

Cain's Question

Today's Reading

Genesis 4:1-15



One of the accountability questions I shared earlier this week was this one: "Have you secretly wished for another's misfortune so that you might excel?" Let's face it, pride and jealousy sometimes get in the way. Because we want to stand head and shoulders above the rest, we may inwardly yearn for others to experience a setback...or even internally cheer when it happens.

Cain wished for that with Abel... so much so that he didn't wait for the setback to naturally happen through external circumstances. He took responsibility into his own hands and invited his brother to go for a walk in the field. But, while two of them went out into the field, only Cain returned. Abel had been killed.

How tragic! Abel's death is the first one recorded in the Bible. Tragically, it didn't happen as a result of natural causes. It wasn't

old age. Abel wasn't gored by oxen or lions. He didn't drown while swimming. It wasn't cancer that took his life. He was murdered by his own brother!

Just as tragic is Cain's response when God asked about Abel's whereabouts: "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?" I trust that you understand the New Testament answer to that pressing question. Indeed, followers of Christ are responsible for one another. Now, you are not responsible for me in the sense that it is your fault if I choose to sin. But we are responsible for one another in that we are to be genuinely concerned for each other; not afraid to give a word of warning, advice, or comfort at the right times. Certainly you wouldn't let me continue barreling down a road if you knew there was a bridge out ahead, right?

You see, Cain's question implies another level of accountability. You are accountable to God for what you do. But you and I are also at some level accountable to God for each other! My whereabouts in life and faith should be of concern to you...and vice versa.

That is the kind of concern that should be expressed in relationship in groups at Grace.