

Computer Generated Transcript - We're going to launch into a new series something I like to do have done this a couple of times and in the summers is just telling kind of common Bible stories again some some Bible stories so some of you are like common Bible story to me makes no sense because I have never been in church before this is my first time I don't know much about the Bible that's great We're glad you're here we want you to know that some of us have been hearing these stories you know like on a very regular basis since we were two but hopefully there's something new to get out of it and we're going to teach you one of the common Bible stories for those of you who have been hearing this Bible story since you've been to and now you're more experienced and we are going to hit it and I I want to talk about it again and I'm not going to sit here and try and say there's going to be something brand new every single week or anything like that but I do feel like as a youth pastor and now as as a lead pastor I noticed that a lot of people's understanding of the Bible stopped at an elementary age right so and what I mean by that is for a lot of us we went to Sunday school as kids and a teacher taught us you know I mean about the Bible and about Bible stories and that's also they taught us as children because we were children and there's nothing wrong with that but there are some things in the Bible that we don't necessarily teach kids because they're not quite ready to grasp it yet or maybe it's a little too intense for young minds and there's a lot of that in the Bible if you think the Bible is boring I challenge you to read it you know to just go through it again and read it and let it speak to you because it is anything but boring but but some of us are you know our understanding of the Bible story stopped at about a Veggie Tales level right like right about that that point is where we stop reading the Bible for new understanding and so what is going to happen for some of us we dive into these stories a little bit is maybe it's going to come alive at a different level and one of there's two things I really hope to accomplish out of this sermon series and it's the same two things I do every. Time we're going to talk about this every week you can go ahead and write this down if you're a note taker or just go ahead remembered if you're not it's not that difficult but there's two things I want you to get first of all I want you to see that the people in the Bible are just regular people they're just like you and me they're they make mistakes they have failings they have strengths they have weaknesses but there's nothing special about the people of the Bible except the God they serve right and this this sermon series just the same as is every time is called Ordinary people within or extraordinary God these that we've done some disservice I think sometimes in our minds of putting people in the Bible like in stained glass windows and calling them saint because one of the things that's happened is like they've ceased to be people we can relate to for a lot of us they stop being people that we can look to and be like I have man that is me because they're in a stained glass window or because we call them saint and we just don't really relate to them anymore and I want you to know that that is that's a disservice to the Bible because it is not I've said this before it is not David who killed Goliath. It's not David charge the field and he swung the stone but David was the first one to say I'm out of my league I do not come against you with weapons of flesh and blood but with the god. Of eternity. David knew who was fighting that battle and we've turned it into David killed Goliath and that's just not true God used him in that way. But David was out of his depth. And he knew it and that's a story most of these people in the Bible there are beyond what they could do there are there are there are so far past what they can accomplish on their own but God comes through in an extraordinary way and that should give us hope that we don't have to try and be a saint for God to use us that our name doesn't I was joking about people when I went to Bible college like it seemed like everybody who'd been there for a very long had to initials on the name and so I always wondered how long I was going to serve God and how holy I'd have to be before I could be jailed Hirshman you know like that's just one of those things you know but you don't have to have to initials in the name for God to use you. Right these people in the Bible were just regular people and then God used them to do extraordinary things and I hope you get that out of this series all right and the second thing that I hope you get out of this series it go it kind of goes along with that it's one of those things as as we do this but the second thing I really hope you get out of this series is that we really need to dig in the world on our own right there there is no other thing that we do in life except sometimes church where we expect something for one hour a week to be

