



- **What makes you feel safe?**

For some people, spending half a million dollars on a luxury panic room not only gives you that feeling of safety, but a little extra bit of luxury in your life!

Where is your security?

Maybe financial security is important to you.

Maybe security is having a mobile phone so you can contact your family and friends any time of the day or night.

Or maybe security for you is having a plentiful supply of chocolate and chips at home?

What makes you feel secure?

A time when I probably felt the least secure was in our first home. We woke up one morning to find police surrounding our house. All the neighbours were out in their yards. It turns out that in the middle of the night, our next door neighbour had murdered his wife and attacked his children with an axe. We were literally living next door to an axe murderer.

It's a frightening thing to be in the presence of a murderer.

Yet, that is life every day outside the Garden of Eden. We live in a world of sin. Genesis started off so well. Creation. Beauty. Relationship with God. Security. Provision of all that we needed. Then sin entered the world. Genesis 3. Deception. Lies. And a rejection of God as King.

That is life outside the Garden of Eden.

And over the next 5 weeks, we'll be looking at what it means to live outside the Garden of Eden.

What does it look like to live a life of faith in a sinful world? And most importantly, the question to keep coming back to:

In this world outside Eden, what is my next step of faith?

- **What is my next step of faith?**

Which is why I want to begin this series by talking about security. As soon as we get outside the garden, chapter 4 tells us a story of envy and lies, deception, murder, and even polygamy. And it begins with the first-born man – Cain.

- **Fattest and First**

From verse 2:

- *Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. 3In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord.*

So the brothers bring an offering to God. They offered their creator some of what he had provided them with. Cain brought some fruits of the soil.

That's all it says. Some fruits of the soil. Nothing special is mentioned. Just some fruits.

But when we get to Abel,

- *4And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock.*

Abel brought FAT portions from the FIRSTBORN.

FAT and FIRST.  
And God loved it.

- *The Lord looked with favour on Abel and his offering, 5but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.*

I don't think we need to make this difficult. Abel gave very sacrificially. The fattest and the first. Cain gave "some fruit".

Abel gave the first and the best of what he had because he was secure in God. He wasn't thinking about how much to keep for himself, because his security was in God. He wasn't thinking about how much to hold back. Because his security was in God. He took his fattest and his first because his security was in God.

So the first question for us is this: DO you find your security in God?  
Are you prepared to offer him your fattest and first?  
Will you give God a fat portion of what you have? Or a lean portion?  
Will you give him from the first, or from the leftovers?  
Will you give him your fattest and first, or will you give him "some fruit"?

Where is your security?

Security is really a freedom from worry. But so often we find our security in the things that worry us. We worry about money, yet we find our security in having wealth. We worry about our family, yet we look for security in having our family close. We worry about our job, yet we try and find security in our career.

But the answer is right here: True security and freedom from worry comes from the one who provides us with our money, our job, our families. Freedom and security comes from God alone. And this is what Abel understood. And so he gave freely. He gave his fattest and his first.

What can I say but this: I need to give my fattest and my first. When I look at all that God has given me, I need to give my fattest portions and my first portions to God. That is, IF my security is in him.

But so often we struggle with that don't we?

Cain struggled with that.

We learn the positive lesson from Abel. Fattest and first.

But we learn the other side from Cain. How to respond when we fail to do that:

- **The firstborn failure**

Cain was angry

Cain was angry that God responded better to Abel. And God says: Why are you angry? Do what is right. Sin crouching at your door. You must **rule** over it.

He wasn't in **trouble** for what he did. He **was** in trouble for getting angry. He could have learned from this event, but he chose to get angry. He could have questioned himself, but he chose to question God and blame Abel. And God says to him:

*7 "But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."*

God says: Cain, learn from this. Rule over sin. You're angry. Jealous. Envious. That is sin crouching at your door. Rule over it. Do not let it overcome you. Learn from this. Do what is right. Give your fattest and your first.

When bad things happen to us, how often do we say “It’s not fair” and blame someone else. And how often do we say “Maybe it’s me. Maybe I need to change. Maybe I need to learn from this.”

Cain fails to look at himself. He gets angry, which is an outwards emotion expressed AT someone. He doesn’t reflect on himself at all. He just casts anger towards Abel.

And kills him.

- *8 Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. 9Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”*

And the answer we want to shout out here is: “Yes. Yes you are!” You ARE responsible for your brother! You ARE supposed to care for him.

And what is the result?

They’ve already been cast out of the garden of Eden. So what now? Cain is cast out further, into the land of *Nod* – which means “restlessness”

- **Restlessness.**

This is the result when we fail to find our security in God. Restlessness is the result of blaming everyone else and never looking at our own sin. Restlessness is the result of thinking only about our own needs and not looking after our brother.

And what flows on from this?

Cain has children... and grandchildren. And great grandchildren. God is gracious. Even though he has cast Cain into the land of Nod, we still see him establish a civilisation with culture and technology.

And then Lamech arrives.

Lamech says to his WIVES that he has killed a man.

- *23 I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me.*

Do you notice two things there?

First – he has wives. Plural. The first act of polygamy. Rejecting God’s plans for one man and one woman to be united as one flesh.

The second thing is that he has killed a man. But also that he is boasting about it! “I’ve killed a man for wounding me! I am 77 times more infamous than Cain!

The story with Cain’s family ends there for us.

Envy leads to murder, murder leads to restlessness. Polygamy. More murder.

A loss of security in God leads to a life of restlessness.

And then we go back to Adam and Eve.

- *25Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth,*

Then Seth had a son names Enosh. So a new family line is established that eventually leads to Noah. But outside the garden of Eden, the ground was hard. Work was hard. They started to realise they needed God.

- *26“At that time people began to call on the name of the Lord.”*

They began to call on the name of the Lord.

Where is your security?

Who do you call on?

Where do you put your fattest and your first?

What Genesis 4 teaches us is that life outside the garden, life in a sinful world, should drive us further into the arms of God. Further into dependence on him. Yet, sin is crouching at our door. It desires to have us. But we must master it.

Yet we cannot.

What we will see in these chapters of Genesis, is failure after failure of the family line. Adam and Eve fail. Cain fails. Cain's family line fails. And now a new family line in Seth. But that will also fail. Humans fail and God is distressed that humanity will not look to HIM for security.

But God does not give up. He will continue to work through human failure. And even from this family line of Seth will finally come one named Jesus. One who completely trusts God. One whose security is in God alone. One who not only gives his fattest and first to God, but gives himself.

What we learn in these chapters of Genesis is how we are to live. Yet how we always fail. But we have a God who does not give up. Even though we constantly fail to find our security in him, he does not stop being our security. Even though we break our relationship with him, he never breaks his relationship with us.

So... what is your next step?

Maybe to start giving you fattest and first?

Maybe to stop being angry and start being sorry?

Maybe, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to rule over that sin in your life that is crouching at your door? And when you fail, to find security in the forgiveness that God offers you through Jesus?

Maybe your next step is simply this: just to put your relationship with God back in the number 1 position above all your other relationships.

Genesis 4:1-26

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What makes you feel safe?

What is my next step of faith?

Fattest and First

The firstborn failure

Restlessness.

So... what is your next step?