sup>15</sup> But the LORD said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. <sup>16</sup> So Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

## 1. Sin is Powerful and Invasive

Sin \_\_\_\_\_ in your life.

James 1:13 – 15 – <sup>13</sup> When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup> but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

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. (NLT)

### HOW DO YOU MASTER SIN INSTEAD OF BEING MASTERED BY IT?

## 2. Sin is Subtle

Two reasons to bring an offering to God

One is to give God an offering in \_\_\_\_\_, as an act of \_\_\_\_\_ for salvation.

The other reason to give an offering to God is to do it as a \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation.

## The Parable of the *Prodigal Son*

Luke 15:25 -30 – <sup>25</sup> Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, <sup>26</sup> and he asked one of the servants what was going on. <sup>27</sup> “Your brother is back,” he was told, “and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.”

<sup>28</sup> The older brother was *angry* and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!” (NLT)

### Is there hope for us? Yes, **3. Sin will be defeated**

We learn at least *two things about God*. One is his \_\_\_\_\_, and the other is his \_\_\_\_\_.

When God asks a question, he’s not looking for \_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 12:23 & 24 – <sup>23</sup> You have come to God, the Judge of all . . .and <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (NIV)

Isaiah 53:5 & 6 – <sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.”