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Introduction:

1. Hebrews chapter eleven is typically referred to as the chapter of faith. In this chapter we find great men and women from the Old Testament. We have already read about the lives of some of these people like Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses.
2. But at the top of this list is the man by the name of Abel, [Hebrews 11:4](#). His life is briefly mentioned in [Genesis 4:2-5](#). Yet, the Hebrew writer said that while Abel is dead he still speaks. That's kind of an odd statement, don't you think? How is it that a dead man is able to still speak? Certainly, we understand that this is not to be taken literally, but figuratively. Here's what it means. Through the life of Abel and his walk with God, there are some lessons for us to learn and follow. In that sense, Abel still speaks. But what exactly is Abel saying that we need to know?
3. That's what we are going to talk about this morning. Since we are told that he still speaks, it means that we need to listen to what he has to say. Let's see what Abel is saying.

The Lesson:

**I. How we live matters.**

- A. The choices that Abel made in his life continue to impact thousands of lives centuries later.
  1. Abel was doing something right in his life. We know that it mattered because he made the hall of faith in [Hebrews 11](#). I wonder just how much he knew how his daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly choices would have such an impact on others. Whether he knew then, it's clear that Abel is speaking and telling us that how we live does matter.
  2. That's a scary thing to consider. The conduct of a person may affect one, ten, one hundred, one thousand, or a number of people that we can't even imagine in a positive or negative way. Abel's life has been able to impact others in a positive way. Sadly, the Bible shows us the lives of others who have influenced others in a negative way.
    - a. The actions of Miriam in [Numbers 12:1-4, 15](#) when she and Aaron challenged the authority of Moses affected the entire nation. Miriam probably did not think that what she and Aaron did would impact so many lives. Israel was delayed in their journey for one week. How we live matters!
    - b. The actions of ten individuals in [Numbers 13:31](#) literally changed an entire nation. How they conducted themselves impacted the entire nation for forty years. These ten spies knew that their words would impact the people, but maybe not as bad as they eventually did. How we live matters!
    - c. The actions of Adam and Eve in the garden allowed sin to enter into the world, [Genesis 3:1-7](#). Do you think Adam and Eve knew how many lives they would impact? How we live matters!
  3. Because Abel followed God in his life, he was able to leave behind a good legacy. Cain left a legacy too. But it was a bad one. Do you get the point? How we live matters.
- B. Abel left behind a good legacy. What type of legacy will we leave behind?
  1. Imagine if your life was written in a book. What would people read about you? Would they see words that described Abel like faith and righteous in your book? Or would our book read more like Cain's life? I would be embarrassed with some chapters in my book. Would you feel the same? There's good news for us.
  2. The book of our lives is not finished because we are still alive. There are still chapters that have not been written. Our book may have some bad chapters in it, but it can still have a happy ending when we live righteously. The personal choices we make in life (with our families, neighbors, friends, and brethren) will impact others for better or for worse.
    - a. Husband's who listen to [Ephesians 5:25](#) and treat their wives right will leave behind a good legacy for their sons on how to treat a woman, and for their daughters for the type of man to marry. But the abusive, cold, short tempered father will leave a poor legacy behind that sadly his children might follow.
    - b. Parents who don't forsake the assembly, [Hebrews 10:25](#), will leave behind a good legacy for their children and how they should follow God. But parents who rarely show up to worship, and don't do their lessons, are leaving a poor legacy that their children might follow.

- c. Parents who listen to passages like [Proverbs 22:7](#) that teach about finances will leave a good legacy for their children. But those who don't might lead their children into financial disaster.
  - d. Older brothers and sisters in Christ who take the challenge in [Titus 2:1-7](#) to teach the younger men and women how to grow in their walk with God will leave a good legacy behind. But the brethren who sit on the side line and simply point the finger instead of helping a person in their faith will leave behind a poor legacy.
3. I felt so bad one day in college. My Christian roommate and I had some friends over at our apartment. As the night went on our friends found out that we were Christians. One of them responded by saying, "I would have never thought you two were Christians." Do you see the problem? How we live matters! This is what Abel is saying to us. The question for us is, are we listening? I pray that we do.

## II. How we worship matters.

- A. Abel's sacrifice was said to be more pleasing to God than Cain's.
- 1. In [Genesis 4:3-5](#) we see that one day Abel and Cain came to worship God. They both brought sacrifices. Yet, God respected Abel's sacrifice and not Cain's. Abel's sacrifice was a more excellent sacrifice. Why was his more acceptable? It could have been that God required an animal sacrifice, which Abel brought. It could have been that his attitude was better than that of Cain.
  - 2. What we do know is this. Everything Abel did was by faith. We learn how faith comes, [Romans 10:17](#). This means Abel obeyed God's instructions and Cain did not.
  - 3. What Abel is saying is that how men worship God matters. It mattered then, in the days of Moses, [Exodus 25:9](#), in the days of the apostles, [Acts 2:42](#), and it matters today.
- B. But the world often says that it doesn't matter how we worship God.
- 1. If people want to have a choir, a band, or a praise team in their worship, it's all the same to God. That's what many think. These are lies of the devil! It does matter to God.
  - 2. Abel's worship was pleasing because it was by faith. Ours will be the same when we worship God by faith. Our faith is to come from His word, [Romans 10:17](#). In the New Testament scriptures we find what is pleasing to God when we worship Him.
    - a. By faith we are to worship on the first day of the week, [Acts 20:7](#). This is not church of Christ doctrine. It's what the Bible teaches.
    - b. By faith we give as we prosper on the first day of the week, [1 Corinthians 16:1-3](#). This isn't church of Christ doctrine. It's what the Bible teaches.
    - c. By faith we take the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, [Acts 20:7](#). It's funny that many preachers will make sure the collection plate is passed each first day of the week. But they offer the Lord's Supper once a year. This is not a church of Christ doctrine. It's what the Bible teaches.
    - d. By faith we make prayers to God and teach from the scriptures, [Acts 2:42](#). This isn't a church of Christ doctrine. It's what the Bible teaches.
    - e. By faith we all sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, [Hebrews 2:10](#); [Colossians 3:16](#). This is something we all do. The use of choirs can't be done by faith, because all are to sing. One can't have faith in instrumental music, because it's not the prescribed music in the New Testament.
  - 3. Our worship must be according to truth, [John 4:24](#). This also includes our attitude. If our heart is not in it, then our worship is futile to God. This is what Abel is saying. But are we listening? Brethren, let's not be deceived by the world. How we worship matters to God!

### Conclusion:

- 1. This is what Abel is saying. But are we listening? We need to listen to this great man.
- 2. Jesus described Abel as a righteous man, [Matthew 23:35](#). What will Jesus say about us? If we listen to Abel, He will say the same thing.