

Friday, March 2, 2018

Final Sacrifice – [Genesis 4:1-16](#)

And Abel also presented an offering-- some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering.

Genesis 4:4

It is natural for us to want to come to God on our own terms, proving to Him (and ourselves) that, somehow, we deserve the recognition and favor from Him. “See how hard I’ve worked!” we boast to God. “Notice all the good I have done!” God is not impressed.

Cain and Abel, the two eldest sons of Adam and Eve, brought offerings to the Lord out of their respective labors as a farmer and shepherd. The offering from Abel was received by the Lord while Cain’s was rejected. Why was one rejected while the other was accepted? Perhaps this is because one was grain and the other an animal, but the Bible indicates another reason.

While Abel brought the best he could offer (“the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions”), Cain only brought “some” of his grain to the Lord as an offering. Abel set himself aside and gave the first to the Lord; Cain reserved the best for himself and gave the extra to the Lord. Cain and his offering were “not regarded” while the Lord “had regard” for Abel and his offering.

“To regard” meant “to gaze upon” something. In essence, God would not look at Cain to receive him or his offering. God deserved the first portion while Cain brought leftovers, the extra. Cain believed his pittance of an offering were good enough and grew angry and despondent when rejected. Still, God offered him hope and encouragement, but Cain continued to turn away. When Abel brought the firstborn of his flocks to the Lord, he presented the best portion. What offering do you bring to the Lord? Do you bring your leftovers, extras, or something you think you can live without? Or, do you offer Him the best of yourself as a recognition that all you have is His? Today, give God your best.