

Malachi 4:5-6 - Father's Day 2024

Intro - Many of our special holidays are scheduled on SONdays. Since this Lord's Day doubles as Father's Day, I figure that it is good for us to hear what God the Father says about fathers. The 5th commandment - "*Honor your father...live long...*" Fathers & fatherhood are not to be demeaned or treated lightly. Fathers are to be honored for their weighty position. Fathers hold a high position and have a holy calling. Fathers have a tremendous responsibility to try and emulate our Heavenly Father. God has revealed Himself as "*Father*" and men are called to be godly in their fathering. Let me begin where I ended on Mother's Day - "*all women are made to mother someone*" so too "*all men were formed to father someone.*" Boys should be in training & preparing to be a father. Young men should be practicing to be a father with a goal of attaining being a father. For all men have the special calling to be a father to someone. God made men to father. Men are designed to be a dad to someone. And you don't have to have kids of your own to be a father to someone. Boys become men when they learn to "*father.*" Boys are provided for by others and protected by others, but Fathers are men because they provide for others and they protect others. Fathers are givers. Fathers spend their life and give their life in the service of other people. Our society needs what only fathers can give. Communities, societies and entire countries are cursed when men are not fathers and when fathers are not honored ^{Mal. 4:6}. Today I want to call on all of us to honor fathers. We must do this if we are to live long in the land. But I want to call the men (both young & old) to be fathers. Men, you were Divinely designed to be a dad so I hope you leave here more motivated to father someone. God has placed someone in your path to father. So let us look to God the Father as our model for being a father.

PROVIDER

- One of the basic elements to being a father is being a provider. Fathers are providers
 - God the Father is our Provider
 - James 1:17 Phil. 4:19 Jehovah Jirah - Gen. 22:14 - The Lord our Provider
 - We pray to The Father who is our *Provider*, and we give our *Provider* honor
 - Matt. 6:8-9
 - We ask God the Father to provide physical & spiritual needs
 - Human fathers are to reflect this - provide for physical & spiritual needs
- Fathers are to provide for the physical needs of others
 - Men are called to work...
 - ...not selfishly work for themselves but to selflessly work for others.
 - The goal in work is not personal accumulation but for others provision
 - Eph. 4:8 a man's purpose is to work to provide for others - fathers are made to be givers
 - 1 Tim. 5:8
- Fathers are to provide for the moral & spiritual needs of others. Bring home the bacon & the Bible
 - Eph. 6:4 1 Thess. 2:11-12
 - Gen. 18:19 Ps. 78:5-8 (Prov. 1-9 = Father/son talk)

PROTECTOR

- Fathers are called to provide & protect because *God the Father* is our provider & protector
 - God is described as our “*Shield*” at least 20 times in scripture
 - Gen. 15:1
 - Abram had just fought to defend Lot and rescue the inhabitants of Sodom
 - Abram was their “shield” and God reminds him that He is his ***Shield***.
 - “*O worship the King...our shield and defender the Ancient of Days...*”
- Men are designed by God to be defenders and protectors
 - T. Roosevelt account in Doug Wilson book “*Future Men*”
 - TR was a Sunday school teacher while at Harvard...boy comes to class with a black eye...fighting on Sunday (extra no-no)...bigger boy had pinched his sister... he defended his sister and fought the bigger boy...TR gave the brave boy a dollar ...the Sunday School director relieved TR of his duties (shouldn't have - good lesson)
 - Men are made to protect, and boys should be trained to protect
 - 1 Chron. 19:13 - men are to be the shields and defenders of society
 - Senate Armed Service Committee recently recommend women for draft
 - Men/fathers are to protect women & children...not hide behind them
 - Men who use human shields ^(Hamas) are cowards
- Men are to be the protector in the family/society...not the attacker
 - Domestic violence is a sad commentary on man's depravity.
 - Random attacks on women in broad daylight - (jury duty - never hit a woman)
 - Men should not be the attackers of the weak but he protectors of the weak
- Men have the responsibility to father the fatherless and care for the
 - Ps. 68:4-5
 - We are to defend the fatherless and care for the widow because there is no father to protect and provide for them. James 1:27
- Fathers are to protect others physically and spiritually
 - “*...deliver us from evil...*”
 - Fathers protect from destructive doctrines/ideologies/deceptions. (protect sheep)

PROGENITOR

- ❖ Fathers are Progenitors - the most significant factor for the next generation
 - Founding fathers....church fathers
 - Those who pave the way...are the example to follow - prototype
 - Men are to be at the head of the line and be a good example as we lead the way.
 - “Follow me as I follow God” 1 Cor. 11:1
 - M. Clary - “the single biggest indicator for adult success...is the presence of a father”
 - Pres. Obama - “We know the statistics - that children who grow up without a father are five time more likely to live in poverty and commit crime; nine times more likely to drop out of school and 20 times more likely to end up in prison. They are more likely to have behavioral problems, or run away from home or become teenage parents themselves. And the foundations of our community are weaker because of it”
- ❖ Malachi 4:6 1 Cor. 4:15
 - Who are you providing for.... Who are your protecting....
 - Who are you fathering? Men, you were formed to father someone