

Genesis 4:1–15

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." ²And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

¹⁰And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear.

¹⁴Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.



Psalm 5

¹Give ear to my words, | O Lord;*
consider my | groaning.
²Give attention to the sound of my cry,
my King | and my God,*
for to you | do I pray.
³O Lord, in the morning you | hear my voice;*
in the morning I prepare a sacrifice
for | you and watch.
⁴For you are not a God who delights
in | wickedness;*
evil may not | dwell with you.
⁵The boastful shall not stand
be- | fore your eyes;*
you hate all evil- | doers.
⁶You destroy those | who speak lies;*
the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty
and de- | ceitful man.
⁷But I, through the abundance of your steadfast
love, will en- | ter your house.*
I will bow down toward your holy temple
in the | fear of you.
⁸Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness
because of my | enemies;*
make your way straight be- | fore me.
⁹For there is no truth in their mouth; their
inmost self is de- | struction;*
their throat is an open grave;
they flatter | with their tongue.
¹⁰Make them bear their guilt, O God;
let them fall by their own | counsels;*
because of the abundance of their
transgressions cast them out,
for they have rebelled a- | gainst you.
¹¹But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
let them ever | sing for joy,*

and spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name
may ex- | ult in you.

¹²For you bless the righteous, | O Lord; *
you cover him with favor
as | with a shield.

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18

⁶For I am already being poured out as a
drink offering, and the time of my departure has
come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have
finished the race, I have kept the faith.

⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of
righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous
judge, will award to me on that Day, and not
only to me but also to all who have loved his
appearing. . . .

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to stand
by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged
against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and
strengthened me, so that through me the message
might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles
might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's
mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every
evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly
kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever.
Amen.

Luke 18:9–17

⁹[Jesus] also told this parable to some who
trusted in themselves that they were righteous,
and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰"Two men
went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee
and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee,
standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank
you that I am not like other men, extortioners,
unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I
get.' ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off,
would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but
beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me,
a sinner!' ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his
house justified, rather than the other. For
everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
but the one who humbles himself will be
exalted."

¹⁵Now they were bringing even infants to
him that he might touch them. And when the
disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶But Jesus
called them to him, saying, "Let the children
come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such
belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷Truly, I say to
you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of
God like a child shall not enter it."