

January 31, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
GENESIS : Behind The Curtain
Episode 2 : Hidden Sin–Crouching Lion
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Genesis 4:8-16

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. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” ¹⁰ The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.” ¹³ Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴ 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.” ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ So Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Understanding the setup of sin-

- 1. Sin is often a premeditated condition of the heart.**
- 2. Sin defiles blessing.**
- 3. Sin separates us from God’s manifested presence.**

1. Sin is often a premeditated condition of the heart.

a. Vs. 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.

- i. Sin is rarely created in a vacuum.

2. Sin defiles blessing.

a. Vs. 11 Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you.

- i. Cain defiled his blessing by burying his brother in it.

3. Sin separates us from God’s manifested presence.

a. Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

Mastery or Servitude

- **Vs. 6** *Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 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.**”*
 - **1 Peter 5:8** *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*
 - **Romans 6:6-7** *For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.*

Community Group Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Adam suggested that sin is rarely created in a vacuum. Meaning, sin is usually the result of previous unchecked actions or decisions that lead to it. Can you describe how this process works?
2. Cain's sin defiled his blessing. The land that used to produce for him no longer did. How can sin destroy our blessings?
3. **Isaiah 59:2** says, *“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”* What does a separation from God look like for a New Testament believer. Can we be separated from God?
4. Is it possible to rule over sin? If so, how do you do it?
5. What are the characteristics of someone who is a slave vs. someone who is a ruler over sin?