

March 1, 2020

La Jolla Christian Fellowship

The Offering // Episode 1 : Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:1-9

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4 Adam made love to 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."² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.³ In the course of time Cain brought **some of the fruits** of the soil as an offering to the LORD.⁴ 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,⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?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 rule over it."⁸ 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.

Why the offering?

- **Relationship:** Love is proven in the sacrifice.
- **Freedom:** Generosity is antithetical to a fear-based and "lack" mindset. Generosity breaks the fetters of fear.

Fruit vs. First Fruit: Vs. 3 *In the course of time Cain brought **some of the fruits** of the soil as an offering to the LORD.* ⁴ *And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from **some of the firstborn** of his flock.*

Generosity Inspires God's Favor

Vs. 4b-5 *The LORD looked with **favor** on Abel and his offering,⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with **favor**.*

- **Favor is a bulwark of protection and sustenance.**
 - **Psalm 84:11** *For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.*

Malachi 3:10 *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have enough room for it.¹*

Food For The Journey

Use these questions and challenges to go deeper in community groups or in personal reflection this week.

1. Is regular sacrificial generosity part of your faith journey?
2. What attitudes of the heart inspire God's favor?
3. What would God's favor on a person look like today?
4. Does God really open floodgates today?
5. What changes could you make to move deeper into favor?

¹ Interestingly enough, those are the exact same Hebrew words used in [Genesis 7:11](#) for the great down pour of rain that flooded the earth. There God said, ¹¹ the floodgates of the heavens were opened. (NIV)