

Introduction:

- This is part four in a series on dismantling anger. Last week:
 - We saw that anger is a godship issue. What is godship? Godship simply means that God is the leading voice, counsel, and ways that I follow in my life.
 - I have a godship issue when Jesus is not allowed to be Lord of my life and I live according to my ways, my counsel and my advice.
 - Therefore, sinning in your anger is a godship issue.
- We closed that message with steps to dismantling anger:
 - One, acknowledge that you have a problem.
 - Two, let Jesus be Lord of your life.
 - Three, stop blaming and take responsibility.
 - Four, practice self-control. That is letting Holy Spirit lead.
 - Five, forgive as soon as possible.
 - Six, self-control is fruit of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit has to be involved in the process!
- Our text for tonight is Genesis 4:1-9
 - *"and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?"" (Genesis 4:4-6, ESV)*

I. Cain, A Godship Issue Revealed

- A. Genesis four is the first time that anger is mentioned in the Bible. Note: God does not express anger at Adam and Eve. Before we go further lets remember:
1. Jesus was angry and did not sin. 5x Jesus is mentioned to be angry.
 2. Ephesians tells us: *"Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil."* (Ephesians 4:26-27, ESV) There is a place we can be angry, but the warning is: do not sin in your anger. Don't give the devil a chance at you!
 3. Jesus was not angry at anyone who lashed out at Him; only those who were experiencing injustice. Jesus, when angry, was always angry at injustice. Jesus' anger produced positive results.
 4. Our anger, the majority of the time, is selfishly motivated. And sin is at the door.
 5. So, Eph 4:26 gives us a warning. Be angry but, DO NOT SIN IN YOUR ANGER.
- B. God gave Cain a warning too! This warning was: You have a godship issue lurking at your door! I believe that those who know God, He also warns them too. From the Message: *"If you do well, won't you be accepted? And if you don't do well, **sin is lying in wait for you, ready to pounce; it's out to get you, you've got to master it.**"*" (Genesis 4:7, MSG). **It wants to take you out!** The devil is always looking to take us out. He is fairly successful with sex and anger. Lets break this down:

1. Able brought fat portions and the Lord had 'regard' for his offering.
 - a) The fat of the animal was the best part of the sacrifice. It was to be given to God "*All fat is the Lord's.*" Lev 7:23-ff
 - b) The burning of fat in sacrifice before God is called a 'sweet aroma' to the Lord (Leviticus 17:6).
2. Cain brought a grain offering. (Grain offerings are Biblical) And the Lord had no regard for it. (Genesis 4:5)
 - a) To regard means to look at closely, give attention to. This is what God did for Able's sacrifice.
 - b) To not regard means to not look at or pay attention to. God did not look at Cain's sacrifice. Do you want to know why God did not regard Cain's offering?
3. Hebrews clearly explains why Abel's offering was accepted and Cain's was rejected.
 - a) "*By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.*" (Hebrews 11:4, ESV)
 - b) Cain's offering was rejected not because it was grain but because it was offered without faith. It was dead religion! Abel came in worship to God. Cain just came to God.
 - c) John also gives us insight: "*We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.*" (1 John 3:12, ESV)

II. Cain's Response Was Anger.

- A. Anger - (Hebrew) to cause to burn, to be angry.
- B. "Cain, be careful! Sin is crouching at the door waiting for you to open it! Do not sin in your anger! When we become selfishly angry, sin is crouching at our door waiting for us to open that door. This is the sin of anger - We open the door to the enemy and surpass the Lordship of Jesus. We must learn to submit to His Lordship and keep the door to the enemy closed!
- C. Cain's response was rooted in pride! He could not bear that Abel's sacrifice was accepted before God and his was not. He was feeling rejected, disregarded, not valued, etc. Just like the older brother of Luke 15.
 1. In both instances, God the Father comes with a warning and an invitation to make the right choice.
 2. Cain does not! And the next day he invites his brother out to the field and kills him.
 - a) Cain's murderous, pre-meditated jealous rage killed his brother!

- b) Cain is the Bible's first murderer all because he did not control his anger.
- D. Here is a warning to us:
1. Do not sin in your anger.
 2. "Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion." (Jude 11, ESV).
- a) Jude 11 warns of the **way** of Cain, which is unbelief, empty religion leading to jealousy, persecution of those truly godly, and murderous anger. Guzik, D. (2013). [Genesis](#) (Ge 4:9). David Guzik.
- b) He was selfish. This was Balaam's sin.
- E. Cain had a godship issue. What is godship? Godship simply means that God is the leading voice, counsel, and ways that I follow.
1. I have a godship issue when Jesus is not allowed to be Lord of my life and I live according to my ways, counsel and advice.
 2. Therefore, sinning in your anger is a godship issue.

Conclusion:

- One, acknowledge that you have a problem.
- Two, let Jesus be Lord of your life.
- Three, stop blaming and take responsibility.
- Four, practice self-control. That is letting Holy Spirit lead.
- Five, forgive as soon as possible.
- Six, self-control is fruit of the Holy Spirit. He has to be involved in the process.

"Here, it was one lamb for a man. Later, at the Passover, it will be one lamb for a family. Then, at the Day of Atonement, it was one lamb for the nation. Finally, with Jesus, there was one Lamb who took away the sin of the whole world (John 1:29)." Guzik, D. (2013). [Genesis](#) (Ge 4:2-5). David Guzik.