



GENESIS

Grace from the Beginning

12/13 August 2017

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Cain and Abel: When God Seems Unfair

Genesis 4

English Services (*Sunday,
8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.*)

Prelude
Announcements
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Baptism (*10:30 a.m.*)
Worship through Fellowship
Worship through Giving
Worship in Music
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Ptr. Larry Pabiona
Benediction

Filipino Service
(*Linggo, 3 n.h.*)

Paghahanda
Mga Patalastas
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-awit
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Natatanging Bilang
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Ptr. Erik Dizon
Pangwakas na Panalangin
at Basbas



Cain and Abel: When Life Seems Unfair

Today's Message (12/13 August 2017) / *Genesis 4*

THE RIGHT
THING IS TO
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ITS UNFAIRNESS,
ITS BROKENNESS,
ITS DISEASE, AND
ITS DEATH.**

Cain and Abel's experience—one enjoys God's favor while the other doesn't—shows one of the deepest realities about life. This *is* the way the world comes to us. This *is* the way many of us experience life. "I'm cursed" or "I'm blessed"; "I'm chosen" or "I'm rejected"; "I'm favored" or "I'm scorned." And though we would like some solid sense that life fits an obvious ethical pattern that is cosmic in scope—in which bad people have bad things happen to them and good people reap good things—we're at a loss to find that pattern.

But if God is unfair, it can only be in a positive sense. Watch this truth played out in our passage:

1. THE TWO O_____ (vv. 1-4)

- Cain brought "some of the fruits of the soil". But Abel brought "fat portions" from "the firstborn" of his flock. Abel's offering was better twice over.
- We say, "It's the thought that counts." But like it or not, your attitude shows in the nature of your gifts (*Malachi 1:8-14*). We are priests through Christ, and we too are to bring "spiritual sacrifices" to Him (*1 Peter 2:5*). Are we bringing Him our best, or only what is convenient for us?

2. THE TWO O_____ (vv. 5-8)

- a. **Acceptance and Rejection** (*Hebrews 11:4*). Faith isn't just trust, it is also obedience and devotion. While this is all implied in Abel, we see none of it in Cain.
- b. **A Second Chance**. Grace is shown to Cain, a chance he eventually squanders. Yet God often takes the blame for the chances we waste.



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- c. **A Fatal Mistake.** Cain doesn't do the right thing. His sulking gives way to grudge—to vindictiveness, to rage. And then Cain kills his brother in the very fields he grew his food in, the very fields from which he gathered his offering to God.

3. THE SOLITARY O_____ (vv. 9-21)

a. Sin and grace

- If you can't be your brother's keeper, could you at least not be his destroyer?
- God once again shows Cain His grace, even as Cain sadly misinterprets that God is done with him. When God is *true* with us, it doesn't mean He is *through* with us.
- Is God unfair? In one sense, He is. He never gives us what we deserve, but keeps giving us second chances. Grace upon grace is the story of every Christian's life.

b. Sin recurs

- Lamech mimics the sin of his ancestor. While we don't believe in intergenerational "curses" passed on to believing children (*2 Corinthians 5:17*) the insidious power of a negative example should not be underestimated.

c. Grace prevails

- God ensures that the line of Adam continues, the people who "call on the Name of the LORD." Even in the most depressing times, God always ensures a faithful remnant is there for Him. In the Bible, the "majority" is often not right.

FINAL THOUGHTS

If you do what is right, it will go well with you. The right thing is to have faith—in the One who doesn't always remedy life's unfairness but who does something far better: He redeems it—its unfairness, its brokenness, its disease, and its death—and He gives us back sevenfold all the years the locusts have eaten. "Today," He says to repentant thieves, to trusting Abels, to Christians with terminal illness, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise."

God is not fair, in a way that is good for us. And for those who live by faith—Abel and you—you will dwell in the house of God forever ■

Our 2017 journey as a spiritual community is again on familiar ground—it's the second half of the year, we concluded several celebrations such as Missions Month, and perhaps we are a bit more comfortable with matters at home, in our respective jobs, and our more individual and private lives.

We might be asking ourselves, "What is next for GCF?" **We pray. We still pray. We pray more.**

To borrow the words of a dear friend, prayer is one of many ways that our Heavenly Father has made interacting with Him more relatable, as modeled by His Son. In the thick of ministry, at the height of shepherding, and through trying times, Christ Himself prayed. Fully God and fully man, He devoted undisturbed time with the LORD—and so should we.

At GCF, we have such an avenue. We gather every last Saturday of the

month for a **Concert of Prayer**.

Whether that is the fourth or fifth Saturday, it is held an hour before the Traditional Service in Auditorium B. It is not a "concert" as in a musical performance, but rather a harmonious gathering where we simply pray even as we are led in a few songs, in the reading and exhortation of Scripture, and in silence to be sensitive to the movement of the Holy Spirit. There are those who normally attend the 6 p.m. Traditional service that arrive by 5 p.m. for this, and I am happy to say that even our Youth Ministry takes a break from their regular 5 p.m. Youth Worship Service to join this hour, before they proceed to their evening of Prayer and Praise.

This month's COP is on August 26.

In this season of our life as a church, may we simply pray, still pray, and pray more.