enough to make us great. You know what I mean like if you want to be a concert pianist. You would never sit down at the piano for one hour a week and say that's good enough especially you would sit down and listen to somebody else play the piano for one hour a week in the be like oh I can do it now. Right we would never do that if you wanted to be a great athlete you would never watch a football game once a week and then expect to make it to the N.F.L. Well maybe some of you would but most of you understand that's not how it works it requires hours and hours of dedication to be a great athlete even at a high school level it requires so much work if you want to be great at your job you wouldn't sit down and watch the training video and be like I got this I'm ready to just make me C.E.O. today. We don't do that in any other thing in our life but for some of us we get into these ruts where we do that with our faith. And we come to church maybe once or twice a week and we hear somebody else teach about the Bible and then we think I'm good now that's enough for me to really excel in my relationship with Jesus and I want you to hear from me the same way that you would never approach your job that way if you are intelligent. You cannot approach your faith that way I truly believe if you come here every week it's important it's important to rub shoulders with your fellow believers it's important to hear somebody else bring the word and maybe they'll help you see something that you wouldn't see but that is not enough for us to have a growing relationship with Jesus we need to get in the Word of God on our own and see it come alive if you don't know how to do that I would love to have that conversation with you this is a passion of mine I would love to put some simple to use tools in your hand to help you to do that and I am here to do that all right if you want help and not come and talk to me we'll schedule a time where we can sit down and go over this stuff and I would love to help you grow in that area all right. But I hope you get those two things out of this series that these are just ordinary people that served an extraordinary God and that I need to get into the Word of God on my own I need to do it and so you can open your Bible to Jenna. Chapter Four All right so if you are new to the Bible and new to church this is going to be an easy one because Genesis is the first book of the Bible it's at the very beginning OK so you can go ahead and open up your Bible to the very first book you know there's going to be some introduction stuff I'm sure of the from your Bible but the first book of your bible is Genesis it's the very first one and we're going to talk about verse chapter four and so this is the story of Cain and Abel All right so I'm just going to ask you real quick what do you know about Cain and Abel and I'm literally asking for answers this isn't one of those rhetorical pastor's questions where I'm just going to keep talking OK So literally answer what do you know about the story of Cain and Abel without looking in your bible first they're brothers able please Lord. Cain killed Abel that's true what. They're Adam and Eve's children gardener and Hunter gardener and Shepherd blood was spilled God spared came you know there's there's there's So we got some basic things out there right of this story and even some of the meat of this story just came out and that's also can I tell you how many of you think Cain was the first born son and Abel was the second born son right you know the Bible doesn't say that. Bible says Cain was older and then sometime later Abel was born they might have had twelve other kids in between we have no idea we know Cain was older and then Abel was born we have no idea whether or not Abel was number two as a matter of fact at some point time right at shortly it seems after the story Cain leaves with the wife. Which is kind of weird in and of itself right because there were two people as far as we know in the Bible that were created and there was Adam and Eve So for a brother to have a wife. Somebody got married to a sister somewhere along the way there right that could have been that might have been his niece you know I mean it's possible that his brother married his sister and then he married their kid. Well that's we're right no way around it it's weird all right and those are the kind of things that we don't teach six year olds OK. You get to that point eventually but most of the time in your sixth grade class you don't sit down and be like hey it's a really good idea to marry your sister you know because it worked for Cain. All right moving on from that so we don't know what the birth order was other than Cain is first and then able come sometimes later we honestly don't even know if Cain was the oldest It says that they conceive a son and then Cain is born and then sometime later Abel comes along it does the Bible just really doesn't give us those details and it doesn't really matter other than we have some preconceived notions that

just are right some of you know better too I thought it was funny like Jason asked the question you're like put my hand down because he's probably trying to trick me you know I saw that happen a few times right there too so that's good you guys are learning all right. So but this is a story that most of us have a basic understanding even if you haven't been around church very much you probably heard something about Cain and Abel It's a story as old as Cain and Abel right I mean most of us have heard that sort of statement made about jealousy or something along those lines even if we're not familiar with the Bible but I'm going to read. Genesis Chapter four verses one through nine OK and I'm going to read that out of the New Living Translation If you've got an electronic version and you like to see the same words as the pastor I'm going to read out of the New Living Translation you've got your own favorite translation that is absolutely fine and you can do it but that's what we're going to Regenes chapter four verses one through nine all right Genesis Chapter four verses one through nine it says now. Adam had sexual relations with his wife even something you didn't even know that was in the Bible you're like wow you just said that in church OK Eve and she became pregnant when she gave birth to Cain she said with the Lord's help I have produced a man later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel