

# Why do Men Hate?

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 4:1-8.

B. The key to the dilemma of hate lies in this story of Cain and Able.

## II. The murder of Able.

A. The naming of the boys.

1. Cain means, "to get."
2. This probably looks back to Genesis 3 where she was promised a seed that would crush Satan's head.
3. "Gotten" shows that it was fulfilled.
4. Able means "frail" showing that the physical effects of sin had begun to take place.
5. The name of these two boys indicates a different attitude toward the boys from the parents--Cain was favored.
6. Already the seeds of contempt had been planted by the parents of Cain and Able, and ironically, the favored child is distorted the most.

B. The sacrifices each presented.

1. There was a prescribed time for the bringing of the offering.
2. There was a prescribed place--it was to be before the presence of the Lord.
3. It was likely that at the gateway of Eden there was a mercy seat--Adam and Eve had trained their boys to worship.
4. Cain's offering of fruit was instantly rejected and Able's offering of an animal was accepted.
5. To offer the fruit of a cursed ground was to insult Him.
6. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin--sin is a serious matter.

C. The reaction of both towards God.

1. Cain was jealous at the acceptance of his brother's sacrifice and the rejection of his own.

2. Cain was angry because he did not like the way God was acting--we all get angry when God acts differently than we have planned.
3. God asks Cain why he is so angry.
4. These sort of things happen to everyone--we should not assume we have a special immunity over everyone else.
5. Jealousy allowed to fester will put one in the grip of sin.
6. The cause of Able's murder was hate--if we hate our brother, we have murdered him in God's sight.
7. One is not to let the sun go down on his wrath and give the devil and opportunity.

**Application questions:**

1. How have you struggled with anger toward others? What have you learned about yourself in these instances?

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2. What does it mean when Jesus teaches that hate towards another brother is murder in God's sight?

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3. What is a good way to deal with jealousy when it arises? Explain.

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