

## JOY in the JOURNEY II



### “I Can Make It.” – Genesis 4; b

**Sermon Idea:** *When sin controls us, a journey of joy is impossible, but by heeding the warnings of God’s Spirit we experience his grace which keeps us from destroying ourselves and others along with us.*

**Intro:** Warning signs are so important...but you may have noticed that there are careless folks nearly every year who ignore signs at the Letchworth gorge, sometimes with serious consequences. It is so critical to take RR crossing signs seriously. You can’t face off with a moving train and win! God has some warnings about heart attitudes and sin in our **journey**.

#### **Read Genesis 4:1-16 and Discuss:**

1. Older brother, Cain, led the way in bringing an offering to the Lord, so why do you think God wasn’t pleased with Cain and his offering? (See I Jn 3:12) How did Cain respond – how might that indicate what was behind the Lord’s displeasure? Was his heart in the right place? vv.2-5
2. Look at the Lord’s ongoing conversations with Cain vv.6-7 and 9-15 – What format dominates these dialogs and how do they reveal God’s attitude toward Cain and God’s approach to sinners in general?
3. God warns Cain “sin is crouching at your door? What did God likely see lurking in Cain’s heart? Any similarities to Jesus dealing with Peter in his hours before the Cross?
4. The famous line: “Am I my brother’s keeper,” could be applied to us today? Examine our “brothers and sisters” -- the lost, the poor, the homeless, the oppressed, and more and our responsibilities to them.
5. List the initial consequences ahead for Cain vv.10-12. Does anything surprise you about Cain’s response and even the adjustments God makes? Vv.13-16
6. Do you see both judgment and grace in God’s dealings with Cain?
7. We mentioned Jesus and Peter...in what other encounters does Jesus warn about sin and grant pardon? (John 8:7-11; Luke 7:44-50 and more.) Does this mean Jesus takes sin lightly?
8. Paul warns about the sins of Israel...what were they? Then review both his warning and a word of hope. I Cor. 10:6-13
9. How can we do a better job on our journey of heeding God’s warnings and running to his grace and strength? How can we help each other on these issues as the Body of Christ?
10. Can we improve as individuals and a church in inviting, welcoming, and forgiving sinners around us? (See John 20)

**Jesus says:** “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Luke 5: 31-32 “I tell you...there will be more **rejoicing in heaven** over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” Luke 15:7