when they grew up able became a shepherd Well Cain cultivated the ground when it was time for the harvest came presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord and Abel also brought a gift the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock the Lord accepted Abel and his gift but he did not accept Cain and his gift this made Cain very angry and he looked dejected Why are you so angry the Lord asking why do you look so dejected you will be accepted if you do what is right but if you refuse to do what is right then watch out sin is crouching at the door eager to control you but you must subdue it and be its master one day can suggest to do his brother Let's go out into the fields and while they were in the field can attack his brother Abel and killed him afterward the Lord asking where is your brother where is Abel I don't know can responded and my brothers Guardian. Or most translations would probably say my my brother's keeper I am going to read verses three through seven and the New American Standard the New Living Translation is what's called a thought for thought translation they don't translate every single word they translate a thought so it's very readable OK so I want to read out the N A S B which is a word for word translation OK ver just verses three thru seven this time so it came about in the course of time that came brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground Abel on his part also brought the first wings of his flock and of their fat portions and the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard so Cain became very angry and his countenance fell then the Lord said to Cain why are you angry and why is your Countess fall and if you do well will not your countenance be lifted up and if you do not do well sin is. Crouching at the door and it's desires for you but you must master it so before we really dive into this now again I'm going to ask a simple question How many of you I know parents aren't supposed to have a favorite OK but how many of you as you were growing up your parents had a favorite. How many of you you were the favorite OK We got some honest people in here OK how many of you it was that stink and brother or sister of yours that was the favorite. OK all right and some of you were like my parents didn't have favorites or I was the only child so obviously I was the favorite OK so sometimes when we read the Bible we read our our own you know story into the Bible and that can be one of the dangers of this story in particular because if you just look at this at the surface level it seem like God is playing favorites doesn't it. I mean if you look at this and you just read the surface level it really seems like God is like I just really like Abel better than Cain right I mean at a surface level I'm not saying that's the point of the story I'm just saying at a surface level it looks like God is playing favorites so as we dive into this what does that all mean how do we work through some of those things what do we do with what we just read it's not good enough necessarily just to read the Bible but it's important to to really dive in and so as as we've looked at there's all kinds of different reasons that people want to say. That that got woman to dive in one of my favorite things that I heard somebody teach on one time that I do not believe is accurate in the Bible but some of you probably heard this that when it says God accepted their gift some people would say that God consume them with fire like in other places of the Old Testament that God sent to fire and consume

the gift OK And I mean I've heard that and those kind of things I don't think that's true because it says God is pleased with Abel and his offering and accepted the gift so if that's true according to the text that God didn't just burn the offering to burn cane or Abel right I mean it's just the way sentence structure works especially in the Hebrew it's laid out very very specifically and so I don't believe God Sin Fire God is obviously talking to them and that's how they know one offering is accepted and one is that it doesn't have to involve fire every time that's cool if it was but I don't think that's what happened so why did God accept one and not the other right and so one of the things that I've heard taught about this I've actually I heard this a lot in the church growing up and it's what I thought for years is that God accepted the blood sacrifice and not the non blood sacrifice and I've heard that taught over and over again and I I got to tell you I just don't think that's right I don't think it's real and it's because of the text that I believe that first of all there's lots of places in the old. That's specifically call for a grain offering OK there's lots of places where a grain offering is called for no blood was required a simple grain offering is all that's required so God clearly accepts sacrifices that don't use blood right because he calls for them in places in Leviticus and Deuteronomy for very specific things OK The other reason that I don't think that is because the sacrificial system hasn't been in place yet it's wrong to read Genesis three or four as though Exodus Chapter twenty has already happened it just has it right this predates Moses in the law and all of those sacrifices were given no indication in this portion of Scripture what so ever that it is because of the blood that God accept one and not the other we can read that into it I'm not saying that it absolutely had nothing to do with it I'm just saying the text doesn't teach that at all. OK The Bible doesn't speak to that at all so if that's not it may you know again some of you are going to be like well you can say whatever you want to say I still think that