

- ***Read Genesis 4:3-8/Prayer*** One of the most well known stories of the Bible is certainly the murder of Abel perpetrated by his brother Cain. One of the most interesting portions of this text is the fact that God spoke with Cain before he actually killed his brother. In fact, God warned Cain that he needed to be aware that "sin is crouching at the door." In other words, God was telling Cain that he was at a point of temptation. He was in a place where decisions needed to be made. Sin was there to be had. It was just waiting outside the door. All he had to do was open and let it in...and unfortunately that is exactly what he did.
- Like Cain, we will often find ourselves in situations where we will have decisions to make. In **I Corinthians 10:13**, Paul lets us know that temptations come upon on men...we will find ourselves just on the other side of the door from sin, and we will have to decide whether we will open the door. However, he also lets us know that there is always a way of escape...he lets us know that we don't have to open the door and let sin in. If we will seek God and His way of escape that He provides for us, then we can and will escape and not allow sin into our lives. This evening, we are going to use our time to consider some times when sin is crouching at the door. These are times when we might find ourselves in temptation, and it is simply good for us to remember that we can and must remain strong and above the influence of sin.

I. Sin crouches when we are fed lies.

- A. Of course, this first instance of temptation in the Bible is found in **Genesis 3:1-6**. The Satan, in the form of the serpent, comes to Eve and speaks a lie to her saying that she surely would not die if she ate of the forbidden fruit. He questions and speaks as if God was not truthful in His warning, and the woman gave in and got her husband to eat, as well.
- B. Eve had a choice in this situation. She knew what God had told her concerning the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. She could either stick with God's truth or she could put it from her mind and embrace the lie of Satan. Unfortunately, she chose wrongly and we know the rest of the story.
- C. There will be times when people will tell us things that we know just aren't true. However, just because we know it not to be true doesn't mean that we won't give in. It might be that the lie sounds so much better to us than what we know to be true. At these points it is simply up to us what we will embrace. Will we embrace and stick to the truth, or will we embrace the better sounding lie and open up the door for sin to enter in?

II. Sin crouches when we become angry.

- A. Anger, frustration, jealousy, and the like were all involved in the situation that we first read concerning Cain and Abel. We know well the sacrifices that were offered by the brothers and how the sacrifice of Abel was accepted and Cain's was not. (**Genesis 4:1-10**)
- B. Again, God warned Cain that his anger and frustration had created a situation where sin was just waiting for him to let it in. He had a choice. He could've addressed the reason for his anger, he could've thought about the issues with his sacrifice, but instead he shifted his anger to Abel and opened the door for sin in the form of murder to enter his life.
- C. Sure there are some people who are extremely even natured and don't get upset easily, but even those people will still find themselves in situations where they will be angry and frustrated. There are times when it is understandable that we come angry, but we must be sure to keep our anger in check. We will be tempted to respond poorly, sin will want to bust in our lives, but we must remain strong and be better than Cain in the way he handled his anger.

III. Sin crouches when we become impatient.

- A. There were a lot of events that lead up to the downfall of Saul as the king of Israel, but the final nail in his king coffin came with his impatience in **I Samuel 13:5-14**. The Philistines have attacked Israel and they are really taking the fight to the Hebrews. It was going so poorly for the Israelites that they had retreated to caves and other places of hiding. Saul was waiting on Samuel to come and bless the people with sacrifices, but Samuel didn't get there when he said he would so Saul took matters into his own hands and offered the sacrifice.
- B. Saul was presented with a difficult decision, but there was a right and a wrong thing to do, and unfortunately Saul chose to do wrong. It wasn't his place to offer the sacrifice, but he chose to do so always and break God's commands for who was to offer sacrifice. Because of his actions, Samuel declares that the kingdom would be taken from his family, and this surely does shortly come to pass.
- C. There will be times in our lives when we will want something or thing that something needs to be done, but it isn't getting done or isn't getting done in the way in which we think it ought to. It might be that we become impatient by thinking that the church isn't thriving as well ought to. Instead of continue to work hard within the bounds of what God has prescribed, we decide to introduce things that He has not authorized. In doing so, we have allowed our impatience to overtake us and sin has entered into the church. We must be strong when we become impatient and now give into sin.

