



Bethel South Sermon Notes – “What Are You Bringing God?”

Speaker: Ps Mike Gowans

Series: Awesome God

Scripture: Genesis 4:1–10, Hebrews 11:4, Hebrews 12:24

Main Idea

God is worthy of more than our leftovers. The fear of the Lord moves us to honor Him with our first, our best, and our whole lives. Like Abel, we honor God when we trust Him enough to put Him first.

What Are You Bringing God?

Leftovers might be fine for lunch, but they are a terrible foundation for an important relationship.

Love doesn't ask: "**What can I give that I won't miss?**"

Love asks: "**What would *honor* the person I *love*?**"

Without realizing it, we can begin treating God like an afterthought. We give Him:

- **Leftover time**
- **Leftover attention**
- **Leftover energy**
- **Leftover resources**

But our awesome God is worthy of more than whatever remains.

He is worthy of our first, our best, and our whole lives.

Cain and Abel: Two Offerings, Two Hearts

In Genesis 4, both Cain and Abel brought offerings to God.

Cain brought some of the fruit of the ground "in the course of time."

Abel brought the **firstborn** of his flock and the **best portions**.

God looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but not on Cain and his offering.

The difference wasn't their occupations.

The difference was their hearts.

Hebrews 11 tells us that Abel offered his sacrifice **by faith**.

Giving God the first requires trust because you don't yet know what will come afterward.

Giving God the leftovers requires very little faith because you already know what you can afford to give.

Abel's offering demonstrated:

"God, I'm putting You first and trusting You with what comes next."

Honor Gives God Weight

To honor someone is to recognize their **weight, value, and significance**.

If God truly carries weight in our lives, it should affect our priorities.

This goes far beyond finances.

Ask yourself:

- **Does God receive the first moments of my day?**
- **Does He receive my attention before my phone does?**
- **Does He receive my best energy?**
- **Do I prioritize my relationship with Him?**
- **Do my relationships and resources demonstrate that He comes first?**

The fear of the Lord produces a life that gives God the honor He deserves.

We don't fit God into whatever space remains.

We arrange our lives around Him.

Grace Is the Power to Change

We cannot use God's grace to excuse a heart that refuses to honor Him.

Grace isn't something we pour over compromise to make it acceptable.

Grace is not a license to sin. Grace is the power to change.

God's grace empowers us to reorder our lives, confront compromise, and become people whose choices demonstrate that He truly comes first.

God's Correction Is His Mercy

When Cain became angry, God came to him with a warning.

Sin was crouching at his door.

God wasn't trying to condemn Cain. He was giving Cain an opportunity to recognize what was happening and choose a different path.

God's correction is an expression of His mercy.

He loves us enough to confront what will eventually destroy us.

Sin often begins as a visitor.

But if we continually allow it through the door, it wants to become a resident.

That is why compromise is easiest to defeat **at the door**.

Listen when God convicts you.

Respond before a moment of compromise becomes a pattern and a pattern begins shaping your character.

The Blood of Jesus Speaks a Better Word

Cain eventually ignored God's warning and killed his brother.

Afterward, Abel's blood cried out from the ground for justice.

But Hebrews tells us that **the blood of Jesus speaks a better word**.

Where Abel's blood cried out for justice, Jesus' blood speaks:

- **Mercy**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Redemption**
- **Reconciliation**

Our failures do not have to be the end of our story.

When we repent and come to Jesus, His blood provides forgiveness and restores us to God.

Final Challenge:

What are you bringing God?

Are you giving Him your first and your best, or simply whatever remains?

Take an honest look at your:

- **Time**
- **Attention**
- **Energy**
- **Relationships**
- **Resources**

Pay attention to anything God has been warning you about. Don't allow compromise to move from a visitor at the door to a resident in your life.

God is worthy of more than our leftovers.

Put Him first.

Give Him your best.

Trust Him with what comes next.

And discover the peace that comes from living a life that pleases Him.

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon asked, "What are you bringing God?" When you honestly examine your time, attention, energy, relationships, and resources, where are you most tempted to give God your leftovers?
2. Abel gave God the firstborn of his flock before knowing what would come next. Why does giving God our first require more faith than giving Him what remains?
3. What does it practically mean to give God "weight" or honor in your everyday decisions? What is one area where your priorities could better reflect His importance in your life?
4. Ps Mike said, "Sin starts as a visitor, but it wants to become a resident." What are some warning signs that a small compromise is beginning to become a pattern, and how can we respond while it's still "at the door"?
5. How does knowing that the blood of Jesus speaks a better word of mercy, forgiveness, and reconciliation help us respond to God's correction without falling into shame?