

Good Evening!

Well, Sermon Central is a web-site that contains well over 120,000 different sermons. 120,000!

There are over 500 sermons on John 3:16 alone!

Some of them are poor, some of them are good.

Do you know how many sermons have been preached on our text for tonight?

Two!

Out of 120,000 sermons there are only 2 on our passage.

And both of them sent me to sleep!

This is not the popular preaching text

“Tubal Cain was a metal worker” doesn’t have the same punch as Jesus statement “I am the way, the truth and the life”

So we come tonight to 9 verses of compressed history.

5 generations covered in just the first two verses.

This is big picture stuff.

It’s about two families

The family of Cain

– a murderer who in verse 16 is driven out from the presence of God; and

The family of Seth

– who walk with God and call on his name

This is about the simultaneous rise and fall of Civilization; and humanities only hope.

The Family of Cain; and the Family of Seth

Decline and Hope.

So would you turn with me to

Genesis Chapter 4 and we’ll see what this obscure, ancient, obscure, slightly troublesome (and did I mention obscure) text has to say to us tonight.

I want to talk about two things

The simultaneous rise and fall of Civilization; and

It’s only remaining Hope.

But before I do so – I’m going to spend a few minutes dealing with a some of the troublesome questions that springs out of v17.

For v17 says,

[Cain lay with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch.](#)

### **1. Now have you spotted the obvious difficulty here?**

Have you spotted the obvious question?

Here it is...

*If Adam and Eve had two sons: Cain and Abel – and Cain kills Abel in Chapter 4. Then where the heck did Cain get his wife from?*

If Adam and Eve are the parents of all living where did Cain get his wife from?

In fact, in verse 14, Cain is banished from God presence and complains that “whoever finds me will kill me”

—  
whose going to find him!??

If Adam and Eve are the first humans – where did all these other guys come from?

It’s a good question.

In fact it’s such a good question that in America in 1925 it became **one of the key questions** in a criminal trial.

High school biology teacher, John Scopes, <there he is> was accused of the unlawful teaching of evolution in school.

Apparently this was a crime in 1925

How dare he teach evolution?!!

In fact the trial was an Ambush to attack Christian’s who believed Genesis.

Its purpose (and I quote) was

*“to cast ridicule on everybody who believes in the Bible”.*

And (I quote again) *“to prevent bigots and ignoramuses <ignoramuses!, now there’s a word you don’t hear too often!> from controlling the education of the United States.”*

Now as it happened those that wanted to stop Evolution being taught in schools WON their case but in so doing they did great damage to Christianity.

Here is an excerpt from the case – you tell me who wins this exchange?!

*Question - Did you ever discover where Cain got his wife?*

*Answer (from a Christian who believes Genesis) —No, sir; I leave the agnostics to hunt for her.*

*Q You have **never** found out?*

*A I have never **tried** to find.*

*Q You have never **tried to find out**?*

*A No.*

*Q The Bible says he got one doesn’t it? Were there other people on the earth at that time?*

*A I cannot say.*

*Q You cannot say. Did that ever, ever enter your consideration?*

*A Never bothered me.*

*Q There were **NO** other people recorded, but Cain got a wife?*

*A That is what the Bible says.*

*Q So where she came from you do not know!!*

The world’s press focused on this trial and what they heard was - Christianity cannot defend the biblical record!

What they heard was if you become a Christian stop asking dumb questions and put your brain in neutral – you’re not going to need it!

But this isn’t how it should be!

God says in 1 Peter 3:15 *“always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you”.*

Always be ready! Give a defence!

Why?

Because the truth is this  
that not only does Christianity work,  
not only is it good,  
not only can God be experienced  
but its true, its reasonable and it CAN be defended.

Rational, Scientific, Learned, Wise people have credible Faith.  
The president of the United States is credible Christian,  
most of the New Zealand Rugby Team are,  
many of our world's top Scientists are.  
So you need never be embarrassed about defending your faith and  
you need never go down the route of 'its all too difficult to think about!'

