

My Brother's Keeper (East of Eden Series – Part III)

2/15/2009

1. Read Gen. 4:1-16. What is the significance of the first offspring killing his younger brother just three chapters into the Bible?
2. In Genesis 4:9, God probes Cain as to Abel's whereabouts to see if he would tell the truth. What does Cain's reply tell you about his state of mind?
3. Read Mark 3:31-35. Here Jesus broadens the definition of brothers and sisters beyond blood relatives. How does that connect to Gen. 4:9?
4. So does that mean we are only responsible for those who believe as we believe, or does God hold us to an even higher standard?
5. In what way does Romans 5:6-11 model this relationship with nonbelievers?
6. The passage in 1John 3:11-14,16-18 specifically talks about the connection between the story of Cain and Abel and its application to those who would follow Christ. Is it the same message?
7. Some Christians believe that these instructions apply only to fellow Christians (our brothers in Christ). Others take the much broader interpretation that everyone is my brother or sister, and I should feel some responsibility for everyone. What makes more sense to you after looking at the life of Jesus?
8. When interacting with "others" who are not like us, we too often make some fundamental mistakes. How did Pastor Steve describe them?

9. Our goal is to get back to Eden. Read 2Corinthians 5:1-9 and consider your role in life as you move forward from this place.