

Brother Steward

Lay Reader Message

The Gifts of Cain and Abel

The first gifts that we read about in Scripture are the offerings made by Cain and Abel who were the sons of Adam and Eve. In Genesis 4:2-4 we read, “. . . Now Abel kept flocks and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock.” Cain and Abel, having been instructed by Adam in the knowledge of the Lord, brought offerings or gifts for the Lord. Because one worked the land and the other raised animals, their gifts were different. We read that Cain “*brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering,*” whereas Abel “*brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock.*”

Between the two brothers there is also an indication of a difference in the attitudes of their hearts. While Cain wasn't concerned about giving the first or best of his crop, Abel brought in his best. God looked with favor upon Abel's offering. God looked into the hearts of both Cain and Abel as he looks into our hearts. He saw Abel's humble faith. In his gift, Abel showed his sincere gratitude for all that God had done for him.

We need to understand that it's not the size of our gifts and offerings which makes them acceptable to the Lord, but rather it is the attitude of our hearts and minds toward God. God wants our gifts to be an expression of our love for him. He wants us to give cheerfully rather than grudgingly. He wants us to give out of love through faith. We are told by the writer in Hebrews that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

May this story of giving by Cain and Abel help us to examine our attitude toward giving. If we are not giving our first and best out of faith and love to the Lord, God does not look with favor upon our giving. May God grant us all faithful, loving, and giving hearts.

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My First TV Commercial

My job is to remind you that the good Lord gave you some gifts to take care of and use wisely: Time, Talent and Treasure.

For example, use some time each day to pray. Caught in a traffic jam? Say a prayer not a curse. And if you are a couch potato, get up and spend some time with the Lord at church or just drop-in for a visit.

Talent: whether you are a plumber, or doctor, or lawyer, or Mom and Dad, reach out to help those in need. Our ministries always need someone to pack food, visit the sick, or fix up a house.

And treasure; what you have left after taking care of your family, drop in a dollar or two when the offertory basket comes your way. Or if you can, pledge a yearly gift, or leave a planned gift through your will to the church.

Finally, thank you for your present and future support and, remember, our journey forward starts with a single step.

*Where there's a will there's a way ...
God bless you."*



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Great Expectations!

Brother Vincent, our Offensive Coordinator, gave us the playbook and goals for the coming season:

1. *Worship every week.*
2. *Spread God's Word.*
3. *Volunteer for ministries.*
4. *Welcome new members.*
5. *Tackle poverty.*
6. *Boost offertory collections.*
7. *Sign up for envelopes.*
8. *Defend religious freedom.*
9. *Learn the Scriptures.*
10. *Get connected.*



That's a lot to do and so little time. And lastly he said. "Don't sit on the sidelines. Be active. Be a full-time Christian. Never give up." ... "And remember, winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." (Borrowed from another Vincent.) Amen!

