

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 6, 2022

## Give to the One who Gave

Giving can be an issue of counting more of what God instructs us to do, based on the examples of others in the Old Testament, rather than a response to His goodness, grace and kindness towards us and our families. "A new convert declared his determination to give all that he had for the Master. He said, "Pastor, if I had fifty pigs, I'd give twenty-five of them to the Lord." "That's very nice," said the pastor. "If you had thirty, would you give fifteen to the Lord?" "Of course, I would," said the new Christian. "If you had ten, would you give five of them?" asked the pastor again. "You know I would," he answered. Then the pastor said, "If you had two, would you give one to the Lord?" "Now Pastor, don't ask me that. You know I have only two pigs." (From Illustrations of Bible Truths Copyright © 1995, 1998 by AMG International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

When the nation of Israel left Egypt and God instructed them to give, they did so because they truly appreciated God powerfully removing them from a cruel, unjust taskmaster (Exodus 35:20-36:1-7). As a result, they gave from their hearts (Exodus 35:21-22, 25, 29). The same with the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8:1; "Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which was given in the churches of Macedonia." Their giving was an act of thanks for the grace God provided to them especially since they were Gentiles. They did not invite Paul to share the Gospel, Paul came because God sent him (Acts 9:15). God only sent Paul because God "so loved the world." (John 3:16) and always had the Gentile nations on His mind (Genesis 12:3). God always had a plan to come for everyone (Galatians 4:4).

Most people do not go around giving to strangers as often as they give to loved ones. This is the difference between Cain and Abel. Cain gave because he was told to give; Abel gave because of his respect and adoration for God (Genesis 4:1-11; Hebrews 11:4). "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34). This is why giving leads to righteousness (2 Corinthians 9:10-11). "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." (John 15:14) We say we love God, so why is giving such a task, especially since He saved us when we were not seeking Him (Romans 3:11) and were doomed for hell?

Giving should be a thanksgiving to God (2 Corinthians 9:7) not a grudging responsibility.



## UPCOMING Events



**Kingdom Builder's Men's Ministry Bible Study Sat., March 19th 9:00 a.m.**  
Satan doesn't usually hit us with an all-out frontal attack. It's the subtle landmines that do the most damage. Come and join the Men's Kingdom Builders Bible Study as we go through the Book "Landmines" by Charles F. Stanley. For more information contact **James Thompson** at [thompson929@gmail.com](mailto:thompson929@gmail.com).



**Usher & Greeter Ministry**  
The Greeters and Ushers Ministry Needs You! The Ushers serve faithfully at Sunday Worship Service, Bible Study, Funerals, and Special Events. Join us to welcome and greet family and guests with enthusiasm and love! We are always looking for more volunteers who have a heart for people from all walks of life to join this team. If you are interested in volunteering, contact **Lula Hays** at [lulahays1@yahoo.com](mailto:lulahays1@yahoo.com)



**Youth Spring Break Bash March 19th-20th**  
We will have a Youth Spring Break Bash! March 19-20th, 7th—12th Grades are welcome to attend. Come out to serve at the Christian Outreach Center at 9 a.m. on the 19th, followed by food and bowling and on the 20th; Kickball Game at 2 p.m. with the LEGIT Young Adults. Meet at Legacy Sanctuary. For more information contact **Jordan Washington** at [legacyyouth@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:legacyyouth@lwfellowshipchurch.org) or (832) 265-6977



**LWFC Kidz Ministry Trip to the Houston Rodeo Wed., March 16th 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**  
During Spring Break Week the LWFC Kidz will be taking a Trip to the Houston Live stock and Rodeo Show. Admission is free, but kids will need \$20 for food, games, and rides. **Register on the events page of our website** and for more information contact **Sylvia Edwards** at [sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org)



**Get FIT with LEGIT—March 26th 10:00 a.m.**  
Come get fit with L.E.G.I.T. March 26th 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. Bring your sweats and motivation! Dean'na Mitchell will host a fitness class for L.E.G.I.T. in the Legacy sanctuary. Water and a light lunch provided. Q&A will follow in which you can ask questions about making a commitment to your physical wellbeing. For more information, contact **Keron Brown** at or **Moniqua Glasper** at [keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org) or 832.977.9674.



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

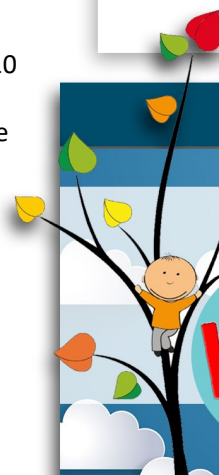
**"The Heart Matters"**  
*Genesis 4:1-8, 16*

Click on the "Resources" tab and click "Sermon Notes"

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.  
**Infants—6th grade**





**The Heart Matters**  
Genesis 4:1-8, 16

**A. Fallen to Rise Again (v. 1):**

1. When Eve conceived and became pregnant, the tense of the verb here means this is something she will not stop doing. She blessed the Lord for His decision.
2. Despite the fact that Eve sinned against the Lord she was still a worshipper.
3. The Word of the Lord used here means Adam and Eve still had a viable relationship with the Lord, that is why there is this kind of communication.
4. The names Eve gave her kids demonstrates that the Lord still influenced her life.
5. By saying Cain had another brother the text brings attention to the close relationship. This also means they had the same sin nature.
6. By saying “tiller of the ground” it represents that Cain's job required heavy labor like that of a slave who is in bondage. God cursed the ground since Adam was a cultivator of it, so Cain following in his father’s footsteps, had to work hard (Sweat; 2:17).

