

Healing the Wound of Fatherlessness

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Session 1: The Impact of Fatherlessness

I. The End Time Prophecy of Malachi

1. Father Issues Predicted by Malachi

- *Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord*
Mal 4:6 And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse
 - Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament
 - This is the last statement of the Old Testament
 - Traditionally it refers to the ministry of John the Baptist (Matt 11:4; Matt 3:2)
- It also has applications to the End Times and preparing for the coming of Jesus

2. The Problem?

- The hearts of the fathers had turned away from their children
 - The fathers had abandoned their responsibilities towards their children
 - When a father's heart turns away or becomes shut down towards his child, the child knows instinctively that something is wrong
- The heart desires to be known, to be safe, to be loved
 - The pain children experience by father neglect or father love causes long term affects upon children
 - Resentment, bitterness and unforgiveness develop towards their fathers

3. The Promise

- *"I will turn the hearts of the fathers towards their children"*
 - When the hearts of the fathers have turned away from their children, the children develop long term emotional, and spiritual wounds
- God's promise through Malachi of heart transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit
 - This is a promise of Healing of Broken Hearts
 - *Ps 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and buns up their wounds*
 - This is a key part of Jesus ministry (Luke 4:18)
 - It is a promise of Restoration of God's order in the Father / Child relationships

4. The Root is Spiritual

- The root of the problem is spiritual and therefore needs a spiritual solution
 - The root of the problem of Fatherlessness is demonic defilement and destruction
- The reference to Elijah indicates that the problem has been caused by the impact of a Demonic Principality known as the **Spirit of Jezebel or the Queen of Heaven**
 - This principality had disrupted Israel and destroyed its culture by:
 - Idolatry, demonic substitutes for God
 - Destruction of the Prophetic Voice
 - Corruption of Morality
 - Child sacrifice
 - Temple prostitution male and female
 - Destruction of male and female distinctive
 - Destruction of kingdom family design and order
 - Undermining gender distinction and roles
 - Destruction of Generational Legacy

II. Fatherlessness in End Times

1. What is meant by Fatherlessness?

- **Fatherlessness defined**
 - A Child whose Father has died or divorced, or abandoned his family
 - A Child whose Father is physically present, but is disconnected emotionally and relationally
- **Bible definition**
 - A child whose father has died or abandoned his family
 - To be Fatherless led to poverty, abuse and exploitation
 - Such a child is called in the Bible Fatherless, or an orphan

2. Throughout the Bible, God reveals Himself as a Father to the Fatherless

- **OT:**
- *Ps 68:5 A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation*
- *Deut 10:18 He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing*
- **NT:**
- *John 14:18 I will never leave you orphans; I will come to you*

3. The First Fatherless Person in the Bible

- **Lucifer was the first person to become Fatherless**
 - He was known like other Angels as a “Son of God” (Job 1:6)

- When he led a rebellion against his Father, he became an orphan (Is 14:12)
- His whole nature changed from being Lucifer (Light bearer, Shining One)
- He became Satan (*The Adversary*) and the devil (*Diablos, the false accuser*)
- **Adam was the first human being to become Fatherless**
- Satan desired to steal and destroy what he coveted the most
 - He desired to destroy Adam's relationship with God as His Father
 - He wanted Adam and humanity to suffer as he does, the pain of Fatherlessness
- **Adam was known as The Son of God (Luke 3:38)**
 - When Adam sinned against his Father, he lost all his sonship privileges
 - He experienced Guilt, Shame and Fear
 - His heart turned away from his Father to hide
- **Adam became Fatherless**
- Gen 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife **hid themselves from the presence** of the LORD God among the trees of the garden
Gen 3:9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"
Gen 3:10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden and I was **afraid** because I was **naked**; and I **hid** myself."
 - He became an Orphan spiritually, separated from his Father by his sin
 - Adam's legacy to the world was spiritual Fatherlessness
- **The world became a great spiritual orphanage**
 - Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