that's OK you can still think that. But you see that there's not a distinction in the offering even that's made the word that's used in both offerings as MAN Ha I don't know if I'm saying that right but it's a Hebrew word that just literally means gift or meal offering it's the most generic word that the Old Testament has for sacrifice or an offering OK it's literally it's absolutely generic as possible so one isn't even in the Hebrew is the reason I bring that up one isn't called a blood offering or a blood sacrifice and one is called something else the same word is used of both of them OK so there's no difference in the way that that that they're referred to in this. And nothing in this talks about this being the fur. Sacrificial first sacrifice we talk about this as the first sacrifice because it's the first one we see in scripture but again we don't know if it's the first one right we don't know how long Adam and Eve have been out of the garden at this point in time we don't know I mean these boys probably since they're both doing it offering saw it somewhere probably from their dad right so this probably isn't the first offering that has ever been done and again we can only suppose this because the Bible doesn't say specifically but we can what we can say is this is a part of the gift kid they both bring a sacrifice it's the same word it's and and there's no there's no direct talking about what is in the gift as far as like one is blood and one isn't this just covers any type of gift. OK So this is just as generic as we get they both bring in offering Sprout something they've seen done but done before we don't know that for sure but we can say this is when God institutes the sacrificial system because when Moses institutes the sacrificial system later through the thing of God This is not referred to. They don't refer to be like well Abel's offering had blood and canes didn't so clearly that's what God wants us to do. It's not referenced in that way down the road this is an individual story so what do we see in this as an individual story what do we see in this as we go what can we take out of this story to help us today right there's obviously a problem with Cain's gift there's obviously a problem with something that happens on that day something goes wrong where God accepts one and not the other if it's not blood you know then what is it. And I would tell you that it's the man himself what I truly believe that this is what we see actually in this story happen is that the. There is a flaw not in the offering but in the offer or. OK not in the offering itself but in the offer Herb Cain was the problem Genesis Chapter four three says Cain just brought some of the fruits of the field. He just grab some and brought some OK just picked it the word seems to imply that it's not random OK but he just randomly went around and grab some of the stuff and brought it to God OK. When it describes Abel's gift how is it

described his best choice the first fruits the fatty pieces the choice pieces fatty doesn't literally mean fat It means the best OK He brought all of his best lambs the best portions to offer something for God. OK he only brought his very best to offer to the God of creation. And I think that speaks to our heart I think that speaks to our heart today as we offer our talents as we offer our time as we offer our money as we bring our offerings to God Is it just another thing that's grabbed at random as we come to God. Or we offering God our best and I would challenge a lot of you with that especially as it relates to your time and your gifts OK and I'm not talking about monetary gifts talking about the gifts God has put inside of you a lot of times our work or our kids get our best. And God gets whatever's left and I know that's hard. And I know I just stepped on some of your toes. And I'm OK with it. Because what I see over and over and over again in the Bible is God doesn't want our leftovers he wants our best. And that takes intentionality that takes us being very very thoughtful through in what we're doing with God I am not saying don't give your kids good things OK I'm not saying you shouldn't do things with your kid I'm not saying you shouldn't do it I'm certainly not saying Quit your job. Don't mistake what I'm saying and be like old pastor Jason thinks we need to be monks to do this it's not what I'm saying what are we genuinely offering God our best or we only giving him what's left over after everything else demands our time attention and money and that's not something I can answer for anybody out here except for myself. That is between you and God. That is a question that each one of us must ask ourselves on a pretty regular basis is God genuinely getting my best or is he just getting my haphazard whatever I happened to collect that day and have left I'm going to bring that to his table we go there I mean maybe not good some of you probably are still mad at me but we understand the concept. OK I think that that is a big deal and that is a big part of the story because it gets it gets page time right as there are as they're writing this story is they're telling this story they tell us that Cain just grab some and able grab what was the most in the best that he had to offer and what I think that really Street speaks of here is we're seeing the contrast between a formula. And a heart that's in gauged right a formulaic type face and a faith that is born of the heart of faith that is true worship of God Many of us if you've been around the church for any amount of time you can play the game right you know how to look like God's work in your heart you know how to look like things are all going really good you can play the church game with the best of them right you can