



The Mar Thoma Church
Diocese of North America & Europe
Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

FORGIVENESS

Genesis 4: 1-16

“Where is Abel your brother?”

- Genesis 4:9

The passage describes the meeting between Cain and his brother Abel and the disastrous result of this meeting. It reminds us of where the two brothers stand in connection with a pair of walking legs. For a brief moment Cain appears to be the foot that is behind and Abel the foot that has stepped forward. But if Cain had understood the role that both feet play in walking, then he could have reversed his deadly action. And what is the message that a pair of walking legs convey?

“The foot that is forward has no pride and the foot that is behind has no shame. They both know that their situation will change.”

The underlying principle in walking is that both feet should accept their roles as important and learn to step ahead through alternate moves. There is no room for harboring ill-feelings against the other. But in this passage we see the first foot Cain reacting out of jealousy towards his brother's offering. Cain chooses a plan of action that is harmful to his brother's existence. He kills his own brother. For a moment Cain forgets that with one foot he would have to remain lame for life. This action of his prevents him from giving a convincing answer to God's question, **“Where is your brother?”**

If we are asked this question today what would our response be? What does this question expect from us?

To love our neighbor as our self (Matthew 22:39): We are expected to move from self-centeredness towards other-centeredness. Our resources, our talents and our time should serve as means to help our neighbor too. Moreover, it necessitates the need to cultivate a vision to accommodate different learning experiences that enrich our spiritual journey.

To act as spiritual watchmen (Ezekiel 33:8-9): God expects us to serve as spiritual watchmen preparing the people for the truth and warning them of impending danger. It implies that we ourselves remain prepared and vigilant and at the same time encourage others to do so. As much as God is considerate about our lives, He is also concerned about the welfare of my neighbor too.

Shall we pray: Dear Lord, we confess our self-centered living and our insensitivity towards our fellow-being's needs. Enable us to prepare ourselves and our neighbors for spiritual warfare and humbly present to you some souls that we could reach. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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