



Sermon Preached August 9th 2020
“A Problem With Cain’s Sacrifice”

SERMON OUTLINE

Main Idea: Deal with anger at a foundational level.

- I. We deal with anger at a foundational level when we ask, “Why am I angry?”
- II. We deal with anger at a foundational level when we ask, “What do I believe about the goodness of God?”
- III. We deal with anger at a foundational level when we ask, “What will my anger cost me?”
- IV. We deal with anger at a foundational level when we ask, “Am I approved by God?”

GETTING STARTED

1. What major point from the sermon stood out to you as particularly helpful? Why?

DIRECTOR’S CUT

“Internal Work”

God gives Cain some great advice on how to work through his anger. One thing, God tells Cain to do is, “do well.” Genesis 4:7 states, “If you **do well**, will you not be accepted? And if you **do not do well**, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.” What does God mean by the words, “do well?” There are a couple things we can observe from the text that will clarify what God means.

First, it means presenting the right sacrifice. One problem with Cain’s sacrifice was quality. Whether it was because it wasn’t the first fruit of the ground or because it wasn’t a blood sacrifice like Abel’s, the point is that it lacked quality. “Doing well” has an external component to it. It at least means doing the right thing externally.

Second, “doing well” was about more than just external behavior. It was about internal working. The lack of quality was actually a reflection of Cain’s lack of faith in God. The sacrifice was a reflection of his heart. Presenting the right sacrifice was about doing work at the heart level. Presenting the right sacrifice always begins at the foundation of the heart.

Third, it is important to note God distinguishes “not doing well” from the sin that is waiting for Cain at the door. “Not doing well” will lead to further sin and destruction. We cannot afford to allow our anger to sit. We must “do well” in ruling over it.

Fourth, “doing well” means managing anger appropriately in the context of our human relationships. Doing well in his anger meant that not only would God accept him but so would his fellow man. The acceptance that God promises in verse 7 had both vertical and horizontal elements.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. If you find yourself angry, what does it look like to do the right thing internally and externally? Be as specific as possible.
2. How often does our anger alienate us from others?