

- Father's Day 2021 - Malachi 4:6 - Heart of the Problem

- Intro – We have been LOTH the past few weeks. Intention was to have Mothers/Fathers Day as the bookends for LOTH (order interrupted by convention -tweaked content but still in preparation mode.) Deborah was national mother that prepared her people for her day and fathers have a responsibility to prepare their families for judgment day. Judgment Day can be postponed and its inevitability prepared for by a right heart attitude regarding fatherhood. Judgment can also be hastened, and heaped, up with a wrong heart about fatherhood. There can be a connection between Fathers Day and Judgment Day.

- From our text we are going to try and notice: An Admonition to Fathers,
The Admiration of Fathers, Decimation without Fathers Reconciliation with Fathers

- AN ADMONITION TO FATHERS

- Fathers bear a tremendous responsibility. They are to reflect the image of God the Father
 - All individuals will give an account to God but men and fathers have been given an exalted position and bear a particular responsibility. (much given/much required)
 - Adam bears the blame, not Eve Adam brought the curse to earth
 - The sins of the fathers effect the family more pointedly.
 - As the Head, the father is responsible to God and will answer to God
- Mal. 4:6a as sinful fathers we have a heart problem
 - Our sin has corrupted us to the core. We need restored hearts
 - Societal ills can't be successfully addressed from the outside.
 - The *heart* of the problem is a heart problem Eccles. 9:3 Jer. 17:9
- “restore the hearts of the fathers to their children”
 - A sinful/selfish heart will lead a dad to neglect children for present/personal fulfillment
 - A restored heart focuses and on the children and their future...eternal future
 - A resorted heart of a father beats for the betterment of his children
- *Restored heart work is passing on the faith work*
 - Gen. 18:19 Deut. 4:9-10 Deut. 6:6-9
 - Godly Jobs heart was for his kids souls (Job 1:5) Ps. 78:5-8
 - The admonition to fathers is the bring up their kids and grandkids in the fear and admonition of the Lord Eph. 6:4
 - Fathers cannot ensure that their kids hold fast to the faith but they can ensure that they hear the faith. Talk about our most holy faith and apply it to every area of life
 - Deut. 6:6-9 - discipleship is daily life lived in the faith. (Judges 2:10)

- Fathers, we are responsible to God for our families and we should reflect God to our families. God the Father instructs His rebellious kids and calls them to the right path and godly fathers ought to constantly instruct in the way of holiness – by word & deed

- THE ADMIRATION OF FATHERS

- Dads are needed and should be respected. Honor your father...is the 5th commandment
 - Society often represents dads as dispensable doofuses. Atlantic “are fathers necessary?” NYT - “What are fathers for?” HuffingPost -“Fathers are not needed”
- The message has been received and so many dads are absent and feel unwanted/unnecessary
 - There is a heart problem regarding the estimation of fathers
 - Fathers are needed. Dads are indispensable. We are made for a fathers love
 - The hearts of the children need to be turned to their fathers (not away from their fathers)
- Mothers should encourage children to honor their fathers
 - Children often reflect the mothers attitude toward their father
 - That is often transposed to God the Father
 - When dads are seen as dispensable and denigrated by moms/society - kids pick it up
 - Unconditional respect given to a husband/father is just as important as unconditional love received from a husband and father
 - Men yearn to be admired by their wives and children. Disrespect engenders disconnect
- Mal. 1:6a
 - God demands honor as The Father. Human fathers are to honored as well
 - What is your heart attitude toward fathers/fatherhood? Admiration or condemnation?

- DECIMATION WITHOUT FATHERS

- When the admonition to fathers is not heeded, and the admiration of fathers is rejected - then an inevitable decimation is invited. Malachi 4:6c
 - When the bond of fatherhood is broken a curse is invited
- Judgment day is preceded by a fatherless society. When fatherhood is shunned a curse comes.
 - There is a link between Father’s Day and Judgment Day Malachi 4:5-6
 - We live in a day where there is a full frontal assault on God’s created order
 - Gender, Marriage, Family, Work, Worship
 - No better way to decimate a land than to denigrate dads
- When rebellion against fatherhood is prolific you can be sure that behind it is rejection of God the Father. The Fathers word, work and order are rejected. The Father is rejected
 - Sin against The Father brought a curse.
 - Sins against the fathers, and sins of the fathers, brings a curse as well
- Don’t shun fatherhood or The Father. This life, and the next, won’t be the same without them.

- RECONCILIATION WITH FATHERS

- We were made to be loved by, and have fellowship with, a father...and The Father (1 John 1:3)
 - We all know, and can feel, the void that only a father can fill

- Our “daddy issues” declare that dad are indispensable
 - But broken relationships are reconcilable
- Let me encourage reconciliation with your father – maybe not possible but pray about it
 - Maybe you need to be reconciled to your kids. (heart attitude in these areas?)
- Not all dads are good dads and no dad is a perfect dad...but there is ONE Perfect DAD
 - How is your relationship with God the Father?
 - It can only be had in His Son. By the Spirit we can say “Abba , Father”