

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
Our Sin; God's Mercy - Genesis 4:1-26 - "That Escalated Quickly"

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?
2. Have you ever been in a situation (or witnessed one) where things escalated far quicker than you'd anticipated?
What was the situation and as you look(ed) back upon it, can you identify any particular catalysts in the escalation?
3. We see how sin escalates quickly from Adam & Eve in Genesis 3 to Cain in Genesis 4 and even how sin escalates within Cain.
Have you ever experienced an escalation of sin?
i.e. maybe you started in with a seemingly "small" sin that grows into bigger or worse sins over time (or even quickly).
Were you able to move away from that pattern/situation; if so, what intentional steps did you take to identify it and move on?
3. Very early on in Genesis 4, we're introduced to two different brothers who are engaging in what appears to be a worshipful action:
From what we see in the text, what is the differentiating factor that makes Able's actions acceptable but Cain's unacceptable?
What does this reveal about God's requirements for those who wish to worship Him? (Consider 1 Samuel 16:7)
What can we learn from this story about how we ought to approach the Lord in worship?
4. God graciously provides warnings to Cain about the rewards of doing what's right and the consequences of doing what's wrong:
How do God's statements to Cain in verse 7 & verses 10-12 all reveal God's love, grace, patience, and kindness?
What can we learn from God's warnings to Cain in verse 7 and how can we seek to "do well" and not sin like Cain?
5. How does the second half of chapter 4 point to both the increase in sin in the world AND the hope of God for the future?
Where specifically do you see God's mercy on display throughout this entire chapter (despite humanity's sinfulness)?
How do verses 25-26 provide immense hope for us as it pertains to the goodness and faithfulness of God?
6. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?
 1. **Our hearts/attitudes impact our worship!**
We can't fool the Lord with mere actions!
 2. **God graciously warns us of sin's dangers!**
We need to take His warnings seriously!
 3. **Sin will increase when it goes unchecked!**
Confess & repent when conviction comes!
 4. **God always does what He says He'll do!**
We can trust His Word even when it's hard!