III. Statistics on Fatherlessness in NZ

1. The Impact on Boys of being Fatherless

1. Family Structure in NZ

- Nearly 1 in 3 children in New Zealand live in Fatherless homes
- 49.8% of all births were to unmarried parents (2022)

2. Youth Offending

- 65% of youth offenders in Christchurch were not living with their father (Source Menz.org.nz)
- In West Auckland, 90% of youth who had police involvement came from fatherless homes (Source Menz.org.nz)

3. Criminal Behaviour

- Boys raised without fathers are:
 - 14 times more likely to commit rape
 - 20 times more likely to end up in prison (Source menz.org.nz)

4. Suicide Risk

- 63% of youth suicides occur in young people from father-absent homes
- Boys without fathers are 5 times more likely to die by suicide compared to those without an involved father (Source menz.org.nz)

5. Educational Impact

- 71% of High school dropouts come from fatherless homes
- Boys without a father are 9 times more likely to drop out of high school (Source menz.org.nz)

6. Mental Health

- Boys from father-absent homes are significantly more likely to experience depression, anxiety and low emotional resilience
- While a specific New Zealand percentage wasn't found, global statistics suggest boys from fatherless homes are 2-3 times more prone to serious mental health issues
- Boys from fatherless homes are 10 times more likely to abuse substances like drugs and alcohol (Source menz.org.nz)

2. The Impact Upon Girls of being Fatherless

1. Poverty and Family Structure

- 49.8% of all births in NZ (2022) were to unmarried parents, with many children raised in single-mother households
- Children in fatherless homes are more likely to experience poverty and material hardship, especially Maori and Pasifika children
- Amongst Maori, only 20% of babies are now born to married parents – down from 72% in 1968 (Source Family First NZ)

2. Teen Pregnancy and Early Sexual Activity

- 7 to 8 times more likely: Girls whose fathers were absent before age 5 are 700-800% more likely to become pregnant as teenagers

- 2 to 3 times more likely: Girls whose fathers left between ages 6-13 are 200-300% more likely to experience teen pregnancy (Source: Father & Child Foundation)

3. Mental Health

- While New Zealand-specific percentages for girls are limited, boarder studies (including those cited in NZ reports) suggest:
 - Girls from fatherless homes are 2 to 3 times more likely to suffer from depression and anxiety
 - This aligns with global research where up to 68% of girls in psychiatric care report father absence or emotional unavailability (Sources: NZ Herald, International Studies)

4. Educational Impact

- Though not gender-specific in current NZ data, general findings show:
 - 71% of school dropouts come from fatherless homes
 - 63% of youth suicides are from father-absent families
 - These numbers apply to both boys and girls, though girls tend to internalize (e.g. depression, anxiety), while boys externalize (e.g. aggression, violence)

5. Accelerated Puberty

- One Christchurch study showed girls from fatherless homes reached menarche (first menstruation) an average of 6-12 months earlier than peers with involved fathers
- Early puberty has been linked to increased risk of sexual activity, depression and body image issues (Source: University of Canterbury Research)

IV. The Promise through Malachi

- *Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD*
Mal 4:6 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
- This passage indicates that there will be massive spiritual warfare against families in the End-times
 - The core of the problem of fatherlessness is the broken and hardened heart of fathers
 - A result of this is widespread despising and dishonoring by children of their fathers
- **When families break down, then society also breaks down**
 - Since the root of the issue of Fatherlessness is spiritual, the remedy must be spiritual
 - God promises an outpouring of His Holy Spirit in the end-times

- The Church must move in the Anointing and Power of the Holy Spirit to restore broken hearts and lives
- This was at the core of Jesus Assignment and Anointing (Luke 4:18)

V. Application

1. What impacted you the most in this message?
2. What changes have you observed in culture in relation to Fathers and their importance?
3. Why is Heart Transformation so important if change is to take place?

