

The Mark of Cain

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 4:9-16.

B. Wars and murders spring from unreasoning jealousy and envy.

II. The way of guilt is always to disclaim responsibility.

A. Cain did this in asking God, “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

B. This attitude was reflected in the attitudes of many Caucasians towards the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King.

1. Distinctions between class, color and political party are removed in the church.

2. The gospel is salt to preserve us from corruption.

III. The blood of Abel was crying out for justice like the blood of Christ. (Hebrews 12)

A. Justice belongs to the Lord.

B. God brings poetic justice upon Cain by taking him away from his work and pride—the soil.

IV. God gave Cain a mark.

A. No one knows what this mark was, but perhaps it was a pitiable look upon him.

B. The point is that even the guilty man is God’s property.

C. God protected Cain in order to give him time to repent—God’s longsuffering is not a sign of His weakness but His mercy and grace.

V. There is power in the genuine display of the love of Jesus Christ today.

Application questions:

1. What connection did the speaker make between the story of Cain and the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.?

2. How might poetic justice look upon our society today?

3. How would you respond to someone that says God's justice delayed demonstrates His impotence? Explain.