The Scopes trial was a disaster for Christianity.  
We can do better, we **must** do better!

So back to the question - *where DID Cain's wife come from?*

**Well the simple answer is: she came from Eve.**

We know this to be true Biblically –  
because Eve is the Mother of all human beings  
But also we know this by examining every human being's Mitochondrial DNA.

Mitochondrial DNA is passed down by the mother and thus it enables us to trace maternal lineage far, far,  
far back in time  
And what we have found is this - that there was a single person the scientists call her "Mitochondrial Eve"  
and she is the woman from whom **all living humans beings descend today.**

Your mother and my mother, their mothers, and their mother's mother (*this sounds like some gang rap*) can  
be traced back and back in an unbroken female line until all lines converge on one person –  
the person everyone calls Eve.

Isn't that staggering!  
So Cain marries someone born of Eve.

**But hang you say – if that is true, then wouldn't that mean, they were like, Brother and Sister - or at  
least very closely related – ick!**

Well the truth is my friends – we AREALL related!  
And I am (I am afraid) your distant, distant cousin.  
*Just think about that and Prayer ministry will be available in the South Aisle after the service.*

Look it wasn't until Moses that God forbade close relatives to marry.  
Long before that (400 years before that) Abraham married his half-sister.

One of the concerns about marrying close relatives is that interbreeding replicates and magnifies genetic  
deformities.  
But Adam and Eve would have been made genetically perfect,  
they would have had no genetic deformities and  
it would have taken 1,000's and 1,000's of years for such mutations to become significant.

So yes Cain married someone related to him  
Is this reasonable? Well,

**We know from Genesis 5 that Adam and Eve had loads of children** – loads of them! The Bible only names 3 but they had many children.

They were commanded to fill the earth – and given that there was nothing much else to do on a Saturday night - I guess they went for it!

**And they had a long time to do it**

Adam lived for 930 years

And that sounds scientifically ridiculous doesn't it?

Well does it?

Why do humans age?

We understand the process really well.

It works like this...

At the end of a Chromosome is a repetitive piece of redundant DNA called a telomere,

Every time a cell replicates itself, it loses a bit of the end of the Chromosome which happens to be part of this telomere

So as the cells replace themselves the Telomere gets a little shorter every time.

The problem is this: when the Telomere is used up –

the Chromosomes start to lose a bit of themselves, the cells are damaged, sometimes non-viable, and the existing cells don't get replaced –

and you begin to look like me.

Now, here the exciting bit,

The Guardian reported on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2010 that "*Harvard scientists have managed to reverse the ageing process in mice*"

What they did was take some "old mice", stick back the telomeres onto their chromosomes (I have no idea how they did that!),

and then they watched the mice get younger!!

So our life-span is directly proportional to the length of our Telomere and if the first human beings had long Telomeres then they could have lived to great ages.

So Adam and Eve had lots of children and their children had lots of children and they married inter-generationally over 100s or years.

So diversion aside.

I want to talk about the simultaneous rise and fall of Civilization; and Humanities only hope.

## **2. Lets talk about the rise and fall.**

In Genesis 4v17, we find Cain

distanced from God, shut out of his presence, not talking to God or being guided by God

Yet we find him still acting in the image of God

## **2.1 We find him being brilliantly Creative!**

The very first thing that we learn about God is that he is brilliantly Creative.

He creates stuff. He makes beautiful things, complicated things, wonderful things to delight in.

*One look at the Toucan and you can see that God's into surrealism.*

*One look at a humming bird (who can flap his wings 100 times a second) and you gasp at the engineering!*

And Cain – even though he is far from God –

Is still capable of some brilliant creativity

in v17 he is creating a huge family,

in v18 he is creating a city (he's an architect, a builder, a designer)

in v19 his great, great, great, great grandson Jubal is creating a livestock business

Jubal (v20) creates music; and

v22 Tubal-Cain is a metal worker creating industry.