WHY AFFIRM YOUR MEMBERSHIP

by Lloyd P. Estrada, GCF Corporate Secretary

GCF is a 39-year-old church and God has been faithful to it all these years. By God's grace GCF has birthed daughter churches resulting in membership transfers and relocations.

As we approach our 40th, we want to know who the GCF Ortigas flock is through proper documentation. Thus for one year now, we have been asking GCF members to be physically present to affirm their membership. We praise God that more than 1,000 of you have already done so.

To affirm means three things: (1) to update your profile information, (2) to

adhere to the church covenant, and (3) to encourage the church of your support as an active member.

The one-year period set for GCF members to affirm their church membership is about to end. For those who have not yet affirmed their membership, please do so on or before August 31 so that (a) you will be included in the official Membership Roll that we will submit to the SEC, and (b) for you to continue enjoying the rights and privileges of a GCF member. Kindly visit the Ministry Information Booth every Saturday, 5-8 p.m., or Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. to affirm your membership ■

Ablaze Devotional

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

- Isaiah 40:3 (NKJV)

Judgment has come upon the people of Israel and Judah because of the hardness of their hearts and their idolatry. They were taken away from their land, stripped off of their identity, and taken into captivity in a land where God seems to be absent. But the Lord's judgment is not to destroy His people totally. It was rather to turn their hearts and minds back to Him in repentance, so that in their repentance, they might be bearers of God's message of salvation and redemption to the world.

We are all exiles in this lifetime. We are sojourners in the wilderness of this present life, awaiting a city that is not of this world. As God has set our hearts for that which is eternal, we cry out in the wilderness in preparation to receive His coming kingdom. As exiles we are ambassadors of that kingdom that is to come. We don't just preach it to ourselves, but we also proclaim it in the wilderness of our present lives.

Let us ask the Lord for strength and wisdom in how we can love Him and love our neighbor and community. Let us continue in our pursuit of being a house of prayer for all peoples and nations. As God reveals Himself and His message as we pray and listen, let us also proclaim the gospel in truth, life, and speech to our neighbors and our community ■

PONDER: Read Jeremiah 29:7. As an "exile," how do you "seek out the peace and prosperity of the city" while also "preparing the way" for the coming kingdom of the Lord?

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). **Sin demands a penalty:** "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (2 Corinthians 5:18).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



#PARENTS'TALK

Speak. Connect. Understand. Relate.

August 4, 11, 18 & 25, 7-9:30 p.m.

at GCF, 4th floor Assembly Area

Call or text **0917 532 7768** to reserve a slot



S.H.E.

Sisters Helping & Encouraging launch featuring Joy Tan-Chi Mendoza

August 26, 2017, 9 a.m. at GCF, BM07-08

For single professional women aged 20 & above

Call or text **0917 532 1921** for more details



BIBLICAL PORTRAIT OF MARRIAGE 2

Learn about In-Laws, Money, Sex, Romance, Communication, and Loyalty

September 2, 9 & 16 at GCF, BM07-08

For dating, engaged, or married couples

Call or text **0917 532 7713** to register ('til Aug. 27)



DIGITAL CHURCH BULLETIN

Have our weekly church bulletin delivered straight to your mobile device. Just sign-up with your e-mail address at the Ministry Information Booth.

Weekly Stewardship REPORT

- Week of August 6, 2017 -

General Fund	1,558,320.00
Missions Fund	88,400.00
Designated	99,300.10
Total	1,746,020.10

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His love, mercy and grace by an anonymous donor, the Basilad family, the Bordador family, the Valera family, and the Messiah College.

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.



Love God, love others. THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Deciding to be a member of GCF was a pivotal, personal act of obedience for Najee Chua as a young follower of Jesus Christ.

The local church is God's chosen representative to reconcile a hurting world back to Himself through the Holy Spirit indwelling His disciples. The church helps Najee in her journey with Jesus by providing numerous opportunities to learn and be mentored on profound spiritual truths at a heart level, and at the same time partner with community organizations to apply what she learned into social practice to point back others to the matchless beauty of Christ.



Through GCF, Najee was entrusted with a genuine community that embodies missional love, mutual learning, true forgiveness, constant prayer, and lasting service. Her deep prayer is for all Christians to experience and know firsthand their role in the body of Christ, and really fall in-love more with the Lord ■

You may also bless others by sharing your own shepherding or discipleship journey in loving God and in loving others. You may e-mail your story to lifejourney@gcf.org.ph.

This week's bulletin cover features a flock of sheep grazing across a meadow in The Netherlands. The picture is a CCO public domain photo available from pixabay.com.

Join a GROWTH GROUP

OVERCOMERS SUPPORT GROUP

For those recovering from any form of addiction

Wednesdays, 5-7pm at GCF
(Room BM08)

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE Y-GROUP

Sundays, 9:30-10:30am, and
4:30-5:30pm

At GCF (Youth Center, 6th flr.)

ICU (Intimacy Care Unit) GG

for Couples aged 30 up

Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. at GCF (Rm. A109)

CHESED 3 GG

for Single Men and Women aged 20-35
Sundays, 8-10 a.m. at GCF (Rm. BM04)

HEBRON GG

for Single Men and Women aged 30 up
Saturdays, 3-5 p.m. at GCF (Rm. BM03)

B KEEPERS GG

for Single Men aged 20-35
Saturdays, 5-8 a.m. at UP Technohub,
Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City

Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30am, Room B123
Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship Know Christ and Make Him Known

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