

Sermon Notes

God is Pleased with an Offering by Faith

Hebrews 11:4

Christian Sanich, 1/15/2017

Text sermon questions, during the sermon, to (602) 824-8030

The examples of two people who believed in the Lord

They both offered God the produce of their vocation.

One acted in faith and one didn't.

Abel offered the first of his produce.

A practical reason for giving the first

Giving first is a faith issue.

Abel gave the gift God wanted.

Cain didn't respond to what God wanted.

Self-reflection

Are you willing to worship God on His terms, doing what He wants?

Will you seek to give of your produce what the Lord wants, to His causes?

Will you trust God to be able to take care of you, even if you give what He wants from the first of your produce?

Abel's act of faith left a legacy. He's an example to many others.

That can be true of you too.

What is your response to this? Discuss it with someone today.

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Application questions for 1/15/2017 sermon

Hebrews 11:4

(We are going to benefit each other the most, by being willing to talk openly about giving. That is going to require us to share the things we maybe do well, without being prideful. It might prompt us to share things we haven't done well, without being embarrassed. Let's agree together to have a discussion about this sensitive topic and try not to have things like pride or embarrassment. We are family and love one another. We can benefit one another through this.)

How do you see this issue of giving being a faith issue?

Both Cain and Abel believed in the Lord. But one offered to the Lord in faith and one didn't. What parallel do you see between that situation and us today?

(If you are not willing to answer this out loud it's okay, but at least answer it to yourself. And answering out loud to the group may be helpful, so you can process it.)

Are you willing to worship God on His terms, by doing what He wants with regard to giving? If not, what is your struggle with that? If so, how are you willing to do that?

How do you determine what amount God wants you to give?

(If you are not willing to answer this out loud it's okay, but at least answer it to yourself. And answering out loud to the group may be helpful, not only to you, but others, as you process it.)

If you don't currently give first when you get income, does it scare you to think about doing that, and what exactly scares you?

By the way, it wouldn't be surprising for that to scare you. That's part of why doing it requires faith.

If you do currently give first when you get income, do you have a testimony about a time that was hard to do, but you did it anyway? Maybe it was when you started giving this way, or maybe it was during a hard financial time, or whatever. Will you share your story, and what did it show you? How do you feel about it now?

Going forward, do you want to trust God to take care of you, and give what He wants from the first of your produce? If anything, what are you still struggling with, with regard to this?

(Make sure so make it to this question, and try to have everyone answer.)

Are there any changes you plan to make as a result of this learning? What specifically? Or if you don't know the specific changes yet, what are you going to consider?