



MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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STILL SPEAKING

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Hebrews 11:4
By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.*

Not a single word that he spoke is recorded in Scripture. He is not identified as a prophet, preacher, or speaker, yet the Bible affirms that Abel still spoke even after he died. This cryptic statement in Hebrews 11:4 references the aftermath of the first violent crime recorded in Scripture.

Genesis 3:1-12 records the tragic account of the first murder in the universe. Adam's sons Cain and Abel offered sacrifices to God. God rejected Cain's sacrifice but accepted Abel's. This made Cain so angry that he seethed, schemed, and cold-

bloodedly murder his younger brother with malice aforethought. In our court system today, he would be guilty of Murder One. God confronts Cain by inquiring after his brother's whereabouts. Cain flippantly (or arrogantly) replied that he did not and should not know because he was not his brother's keeper (verse 9). God silenced Cain's arrogance by informing him that his brother's blood was crying out to Him from the very ground that drank it up. The author of Hebrews used that tragic event to remind us that those who live – and speak – for God whether by words or actions cannot be silenced even in death.

What a glorious truth! Every one of us will succumb to death at some point if Christ doesn't return before. The things we know and talked about generally die with us. But we can leave an enduring influence by sharing biblical truth with those within our circle. Our lifestyles and words can be so impactful that they can still affect those with whom we interacted. The interesting truth is that Abel made no intentional effort to say or do

something lasting. He simply lived his life in faith and obedience to God. You and I can live lives that transcend death simply by consistently surrendering to God. Even if our voices are stilled by violence as Abel's was, our message can still resound in the hearts and lives of those we touched. They will remember how we lived. They will remember what we said. They will remember the values we embraced. These memories will be like voices in the depths of their being calling them and reminding them to live the way God intended.

May God help us to live in such a way that it may be said of us after our passing: Even being dead he/she still speaks. And may our "speech" be such that leads others into a closer walk with God.

God bless you,
Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

OCT 10

Join us via Zoom video
Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

OCT 13

In-person at church.
For teens ages 13 and over

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

OCT 15

Join us in-person at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

OCT 15

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service
Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

GROWTH GROUPS
THU & FRI @ 7 PM

OCT 12 & OCT 13

Restarting soon.
In-person at church.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

OCT 15

In-person service and Livestreaming on Facebook, Youtube and our webpage.

- Church's Quarterly Business meeting will be October 15th immediately following the morning service.
- Growth Groups continue this week at 7pm at church. Sign up at the Information Counter or online to attend one convenient to you. Preparation questions are available at the Information Counter or on our website.
- Anthony Bonito is to be accepted into membership shortly. If you have any comments, please see Pastor James.
- Joe Kirschbaum is to be accepted into membership shortly. If you have any comments, please see Pastor James.
- Men's Retreat at New Life Island this Friday & Saturday, October 13-14th. See Ted for details. No Men's Fellowship this Saturday as a result.
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 3:15 at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- Bible Reading plans for 2023 are available at the Information Center. Also, read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings via the link on our website.

QUICK TIPS ON WAYS TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Traditional during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!