

The Father within

Malachi 4:5-6

Behold I will send you Elijah the Prophet
Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord
And he will turn
The hearts of the fathers to the children
And the hearts of the children to their fathers
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.

What makes a father a father?

Matthew 3

'And do not think to yourselves 'we have Abraham as our father. For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.'

Just because we call someone father doesn't mean they are.

Father – is someone who asks you to do something that you don't want to do but you do it anyway because of who is asking.

Children are raised up.

Everyone of us have fathers. Everyone of us have children to raise up.

If God is turning the hearts of the father to the sons and the hearts of the sons to the fathers then we need to know who are our fathers and who are we fathers to.

Who is your father?

Who do you listen to in your world? Who is able to talk straight to your world? Who in your world will you heed when they ask you to do something that you don't want to do? Who in your world has the ability and authority to say no to you and you make the choose to agree to with them?

Fathers aren't meant to be mushy, compassionate people all the time. They are meant to call it as they see it. Say it as it is. Hold you accountable.

Fathers lay their lives down, giving up their time to hold you accountable.

A father does not need to be in the next generation.

Who are your children?

Who is listening to you? Who are you laying down your life for?

Who are you giving time right now? How far will you go to for those you lead?

Malachi 4

A very powerful passage. A powerful passage about the end times. We live in the last days and this passage is speaking to us. We need to listen to its voice otherwise we may end up wondering why things are not turning out for us. (the curse of the earth will come).

Maybe just maybe we have failed to heed the voice of God to us.

Some points

1. The Prophetic voice will always arise before God comes.

The prophetic voice has been rising again in the church.

The true prophetic voice has one overriding purpose and that is to restore, mend, alter, fix, change relationships. It is not here to condemn, or moan, or challenge authority, it is here to get people into right relationship with each other.

I have often wondered about this. Why doesn't the prophetic voice speak about our relationship with God? Because it is already been dealt with through the perfect work of Jesus. He restored our relationship with God. The voice of the people must be to point people to God. The voice of the prophetic is to get our relationships right.

The Holy Spirit knows that God made us right with Him. But he knows that we need to get it right with each other.

2. We need our hearts turned. (changed)

We need to learn how to turn our lives to different generations.

It is not just a matter of the old people turning their lives to the young. It is not just a matter of the young people turning their lives to the old. **It is from one generation to another. Even from one part of the generation to another.**

Turning our hearts is an attitude change. It's a change of thinking. As a man thinks so is he.

How can my heart turn towards the other?

1. Pray for them.
2. Believe in them
 - a. Have a belief in them that says they will be fine.
 - b. People do more when we believe in them
 - c. People need others to believe in them.
3. Talk with them-
 - a. Don't be silent. Don't leave church straight away, go and spend time with people.
 - b. Don't remain isolated
 - c.
4. Stop being selfish
 - a. Too often we just focus on ourselves.
 - b. We ask what's in this for me.
 - c. Even comments like, 'I cant hang out with them because my friends wont hang with them'. It smacks of selfishness.

d. We are never too old to be selfish

My heart breaks when I hear comments like... they are too young to understand, I don't think I want to hang out with them because they are too young; I wish they were not in my group cause I don't know what to say to them; I wish we had things like before it changes too much;

Its wrong – I wonder have we so quickly forgotten what some people did for us as we grew up. Have we forgotten that some people laid down their time, their dollars, their petrol, their friends, their styles to embrace ours? Have we forgotten what was done for us?

Lets not be selfish – lets embrace all generations.

Fathers to sons- mothers to daughters

We all need people in our lives who can father/mother us. We all need to be fathers and mothers to others. We need to rise up and be something to someone.

The deal is not based on age, but rather its based on finding the father inside of us. Or finding the mother inside each of us.

One thing to realize is that you do not get to choose your natural father? You don't get to choose your natural son?

Fathers are not born, they are built. Sons are born and built into fathers.

So many people get caught up trying to discover their father, when God is saying find the father within. He says 'I will turn the hearts of the fathers to the sons'. Let our prayer be **'Father make the father in me come out'**.

Word of Advice:

Don't complain about your father, your son, build them.

Do you know the father in you? Do you know the mother in you?

A father

- Makes decisions
- Provides
- Holds you to something - accountability

A mother

- Builds respect
- Builds families
- Gives birth – brings the potential out in people.

Turn the hearts

I use to think it was just the sons who had to have their hearts turned. But it is a two way street. We need to allow our hearts to be turned to another generation, another group.

Will you allow God to turn your heart?