

**Devotion, Week of February 22, 2026—Lent 1**  
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“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.” *Genesis 4:7*

We know this story well. This is what God says to Cain after the two brothers have brought their offerings and God has looked favorably on Abel’s, but not Cain’s. Cain is the oldest, and has brought an offering of grain, while Abel raises sheep and has brought an offering of prime meat. We don’t know why God ignores Cain’s offering. Sometimes I sarcastically think that God just wanted a lamb burger that day!

Cain is very angry, and God asks him why, along with the verse above. But we do know that Cain gets so angry that he lures Abel into the fields and kills him. I never have quite understood God’s question – “If you do well, will you not be accepted?” Hasn’t he done well by bringing an offering of grain to the Lord? Or is this purely a warning because God knows that he has murder in his heart for his younger brother? If so, he has given Cain an opportunity to get over the anger and avoid murder. Which, of course, he does not.

During Lent, we would do well to remember the statement that sin is lurking at the door for us, because it DESIRES us. I don’t think about that often – that sin is not only waiting for me, but WANTS me to violate God’s desires for me. So I am reminded that God also desires me, and it is my task to turn to God, away from sin, and trust God to lead me and take care of me. May you remember that this week as you travel with Jesus on his road to Jerusalem.

*Jeanne*