

## Sermon Notes

### Our Greatest Enemy

Genesis 4:1-24

#### Sin Deceives

“So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up?" (Genesis 4:5b-7a) NAS

#### Sin Dominates

“If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." (Genesis 4:7) NAS

#### Sin Spreads.

“Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth." Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear! Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." So the LORD said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him.

Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son. Now to Enoch was born Irad, and Irad became the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael became the father of Methushael, and Methushael became the father of Lamech. Lamech took to himself two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah.

Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, Listen to my voice, You wives of Lamech, Give heed to my speech, For I have killed a man for wounding me; And a boy for striking me; If Cain is avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold." (Genesis 4:8-19, 23-24) NAS

## **For Further Thought and Discussion**

### **Getting Started**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. When and how did you become aware of the power of sin within you?

### **Going Deeper**

3. Please read Genesis 4:1-7a. Why does God ask Cain why he is angry? What does this tell you about the nature of temptation? How has believing sin's lies affected your emotions? Why must we answer sin's lies with truth? How does Jesus illustrate this in Matthew 4:1-11?
4. Please read Genesis 4:7. Why do many people ignore the power of the sin which dwells in us? Why does God call us to master that sin? (Why doesn't He just remove it?) Can you think of how you have mastered a particular sin in your life?
5. Please read the rest of Genesis 4. How do you see sin's influence over Cain grow? How do you see sin's influence over Cain's relatives grow? Why do you think sin is contagious? What does this imply about the systemic problems we see in our own culture?
6. Why is sin our greatest enemy? What do you need to remember in your daily battle with sin?

### **Application**

What is one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?