**B. The Heart Matters (vs. 3-5):**

1. They had a set time where they worshipped the Lord, and this time was going to be in place forever. They also knew what was expected of them (Hebrews 11:4).
2. Over a period of time, Cain’s attitude towards worshipping the Lord changed.
3. Cain made a willful decision to purposefully, from this point forward, worship the Lord in this manner. It is like some people who work rigorously and must keep working very hard; as a result, they become frustrated that they must endlessly come before God to worship Him.
4. When Cain brought a gift to the Lord he clearly understood (the Word for Lord) that he was bringing a gift to someone who sustained him and desired to walk with him.
5. Abel selected from his flock the animal that was the strength of the herd. The quality of all the herd was determined by the pure breath of the animal he selected.
6. Abel demonstrated by his actions that he believed the Lord had everything to do with how he prospered when he brought the Lord his fat portions.
7. He had to kill the animal then scrape off the fat from the inside of the animal. There was a lot of preparation (lots of work) that took place before worship (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). His heart stirred him because his relationship with the Lord was sincere. Abel had a clear view of how the Lord blessed him to prosper.
8. The Lord, as a result, continuously approved what Abel brought and indefinitely had a desire to experience this kind of worship forever.
9. The Lord had totally no interest, and no desire to approve or accept the offering Cain provided to Him. This verb literally means that the Lord was so disinterested He only had a casual glance at it.
10. Cain's attitude grew worse. He began to fret before God with a furious anger. This only highlights how disrespectful Cain was.
11. Some people decide what they want to give to the Lord and when the Lord does not bless them as He does others, they become more resentful to the Lord and become apathetic in their worship.

**C. Attitude Check (vs. 6-8, 16):**

1. The Word for Lord in this verse represents; it is the Lord who is seeking to have relationship with Cain. The Lord is willing to accept a different offering from Cain and extend His love to Cain.
2. The Lord has preachers every day in so many places. He is ever-present and willing to extend grace and mercy so we are in perfect standing with Him.
3. By the Lord pressing Cain, it only highlights how hard-hearted Cain’s heart truly was.
4. If what Cain continuously does is not pleasing to the Lord, satan is like a lion approaching its prey ready to pounce on him (1 Peter 5:8-9).
5. Cain kept communicating continuously with Abel all that had taken place. This only makes the killing of his brother worst. Please note they were together in the field.
6. As a result, satan had time to gain more and more control of Cain’s mindset (Romans 6:23). Satan gained such control (this word refers to a building being constructed) that Cain would get up and strike his brother killing him.
7. The way the murder of his brother is defined here is that Cain kept striking his brother until he was dead, dead (James 1:15). He had become so controlled by satan, as time passed, his anger grew, as his relationship with the Lord weakened.
8. Sincere worship keeps our relationship with the Lord in its rightful place; it keeps us focused. It causes us to reflect on how the Lord faithfully serves us each moment of the day. As a result, we become inspired to worship the Lord with all our hearts.

**KINGDOM BUILDERS  
MEN'S MINISTRY  
BIBLE STUDY**

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH 9 A.M. - 11 A.M.

**THE LANDMINE OF IMMORALITY**

**BOOK STUDY OF "LANDMINES" BY CHARLES F. STANLEY**

For More Information Contact James Thompson  
at [thompson929@gmail.com](mailto:thompson929@gmail.com) or at (281)851-6958

**SAVE THE  
date**

**Easter  
WEEKEND**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH ~ 6:00 P.M.**  
**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**  
LWFC DRAMA MINISTRY & CREATIVE JAMS PRESENTS  
"RESURRECT ME"

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH ~ 11:00 A.M -3:00 P.M**  
**GOOD NEWS FESTIVAL**  
FUN, FOOD, MUSIC, GAMES, BOUNCERS & MORE

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH**  
**EASTER SERVICES**  
SUNRISE ~ 6:00 A.M.  
MORNING ~ 8:30 A.M.  
CONTEMPORARY ~ 11:00 A.M.

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**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Grieving:** Pam Collier & family, the family of George Kiel, Kathy Burrell & family, Beverly Austin & family, Leo and Daphne Banks & family, Susie Farley & family, Beatrice Williams & family, Davette Harris & family, and George Washington & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Barbara Gordon, Eric White, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Lakessia Davis, and Rutha Patrick.

**The Heart Matters**

**Genesis 4:1-8, 16**

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