Humanity is creating stuff

We're making beautiful things, complicated things, brilliant things to delight in and enjoy.

But here's the point –

## **2.2 its not just Brilliant – its also broken.**

I don't mean every bit of everything is broken.

*After all for a watch to be broken it just needs one piece to fail.*

What I am saying here is mixed in with humanities creative brilliance is brokenness

### ***The Family is broken***

Lamech marries **two wives**.

Now this is never a good idea.

The Bible illustrates the utter foolishness of this at every turn

Just about every child born from a polygamous marriage in the Bible ends up in trouble, in discord and jealousy.

*Indeed - the whole Israel Arab confrontation that is going on today is because Abraham married two wives:*

*Sarah and Hagar. (Mohamed traces his line back through Hagar, and the Jews through Sarah)*

Brokenness right here.

To be married is devote yourself exclusively to one person –

Lamech isn't willing to do that – he expects his wives to be devoted to **him**

But he's not willing to do the same for them

Their relationship is unfair, imbalanced

### ***The City is broken***

There is injustice on the streets

Cain didn't walk with God and his children don't walk with God either.

So when Lamech gets wounded by a young man.

The Hebrew word is “boy” and the meaning of the word “wound” is actually “bruised”.

So when Lamech gets bruises by a boy – Lamech kills him.

And then he boasts about it!

He says if God promises vengeance on anyone who hurt my Dad  
then I will get vengeance 77 times on anyone that hurts me  
(my family will protect me)  
I am the God Father here.  
I don't need God,  
I don't need protection from God –  
I can look after myself.

And what will he use to protect himself?  
Is it impossible to think that Tubal-Cain wasn't making bronze spears and iron swords here?  
***Industry is broken too.***

***The Music is broken.***

Because the reason why v23 is indented in our Bibles is because  
this is a song.  
We don't see it because we don't speak Hebrew  
But this is poetry, this is a song.  
And music is being used to spread a corrupt message and poor values.  
Ever heard that before?

What I am saying here, is right here in Genesis Chapter 4.

We have the best of humanity and we see its brokenness – you see the simultaneous rise and fall of  
civilization.

**And we have it today.**

Our culture has brilliant stuff to celebrate (music, arts, industry, families, city life and technology is  
becoming more and more exiting!)  
But it is also broken.

Go **clubbing** – dance is fun, having a good time is great, but you tell me where the brokenness is when you  
watch what is happening on the dance floor, at the bar, and on the streets afterwards?

Log onto the **Internet** – a more powerful tool for knowledge and wisdom I cannot think of – but you tell me  
how many key-strokes it takes to find evidence of humanities brokenness.

Watch a **music video**, feel your pulse quicken – but you tell me how the girls dress and if their dance moves  
aren't blatantly suggestive.

Look at our **politics** (democracy –surely the best political system we have created) so why is it we are killing  
civilians in Libya, and Afghanistan?

Why are we at war?

Was their a vote?,

is what we're doing legitimate?,

is it any wonder that Gaddafi has said “you blow up my houses I'm going to blow up yours?”

Isn't this all about regime change?

Aren't we just trying to force our ideology on others?

And no-one is saying anything!!

Brokenness!

**Families** – great things – but more hurt and pain – more brokenness and sorrow, more heart-ache and crazily stupid behaviour than I have time to talk about

Humanity may be ‘rising in sophistication’ everywhere – it is falling just as fast.  
Its happening on a global scale and a personal scale and ask yourself why?

And the answer is “God is missing”.

The God of grace and compassion, justice and mercy, the God of reconciliation and restoration is missing from the equation.

Cain’s line represents humanity that has turned its back on God on both a city-wide, family-wide and personal level.

And if you feel that is true, if you feel this is true for you, then what we need is found in v25

### **3. It is the Only Hope of Mankind**

v25 Adam lay with his wife again, and she gave birth to a son

“she gave birth to a Son”

Is there something familiar with that phrase?

And she gave birth to a Son?