quote scriptures and you can do those kinds but your heart isn't really in it. You're just playing a game and then there are those of you who are chasing after Jesus with everything you have and anybody who really knows you can tell the difference and if your friends in your family can tell the difference. God can tell the difference. Between us just bringing our formulaic this is what I do because I've always done it. And bringing our best. To lay the feet of Jesus. There is a difference that is marked. And it's important for us to grasp it is so important for us to grasp in verse four and five. I'm going to read to you what the Hebrew says kind of literally OK I'm I'm a nerd again most of you know that if you're if this is your first week you don't know I'm a nerd but if you've been here like two weeks you know I'm a nerd because I say almost every week I love things that don't matter to most people my wife would be the first to say yes to that like I'm a nerd out about the smallest detail sometimes I just find them exciting OK And so I went back and I looked at the Hebrew of this whole thing and I want to read to you the direct like Hebrew of this OK not in the Hebrew I want to read it in English but it would say and able he brought indeed even HE some of his first things of his for all of his flock OK And the reason I say that is there are four elements in the text that mark the emphasis of this just like it's important just like you have to put in Facets on the right slab all right in the Hebrew there are there are different things you know you have to see the emphasis and where it lies and sometimes when you just are translation is not bad but sometimes it's hard to see that in facilis and where it should be if we're just reading a translation that way all right and so. So it would mark Abel's name and then there's a verb for bringing with a nominal suffix some of you English majors know what I'm saying then it emphasizes a particle which is gamma in the Hebrew and finally a personal independent pronoun and so if you read this in the Hebrew it would be almost impossible to miss that this was absolutely pointed at the men and their hearts condition instead of just the offering right against a really simplified ego in English you would

say and able he also he brought. OK The focus is on the man not necessarily on the gift. Again And so what we're left with is in blood verses you know verses crop you know blood versus No but what we're left with is two min. Who are showing something of themselves as they bring an offering if you keep reading and if you look at this actually too isn't it interesting I can tell you ever since Martin Luther King like since I'm not Martin Luther King Jr OK But Martin Luther the one who separated away from the Catholic stuff OK with this with his thesis nailed on the door OK ever since that time commentators of the Bible have looked at this and noted that it is the attitude of the man not the gift that was found acceptable or unacceptable in this you can go back to commentaries all the way back to Martin Luther and see that commentators talk about that over and over and over again in their studies of this portion of Scripture that I know that God and if you look at it again let's read it right. As you look at it Abel brings his part and the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard even in the text we see that the name is called out. Before the offering so what does all this mean for us today. What it means for us today that we need to give God our best if God cared more about able and Kane's heart and he does about the offering probably still matters today. And that by the way if you're unfamiliar with your bible is not an isolated thing. If you read through the Old Testament you will see over and over and over again that God cares more about the heart than the offering. Right David even brings that out later on in WANT TO case where somebody wants to give him stuff and he says I'm not going to make an offering that cost me nothing. Because he understands he doesn't want to offer somebody else's best he wants to offer his own best because the man after God's own heart understood the heart of God and over and over and over again we see all the New Testament alike that God is more concerned with the heart of the idjit individual than just the offering. I'm not saying the offering has no importance. But the heart always comes first. And honestly as I look at Cain and Abel this is a story that has been since then. That's what I take out of this text. As I study as I look what I see over and over again in this is that one of them had the right heart as he brought his offering to God and he brought the best he had the offer and the other one was just going through the day. Stuff or God whatever was left on that day and that should matter to us. That should teach us and then you get into this part of the story where it says Cain. Downcast his eyes or his gaze fell or however however you want to look at that Cain is ashamed. Right and I would go so far as to say Cain was angry. How many of you have been compared unfavorably to a sibling. Right like your parents were like man if you just didn't like them it would be done today feel good about that why you went home from not being like that was a great conversation with mom and dad today. No probably had your feelings hurt or you got ticked off maybe both. Right because that's how we operate and that's exactly what happens here God says to one I accept you in your offering He looks to another and he says I don't accept you and your offering in Cain's gaze drops and God in His gracious loving way looks at Cain and warns him for what is about to happen God is not playing favorites here one of them