IV. Sin crouches when we have power.

- A. Another well known story that we can learn a lot from is the story of David and Bathsheba. **(II Samuel 11)** David, the King of the most powerful nation in the world, chose to not go out to war with the rest of the army of Israel. He happened to see Bathsheba bathing on their rooftop, but he couldn't let it go just at that. Instead, he decided to have her brought to the *king's house* and he took her as his own. But it didn't end there. He also threw around his weight by bringing Uriah home and then also having him put in a position to die in battle.
- B. David took full advantage of his position as king to take that which was not his in Bathsheba and also the life of Uriah. As king, he could do almost anything he wanted and he knew that. He should've left the incident on the roof and let it be. But instead he allowed for sin and its terrible consequences to invade his life.
- C. Each of us in some way will come to have some sort of authority or power in this life. How is it that we will use that power? There will be times when we will be tempted to abuse that power, but we must be sure to not abuse our power and allow sin to come through the door and bring with it its terrible consequences.

V. Sin crouches when we have anonymity.

- A. The wise guidance of Solomon concerning many different subjects can be found in Proverbs, but one such teaching is very relevant to this study and that is what is said in **Proverbs 7:6-23** concerning the seductive woman who will seek to entice men. One of the things of note in this discussion is what is said in **vv.17-21**. One of her ways to entice the man is to say that her husband won't be home for some days.
- B. This young man is present with the temptation of being able to do something that no one will know about. To be anonymous can be a very dangerous place to be because the temptation to do what we want without getting caught can be very appealing.
- C. Especially in the world we live in, anonymity can be had especially when it comes to technology. It can be very tempting when we're online to do things we ought not do because after all... no one will ever know. However, we know that God is always watching and we must not allow for sin to take us over.

VI. Sin crouches when we feel loss.

- A. The most famous Biblical example of someone dealing with loss is that of Job. In fact, this temptation for Job to curse God was presented by Satan to prove to God that Job wasn't as good of a guy as God claimed for him to be. **(Job 1:6-19)** We see Satan not only take Job's possessions, but he also causes for Job's children to be killed.
- B. If ever someone was put in a situation where they might be tempted to curse God, the Job was in that place. Sin was not just crouching at the door, but it was ready to bust down the door and allow Job to embrace it, but Job's character was exactly as God said that it was. Instead of cursing God, he fell down and worshipped and praised God for His blessings. **(Job 1:20-22)**
- C. Because of sin and the broken nature of this world, we will all suffer and feel loss at some point. These times will present us with a choice of whether we will blame God for the hurt or if we will give Him glory for what he has abundantly blessed us with. May we imitate the example of Job and give God glory even when we feel loss in our hearts.

VII. Sin crouches when we are attacked for our faith.

- A. For all the tremendous work that Peter did as a disciple and Apostle of Jesus Christ, one of the first things people will think of when thinking of Peter is the unfortunate incident when he denied being one of Jesus's followers right around the time of Jesus's death. **(Luke 22:54-62)**
- B. Much like Cain, Jesus told Peter that he needed to be aware of the temptation that was before him. Sadly, Peter didn't acknowledge the possibility of what could happen, and shortly after he denied Jesus just as had been predicted. Peter had been so faithful to Jesus, but when his commitment to him was questioned, when his faith was put to the test...Peter denied it all for what he thought would be safety.
- C. We must be well aware that there will be times when our faith will be questioned. There will be situations when we will be challenged to either announce, embrace our faith, and suffer in some way...or we can deny our faith and take the "easy" way out. Sin is just begging to come in and take us over at the point. The first time denying Jesus is the hardest, but it just gets easier after that. We must remain strong and remember the hurt in the eyes of Jesus that Peter saw with his denial.

VIII. Sin crouches when we prosper.

- A. Lastly, there will be times when we prosper and we must be sure that the temptation to forget about God isn't realized. Sadly, the church at Laodicea was rebuked for thinking that they were without any need of God. **(Rev. 3:14ff)** They might have been rich in the eyes of man, but John writes that they were poor, blind, and naked in the eyes of God. Their riches had blinded them to their need for God, and sin had come in and overtaken this church.
- B. While we are certainly thankful for God's blessings in our lives, we ought not ever allow ourselves to think that we are without need for God. True wealth is to be found in our earthly wealth, but it is found in our faith and standing before God. Satan will tempt us to forget God in our prosperity. Sin will be crouching at the door, but we must remain committed to seeking our God and His blessings.

This is a pretty solid list of situations where temptation will arise and we will have to make choices regarding whether or not we will seek God and His will or whether we will allow sin to come into our lives by our opening up the door for it. These many examples ought to serve as reminders to us as we go about our daily lives so that when we face similar situations, we might be able to bring these things to mind so that we might make smart and godly decisions. May God be with us to always be aware of the sin that might seek to overtake us, and may we remain faithful to Him everyday.