In the place of the one killed by sin – a son is given

Whenever the people of God are in trouble – God comes to the rescue.

When Israel is in captivity in Egypt (when it had all gone pear shaped) – we have in Exodus 2 “A Levite slept with his wife... and she gave birth to a Son – Moses”.

When Israel was being beaten up by the Philistine. Samson is born.

When Israel are far from God and the clergy are a bunch of corrupt drunkards, Hannah (desperate for a child) miraculously gives birth to a Son – Samuel.

Every time God’s people have been oppressed, God saves.

Until one day when the world is dark and the Roman soldier’s tramp the streets of Bethlehem a teenage girl – gives birth to a Son.

Jesus.

If Cain’s-line said

“when you offend me I shall kill you”,

“when you seek Justice I shall reek destruction on you 77 times the pain you give me”

God says

“when you offend me, I shall **lay down MY life** for you”

“when you sin against me – I shall forgive you 77 times”.

In response to your fall, I shall offer you love.

Jesus is the antidote to Cain’s, to the world’s, to you pain

He is the cure to brokenness

He is the remedy for your pain

He is salvation to your fallenness

### **3.1 So we need to bring Jesus into our lives.**

*C.S. Lewis said:*

*I believe in Christianity in the same way as I believe in the Sun,  
Not only do I see it – but **by it** I see all things*

We need to see our culture through the eyes of Jesus.

We need to live every part of our life through him.

We are told in v26 “[at that time people began to call on the name of the Lord](#)”

What they were doing was looking for grace and mercy

looking to bring God back into their lives.

And if we would find life without causing its brokenness – we need to do the same.

The Spirit’s presence is like salt

it enhances, preserves, the flavours of everything we do

#### **We need to bring Jesus into our Family life**

it means talking about God together,

it means saying grace together,

it means saying to our husband or wife “I want to love you the way God loves me” – let’s work on this together.

it means saying to our children – God isn’t just a compartment in my life, he IS my life. I see everything through him.

Bring your children up “to call on the name of the Lord”.

**We need to bring Jesus into the way we party, the way we listen to music, the videos we watch, the TV that we look at.**

It may be great, it may be creative, it may be cutting edge and it may be fun. But if we can’t bring Jesus into it then you can’t be doing with it.

We have got to live lives full of God presence – not asking him to step out of the room when we want to do what WE want.

**We need to bring God into our class-room, into our work-place, into our business and into industry.**

We cannot lie, we cannot cheat, we cannot be creative in our accounting

We cannot gossip, we cannot pull people down, we cannot gang-up on others.

We are to call on the name of the Lord at the start of our morning, before every major business decision, during every difficult heated conversation.

We need to bring God in our lives

Otherwise all the economic, medical, technical, cultural advances we experience are just a waste of time – we will remain broken and we will cause brokenness in others.

We need God alongside.

### **3.2 And we need to bring God into the lives of others too.**

Because society will continue to fall without Christ.

If we love other people, if we love our friends, our school-mates the most important desire for us must be to introduce them to Jesus

they may be successful,  
they may be brilliantly creative and  
culturally sophisticated – but it won't save them,  
without God they will remain broken.  
They need Jesus.

**And you can help them.**

God uses ordinary people to point others to him and he can use you

**So look for opportunities when you see them call on the name of the Lord for help**

Look for opportunities and ask God to help you when you see it.

Even if 15 people say “no” one might say “yes”.  
And if that one finds eternal life –  
you just helped give them the greatest gift of their existence.

Our world and our lives are full of brilliant things – great art, great music, great technology – but those things won't save us, or fulfil us, or give us any lasting purpose.  
We need Jesus

Wherever we struggle, whether it is something that is on our mind, some habit we can't break, some part of our lives that we can't defeat we will not be healed until we bring Jesus into it.

So in a moment we are going to take Communion...  
What areas of our life need Jesus...  
Who in our life (our friends) needs to find him...  
Call on the name of the Lord.