offered his best one of them different and you see the loving generous heart of God the Father at this moment as Keynes icefall in God says Why have your eyes fall and can you need to be careful because what you're about to do is not OK sin is crouching at the door like a lion came I see your heart and I see what this is causing inside of you and it's home in. You need to take control of it now before it has a chance to grow. That is a gracious parent how many of you ever had a parent that looked at you and they talked in black and white terms and that when they looked at you and they said I see where your actions are going. And I can tell you that they are not going anywhere good. And you need to fix it before something irreparable happens hopefully your parent was able to have some sort of conversation like that with you or else maybe you were a perfect child. I doubt it but some of you babies probably think that that's true OK so. I don't mean babies like the baby the youngest usually thinks they're perfect perfect you know is all I'm saying right there at least that's my experience as the eldest child so. But the loving gracious Father. Looks. At Cain and he warns him. Where you're about to go Cain has nothing good to offer and you know what Cain did exactly what most of us do when we're when we're warned about something he went he did it anyway right ever been there somebody looked at you and said you know what you're doing is going to be causing trouble you

know maybe it's your job and like you know what your attitude is going to be fired and advise the some supervisor looked at you and said that you're like What do you know just kept doing whatever you want to do and you got fired. And you're mad at the supervisor even though you were warned I'm not trying to say every supervisors cool and every time you've been warned it's been fair it's not what I'm saying. We're warned of how many about you your kids like listen you really need to study for that test because I know you think you're the smartest person in the world but if you don't study you're not going to get the grade you want like what do you know right or your parent looks at you like. Yeah I know you love to drive eighty in a thirty. But this is going to end badly. And then when the lights are behind us well I don't know what I did. Somebody should have told me the tickets were so expensive. And we can laugh at other people but we've all been there. And God looks it came and he says Cain sin is crouching at your door like a lion and it is ready to pounce. You to fix this before it gets out of hand and Cain instead by this time. He waits for a moment where he invites his brother out to a field. You know literally takes the life of his own brother. Hopefully that isn't relatable to you. If it is God can still use you. And he can still forgive you most of us probably can't relate to the whole murder aspect of this though. But we can relate to we've been warned about something and we went and did it anyway and what I'm here to tell you is I see two main takeaways from this story. Two main takeaway is first God wants your best. Bring your best don't give in the leftovers don't give in the scraps. Bring your best and second we've all been warned. God gave us the law and the prophets he gave us the New Testament he has told us how to live. Out of us to do our own thing anyway. And ever leads. To the things we thought it was going to lead to we're all whenever we do our own thing we're like this is going to be better I like I I this is going to be the best. We'd never say this out loud most of the like what does God know I've got a plan right I know how this is going to work out and then things fall apart and we're like. Fully somebody want to warn me. As parents how many of you get tired of having that conversation why didn't you tell me I did like eighty five times in the last three days. What I'm saying is God is a perfect God but He sent us warnings. And we should heed them. Since crouching like a lion at our door what is it in your life that you know if you keep walking down the road you're walking on right now. Things that you don't want to happen are going to happen. You've been warned maybe by your friends. And it's not just like somebody who skippered you know some people give warnings because they're afraid of the whole world that we're talking about they gave you good counsel or God's been nudging you to make a difference maybe some of you have something you need to confess. Maybe some of you have started down a path that you you know where the end runs you've battled it before and you're walking right down the same path right now what God would say I truly believe this sin is crouching at your door like a lie. And it's waiting to devour you. But it doesn't have to been need again. And make it right it's not a difficult lesson but it can be really hard to apply the concept isn't hard most of us have been hearing it since we were children but it's difficult to live out day in and day out so we're going to close our service today I want you to know if you're in this place and you never chosen Jesus before he's here. We sang about it. As we were as we were going through our our our worship through music time we sang about how Jesus died on a cross. Once and for all and now we can be saved and that's true that's what the Bible teaches us that's a really simple. Structure of the gospel message. You have to do anything to earn it Jesus already paid the price the Bible tells us that becoming a Christian is actually pretty simple we acknowledge were sinners we believe in Jesus we confess our sins to him and we are saved and if you're in this place and you've never done that before. You want to tell you this is the best decision you could ever make and we're going to make time for that to happen in just a moment OK And you can go ahead and think about that for some of you in this place. You've been serving Jesus and you've been doing a good job you know you've been doing your best to follow God but you would say one of those two things apply to me I've not been giving him my best consistently or since crouching at my door. I know I've begun a process that is going to lead to bad things. And it's time to repent. I know that word can be harsh but it's the word we have it means to ask for forgiveness and then do your best to not go back to it it's one right right most of us as parents again there's a difference between being sorry and repenting right your kids says they're sorry when you

