



Blessed – Week Three: “The Principle of the First”

CONNECT

- When you were a kid why was it so important for you to come in first in everything? How did it make you feel?

WORD

Genesis 4:3-5

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.

THOUGHT

It's about the Posture of our Heart. "You First God!" Matthew 6:33 says "If we seek first the kingdom of God Everything else will be added." Putting God first in our finances, our family and our friendships always results in a better outcome.

DISCUSSION

1. God accepts both animal and grain sacrifices. (Leviticus 6:14-30) Why then do you think God rejected Cain's sacrifice?
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2. Only a blood sacrifice, in place of a human death, could cover sin and guilt (Leviticus 4-6). When we give, why is it important that we give on God's terms rather than our own?
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3. Hebrews 11:4, shares with us that it was by faith Abel gave his offering to God. With no mention of Cain, we're left to wonder do you think Cain had a bad attitude or lack of faith? (1 John 2:9-11, give us a look into where Cain was emotionally.)

4. Cain's offering did not mean anything to him. When we give our best should it feel like it cost us something? (Isaiah 1:10-20)

5. Do you think God cares about the amount we give or the hearts and attitude behind it? (Luke 21:1-4)

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Look back on the recent ways you given to God or those around you. Analyze your giving and keep in mind that God loves a cheerful giver. Make steps to become a better giver.
- What are you doing with the first and best that you have? Take time this week focusing on what you're giving to God.

PRAYER

- Pray this week asking God to make you a cheerful giver as you give to Him the first of what you have.
- Pray asking God to help you remain in the mindset that everything you have and give is from Him.