

Main Text: Genesis 4:1-7

4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

REVIEW:

1. Paradise

God equipped man with 4 Essential Elements to thrive:

- Readily assessable **Resources**
- An apt and highly **Creative Mind**
- Inherent **Power** over nature (no natural opposition /total cooperation)
 - The absence of clothing and shelter was evidence
 - Man was the thermostat
- **His Word** (instructive mentorship)

2. God's intention for man was Abundance and Increase.

- Work was not for survival but for enrichment, and for God's glory alone.
3. The **Fall** expelled man from Paradise and a new economy was established that continues on to the present.
- There is a curse on mankind.
 - Poverty is the norm and the default position.
 - You are personally responsible for your standard of living.
 - No standard of living is guaranteed no matter how hard you work.
 - No man made system can completely override the Gen. 3 economy.
 - There is no utopia.
 - God will help.
 - When you do things God's way, you will be better off than if you don't.

Additional lessons from Gen 1-3

NOTES:

1. You have been granted ownership. However, you are owned by the one who made the grant. Therefore you are a steward with an ownership stake.

Gen. 1

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over ^[a]all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that ^[h]moves on the earth."

29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

- There are 2 assumptions implicit in our owner / stewardship:
 - Freedom
 - Personal property

2. The major financial result of the fall is that **Production** (success) is mandatory for survival, not just work or effort.

Gen 3

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it':

*"Cursed is the ground for your sake;
In toil you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.*

*18 Both thorns and thistles it shall ^{lf}bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.*

*19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
Till you return to the ground,*

3. Only God can ensure your survival.

- Blessing
- Profit
- Abundance
- Success

4. Life has seasons and cycles:

- Spring, summer, winter, fall
- Feast
- Famine

Lesson:

Gen 4

4 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel.

1. You can't produce everything that you need for a good life.
 - You are not good at everything.
 - Time is more valuable than money because it is non-renewable.
2. Specialization and cooperation is the key to successful productivity. Focus on producing what you do best and trade for everything else you need.

Gen 4:2

Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

- Production solves someone else's problem.
 - Solve one person's problem you get a pay check, solve many people's problems, you can make a fortune. (scaling)
3. Transaction- a voluntary exchange of goods and services for an agreed upon price.
 - Transactions the most basic human interaction.
 - Transactions occur between people and nature and between people and God.
 4. Money/What to do with a dollar:
 - Spending
 - Saving
 - Giving /Acknowledgement /offering.

Gen 4:3-5

3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."



BIBLICAL FINANCE PT 2 FINANCES IN A FALLEN WORLD
QUESTIONS WEEK 2
PASTOR BOB RICE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

Questions:

1. From Sunday's Sermon, was there a particular point, comment, or scripture that caught your attention or challenged you?

2. Has God made us owners of our possessions, stewards, or both? Explain.

3. What is the major financial result of the fall?

4. What is production? How does production differ from work or effort?

5. How can God ensure our survival? How do we connect to this insurance?

6. Discuss why it is difficult to produce everything that you need for a good life all by yourself?

7. Why is time more valuable than money? How should the understanding of the value of time affect your everyday activities?

8. What is specialization? What are your top 2 specialties?

9. How **can** you trade your specialties for the things that you need in life? How **do** you trade your specialties for the things that you need in life?

10. What can you do to scale (or trade for more) your specialties to get more of what you need?

11. What is money? What are the 3 things that you can do with it?
