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For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."(1 Samuel 16:7 ESV)

Bible Study:



Read the account of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4:1-16. Note that God's grace and provision are seen in both of the brothers' lives in the form of livelihood and food. Though they had to work hard, they were provided for. Abel had livestock and Cain had produce. The brothers brought offerings, but apparently not with the same motives. God desires obedience but not motivated from a heart of obligation, rather from a heart of repentance, faith and worship.

The gospel in the story:



A key component of the gospel, is our recognition that we cannot gain God's favor through works. So, in God's eyes it isn't just about doing right, it's whether what is done, comes from a heart of repentance, faith and worship of Him. God saw this in Abel's sacrifice, but not Cain's. Yet despite Cain's inadequate offering, we see God's mercy and provision in His warning to Cain, and later in His promise to protect Him. In this story, we see the theme that will be repeated many times, of rebellious man being pursued and cared for by a loving and gracious God.

Application

Head: **What did we learn?**

Q: Who were Cain and Abel? A: Adam and Eve's sons

Q: What did Cain and Abel do for a living? A: Abel kept livestock, and Cain was a farmer

Q: Why did Cain and Abel need to bring offerings to God? A: An offering is a way of worshiping God and showing devotion to Him.

Q: What did God tell Cain after rejecting his offering? A: If you do well (bring an offering in faith rather than out of obligation), you will be accepted, but if you don't, sin will be right there to make things worse.

Heart : **Memory verse**

For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."(1 Samuel 16:7 ESV)

Hands: **How does this affect the way I live my life?**

God desires obedience from a heart of repentance, faith and worship.

Home: **How does this affect my household?**

As a household, we don't want to just do what looks right, but, by God's Spirit, live obedient lives motivated from a heart of devotion to Him.

Heaven: **How can we be intentional about sharing our faith?**

Pray for opportunities to share with friends and neighbors that no one can work their way to God, but that salvation comes from faith in Jesus.