

Story time

Part 2 - Generational accountability

Jesus experiences religious HYPOCRISY Luke 11:45-52

The lifeblood of ABEL to ZECHARIAH will be charged to this generation vs. 50-51

The account of Cain and Abel Genesis 4:1-16

Abel was a RANCHER; Cain was a FARMER vs. 1-2

Both give OFFERINGS to the Lord vs. 3-4

God's RESPONSE to the brother's offerings vs. 4-5

God's RESPONSE to Cain's anger and sadness vs. 5-7

Abel becomes the first MARTYR vs. 8-10

Consequences for shedding INNOCENT lifeblood vs. 11-16

Jesus uses this story to reveal GENERATIONAL accountability Luke 11:49-52

This generation gives LIP SERVICE only! vs. 46-48

This generation will experience CONSEQUENCES vs. 49-51

Accountability is both INDIVIDUAL and GENERATIONAL

Does my generation shed INNOCENT lifeblood?

Does my generation shed RIGHTEOUS lifeblood?

If so, what is your RESPONSE?

Auburn Grace Community Church – June 11th, 2023

Life Group Discussion Questions – June 11, 2023

Luke 11:51-52 "...from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the house of God; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation.' Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter, and you hindered those who were entering."

DISCOVER (read Luke 11:45-52)

1. What kinds of hypocrisy have you personally struggled with the most? Without naming names, where have you noticed the hypocrisy of the rich and famous?
2. Imagine you are a rising star in a prestigious and powerful law firm. What kind of personalities and attitudes might you encounter as you climb the corporate ladder? What might prevent you from achieving the pinnacle of your career?
3. If it's true that the murder of the innocent and the righteous gets God's attention, then the opposite may be true as well. That is, when the innocent and the righteous are lifted-up and protected, God delights. Identify some circumstances or events that we are seeing today that delight God's heart. How can we build on these spiritual victories?

EXPLORE

1. In this Luke 11 passage, what is the main point of the accusations Jesus directs at the lawyers? How does this dinner with the Pharisees compare with the first dinner in Luke 7:36-50? Why the differences?
2. Read Genesis 4:1-15 and 2 Chronicles 24:20-22. Why were the righteous murdered? How has this been a common and repetitive cycle throughout history? What can be done to break this cycle?
3. Re-read Luke 11:52. What was the "key of knowledge" that Jesus was referring to?
4. Read Hebrews 11:4. Why was Abel's sacrifice more acceptable than Cain's?
5. Why was the stored (delayed) wrath of God, from Abel to Zechariah, charged to the generation Jesus was addressing? Could God's judgment have arrived in sooner or later generations? Explain. Are we witnessing the same thing in our generation?

EXPERIENCE

1. Of the three woes directed to the lawyers, which one pierces you the most? Why is that? How would you like your life to change in the light of what you've just read? Specifically, what would you like to see happen this week?
2. In our generation, how are we shedding innocent blood? How are we shedding the blood of the righteous? What are some of the consequences we're seeing today resulting from the shedding of innocent and/or righteous blood?
3. What can we do to protect ourselves from false teaching and man-made legalism? Identify the first three steps of your plan.

PRAY

Pray... Our Father in heaven, You have determined the times and places where we would live with great intentionality. You have always been concerned with our hearts for those around us, in our communities and in our world. But we confess, that we have honored you with our lips, yet our hearts have been far from You. Change our hearts, Father, that we might become the people of God we say we are. Help us to see injustice easily; to be merciful and compassionate people; to be righteous people that stand-up for the oppressed; to give voice to those who are unable to speak. Help us, O God, to walk humbly with You. Amen.