

CAIN BELONGED TO THE EVIL ONE

Golden Text

“For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous. “ (1 Jonh 3: 11,12)

Useful Practice

Those who really love do not allow themselves to be overcome neither by envy nor hatred

Scripture Reading

Genesis 4:1-10

1 - 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.

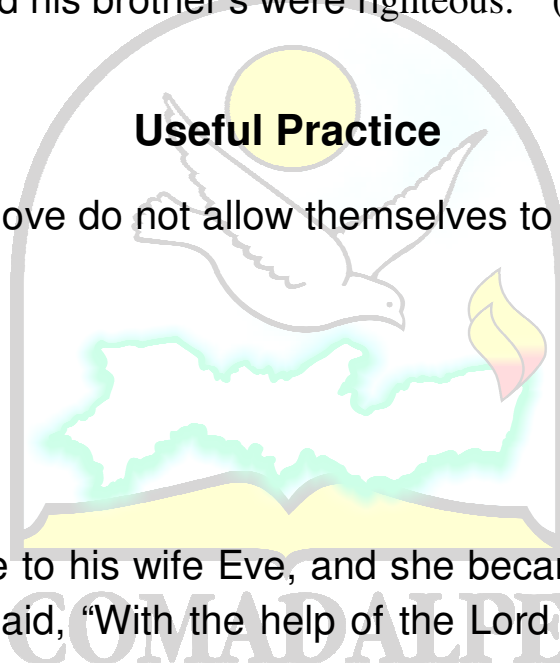
Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

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.

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.

General objective

To raise awareness about the dangers of allowing oneself to be overcome by envy and hatred.

Specific Objectives

- I. To explain** why Cain belonged to the evil one;
- II. To understand** why God rejected Cain's offering;
- III. To explain** that Cain's hate and jealousy led him to kill his brother.

Introduction

Chapter 4 of Genesis shows the sad story of the first murder on Earth. Cain, the first man born of a woman, killed his own brother after he had his offer rejected by God. What was supposed to be an time for thanksgiving made Adam's Family mourn. This way, Cain proved himself to belong to the evil one, to have a heart and attitudes that displeased God.

I - CAIN, A FOLLOWER OF SATAN

1. The seed of the woman. The birth of Cain was received with thanksgiving to God. When she saw her little son, Eve exclaimed, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man" (Gen. 4:1). Eve considered her first child to be a gift from God. Then Abel, the second son, was born and from there on the biblical narrative will present the professions of each of the brothers: Cain became a farmer, and Abel, a shepherd. Satan, by what we infer from the facts, did not have a hard time

seducing the first son of Adam. So, Cain goes down sacred history as the first declared disciple of the devil, whose list would be long and boring, Pharaoh, Herod, Stalin, and some of our contemporaries.

2. The farmer. After growing up, Cain began to work the land, as the Lord had commanded (Gen. 1:26-28). And from what we understand, he was very successful as a farmer. Though cursed because of the transgression of his father, the land did not deny him any harvest. There was plenty of arable soil in that world without borders.

3. Cain's apostasy. Despite his professional success, Cain did not turn to God in spirit and in truth (John 4:23). Rather, he allowed himself to be recruited by the devil. The former, an opportunist as usual, made that young man into his main ally, aiming to thwart the redemption of mankind. But Satan was wrong. Although he was clever, he knew little of God's real plans for our salvation. Meanwhile, young Abel continued to keep his flock by the divine grace.

II – CAIN'S WORSHIP

The Scripture says that, after a time, Cain and Abel brought an offering of the firstfruits of their work to the Lord.

1. The rejected offering. "In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD" (Gen. 4:3). It is likely that he had learned to worship God from his father Adam, at least outwardly. He separated an offering of the fruits of his harvest to the Creator. It may have been fruits, vegetables or grain, valid offerings (Lev 23:10). Abel also began to worship the Lord by offering the first fruits of his flock (Gen 4:4). The sacred text says that God looked with favor on Abel's offering but rejected that of Cain (Gen. 4:5). The problem was not on the offering, but on the offerer. Both animal offerings and those of fruits of the land were equally acceptable in the worship of God. Let us not forget that the Lord would even reject the animal offering if it became formal and merciless (Jer 6:20).

2. The rejected inner attitude. Why did the Lord reject Cain's offering? Because his worship was merely a formality. As if it was not enough, he presented himself before God with his soul overcome by hate. At that moment, the Lord asked him: "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?" (Gen 4:6). For this reason, Paul recommends us: "Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing" (1 Timothy 2:8). In the Church of God there can not be room

for angry and disputing men, who will make the work of the Lord into a cause for personal gain. God is not pleased with people who act this way.

3. Sin always present. If Cain wanted to, he could reverse that situation by controlling his murderous heart. This is how the loving God advises him, "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" (Gen 4:7). Cain rationalizes his sin. By refusing to do good, he allowed Satan to make his heart evil. In him, the murder was a process that, germinating through envy, bore fruit in a murderous rage (James 1:13-15). If we do not want to sin against God, let us not allow sin to grow in our souls. Let us, therefore, root out the weeds that Satan throws into us.

III - CAIN DID NOT KEEP HIS BROTHER

Cain's crime was intentional. In addition to having a sick hate against his brother, he slyly took him to the crime scene, where he came to kill him.

1. The crime. The sacred writer reports that, while they were in the field, away from their parents' eyes, Cain attacked Abel and killed him (Gen. 4:8). A sly and cruel murderer, he took advantage of the confidence his brother to kill him. This fact should serve as a warning to us, to what extent are we harboring pernicious feelings against our brothers to the point of plotting evil or worse things against them? May God make us reflect on our attitudes and not allow us to be people like Cain.

2. The alibi. When asked by God about the whereabouts of his brother, Cain apologizes, as if he had been in another place, when Abel died: "I don't know, he replied. Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen 4:9). His alibi is strongly destroyed by the righteous God, "The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground" (Genesis 4:10). There is a lot of blood crying out in the world. The question will not be muted, "Where is your brother Abel?" (Gen 4:9). What shall we answer? In fact, we are called to show love and respect for one another, because we are our brothers' keepers.

3. The mark of the crime. As the administration of justice had not yet been given to the human community, the Lord puts a mark on Cain so that no one would avenge Abel's blood (Gen. 4:15). Cain, in fact, was not punished with death, but he was marked for the rest of his days, starting a generation of murderers, fornicators and enemies of God.

CONCLUSION

The example of Cain must remind us that we need to have a full life before God and show love and respect for our neighbors. Abel was the first believer to be enrolled among the heroes of faith. As for Cain, he was the first human being to have the name erased from the Book of Life. What did he need? A life that pleased God and the exercise of brotherly love. When we do not love as Jesus loved, murder becomes commonplace in man's life. That is why there are so many murders in our midst. Spiritual, moral and emotional murders. Let us remember the words of John: "For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous" (1 Jn 3:11,12).

