



Character Matters

7 things the Lord hates

SESSION 3

A Heart That Devises Wicked Plans (Proverbs 6:18)

Genesis 4:1-16 — "Cain and Abel: Wicked Inclination"

- 1. Talkback with Pastor John** - Identify those critical moments in Cain's descent into anger and aggression. What is the role of confession in preventing us from spiraling into similar patterns? Jesus identifies twelve *evil intentions* which flow from the human heart in Mark 7:21-23; have any of these messed up your church, your family, your workplace?
- 2. A Word to the Wise** - Wisdom literature in the Bible often seems to promise that evil schemers will be thwarted in their efforts and punished accordingly. Review Proverbs 12:2, Job 5:12, and Psalm 10:2. How fully have you experienced this to be true?
- 3. Be Blessed** - Jesus said, "*Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.*" (Matthew 5:8) Apparently we are not naturally pre-disposed toward this pure heart, however! Discuss our United Methodist confession about Original Sin: "*It is the corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is far gone from original righteousness, and by his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually.*" (UM Book of Discipline, p, 67) How we do develop this *pure heart* which successfully resists the temptation to devise wicked plans?