

Launching out on Faith- He is dead, He still Speaks

Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 4- Abel

Jesse Nelsen 5/4/2014 PM

Introduction

- We want to see the story in which the Hebrew author is referring to.
- We want to examine both Cain and Abel and then look at the differences between the two and why one was accepted and one was not accepted.
- We are going to make practical application for us today, in launching out on Faith, because faith understood in the Biblical concept has never changed.

The Story

- There had to be a law in which they were instructed to obey (Romans 5:13).
- Abel was a keeper of flocks and Cain was a tiller of the ground
- Abel gave of his firstlings of the flock and of their fat portions
- Cain gave an offering of the fruit of the ground
- God accepted Abel's offering but of Cain He took no regard of.

Cain

- Cain gave but it was obviously not something God had asked him to give (1 Samuel 15) or it was not in the proper frame of mind, meaning not of faith (Romans 14:22-23), and/or his actions were evil (1 John 3:11-12).
- Cain got upset and it says His countenance had fallen
- God reassures Him that if He did well (either gave what he was supposed to or/and by faith) then his countenance would be lifted up
- If you do not do well sin crouches at the door (1 Peter 5:8-10).

Abel

- Abel's sacrifice was acceptable before God.
- He gave of "first"lings of his flock (Proverbs 3:9; Nehemiah 10:35; Matthew 6:35)
- By Faith Abel offered a "better" sacrifice through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous
- Though dead the faith of Abel still speaks (we can still learn a great deal from: Hebrew 12:1).
- God does not need our sacrifice, that's why sacrifice alone will never work (Acts 17:23-31) and God says it is better to obey than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22).

Practical Application

- Faith in its most simplistic form is, “if you do well...” It is impossible to please God without faith (Heb. 11:6).
- We need to offer the first of everything to God, it needs to be offered in faith and in accordance with God’s will (John 4:24; Malachi God wants their hearts back)
- We need to appreciate that when we walk in the light, we are pleasing to God and our sacrifice is a sweet smelling aroma to God and our faith lives on beyond our years (Hebrews 11:2; 12:1).
- We choose whether we are a Cain or an Abel, there is no other choice