**‘Sin HAS Consequences!’**

***9Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” 10He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground. 11Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. 12When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.” 13Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is too great to bear!*** Genesis 4:9-13

It is interesting that God employs a similar tact here as in Genesis 3. In Genesis 3, when Adam and Eve sinned, the LORD called out to Adam and asked ***‘Where are you?’*** Here, the LORD knows exactly what Cain did. He knows that Cain has murdered Abel and where Abel’s body was in the field. Nevertheless, the LORD asks the question of Cain, ***“Where is Abel your brother?”*** The best answer would have been an admission of guilt; an owning up to what he had done. Cain doesn’t do this. Instead he lies by saying ***“I do not know”*** and he asks, ***“Am I my brother’s keeper?”***

Cain had murdered his brother, and the LORD informed him that though Abel was dead, the ***“voice”*** of his blood was ***“crying out”*** to the LORD from the ground.[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/09/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1)

Cain was guilty. He had killed his brother. Though the LORD had told Cain what he needed to do to receive the favor of the LORD, Cain ignored God’s warning. Now all he could do was wait to hear what his punishment would be. What would his sin cost him? Indeed the cost was GREAT. Cain heard these words, ***“Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.”***

The earth had already been affected by his parents’ sin, and now Cain wouldn’t receive from the earth its strength. He could plow and sow seed and reap harvests, but the results would be far less than what he’d been used to receiving. What a pity, and how very predictable Cain’s response is to his punishment. He believes it is more than he can bear. Maybe he should have thought about what it might cost him **before** he killed his brother.

Regardless of what Cain thought about his punishment, he would have to bear it. The LORD wasn’t going to reduce it just because he complained.

Sin **always** HAS consequences and even though Jesus has taken upon himself our sin and guilt and shame, sin still has consequences. Sometimes those consequences are quite severe.

We must consider the consequences of sin. If we do, hopefully our reaction will be to run from it.

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2017/09/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) With this revelation, it isn’t hard for us to imagine how loud the **“crying out”** must be that’s rising up to the LORD from the blood shed by the millions upon millions of unborn children who’ve been aborted. There can be no doubt that it is a terrible sound.