catch them pulling their sister's hair but then they do it soon as you turn around again right that's being sorry. But it's not repentance. Repentance is saying sorry and then doing your best to not do it again. Right. And that's what God asks of us not to be perfect you will still make mistakes just like me I would love to sit up here as your pastor be like yeah I got it all figured out but that would be a lie and then I wouldn't be perfect I have room to grow I still make mistakes it's not about perfection it's about doing our best to live the life God would have of us all right and that requires repentance and some of you might be in that place today so here's what we're going to do if you never chosen Jesus in a moment I would have people bother heads close your eyes and ask you to raise your hand I'm going to pray with you we're not going to call you up here we're not going to make you do those kind of things there's a Bible and accept talks about we should not make it hard for the gentiles who are coming to Christ and I just believe that that applies we want to make it as simple as possible for you to follow Jesus living for God that takes things like what we're about to do a little later today it's not always easy to live for Jesus but it's really easy to choose all right and so we're going to give you a chance to do that. If you're in here and you fit in one of those other two categories you have not been offering God your best. Or you know that. That that you started that journey. It's not going anywhere good we're going in the service a little different I want to ask our board members and their spouses to come up here again just kind of sit in the front row OK Our leadership team and their spouses and ask you to come to the front and just sit in this front row. And after I pray for those who may want to receive Jesus for the first time we're going to open up this altar if you need to go you can go OK we're not going to twist your arm and make you stay or anything like that if you're in this place and you know you have some work to do today God may be speaking to you want you to pray there's people up here for you if you want to pray for somebody or pray with somebody OK you have to you can do business with God where you're sitting and that's OK. But I don't courage you there's something about speaking something out loud that helps us follow through there's something about going to somebody and saying yeah I need help here that helps us follow through so I'd encourage you to come forward and if you don't have to go right to someone if you want to just come to this altar that's fine somebody come up behind you in my hand on their show on your shoulder and probably input and pray with. So I want to end today so I can ask you about your heads and close your eyes this morning. And ask that first question is there anybody in here corrected you start some music just slightly plain to. Thank you. If there's anybody in here you've never accepted Jesus before but this morning you're ready. This is new to you but you're here today and God has been drawn you got has been speaking to you and you know this morning that you're not where you need to be with Jesus you're not right with Christ and for the very first time you would like to ask for forgiveness and repent of your sins is there anybody in here at all that's you today and you're ready to choose Jesus I'd like you to raise your hand and I want to pray with you again I'm not going to call you up here and embarrass you. I just want to pray with you is there anybody out there at all he can wait for a moment I don't like to operate out of here. All right so I'm going to pray all right you can look at me. He's going to pray. And if you have some business you need to do it God I challenge you to do it this morning don't leave this place and be like I'll do it at home. You know yourself probably won't. I mean this probably won't. Get it done before you go. Right if you got some business maybe it has nothing to do with what I talked about this morning. But you know you just need to meet with Jesus. Come and pray. But if I pray or when I pray if you've got if you're if you need to go. Free to go. Let's do some business with Jesus thank. God you're good. I thank you for your work I thank you God that we can read a story from the depths of time like Cain and Abel. And apply it to our life today. And I think you for the work that you have done in me for the work that you've done and so many people here as you have brought us to your feet and we have chosen you and we can be made right with. God For some of us. There's some business that needs done this morning and I pray that you help us to be honest enough with the we are. Good. Thank you for warning us before we fall off the river. Thank you for showing us that our heart matters more than our offering. Help us to be genuine. You know let's go in there. You go if you go don't leave without doing business with Jesus this morning.