# **Society Changing Fathers**

Malachi 4:5–6; Luke 1:17

# Instructions

• Will you take your Bibles and turn to Malachi 4:5–6 and Luke 1:17?

• Please search the Scriptures with us. We’re in the New Testament, which is in the last quarter of the Bible. Don’t be afraid to use your index.

• If you don’t have a Bible but have a smartphone, you can download the Y-O-U Version Bible App. Once you download it, you can go to the “More” tab, tap “Events,” and find Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, and you can see the Scripture, notes, quotes, and references.

# Context

In the last book of the Old Testament, the prophet Malachi announces that Judgment Day is coming, the Day of the LORD, when Yahweh, the God of Israel, would execute justice, vindicating and restoring the righteous and punishing and destroying of the wicked. All of us are wicked sinners deserving of God’s judgment, but some of us will survive, helped by God’s preparatory proclaimer, Elijah.

# The Question

• How can we become society changing fathers?

# Bible Verse

**Malachi 4:5–6 CSB**

Look, I am going to send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible Day of the Lord comes.

And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

**1 Kings 18:37–39 (CSB)** **37**Answer me, Lord! Answer me so that this people will know that you, the Lord, are God and that you have turned their hearts back.” **38**Then the Lord’s fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. **39**When all the people saw it, they fell facedown and said, “The Lord, he is God! The Lord, he is God!”

**Luke 1:17 (CSB)** And he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to make ready for the Lord a prepared people.”

# Take-Home Truth

**Repentance unto \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**What are the biblical responsibilities of Christian fathers?**

1. **A Christian father \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for his own children.**

1 Timothy 5:8 (CSB) “But if anyone does not provide for his own family, especially for his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

1. **A Christian father \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his own children.**

Matthew 3:17 (CSB) And a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.”

Matthew 4:3–4 (CSB) Then the tempter approached him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” He answered, “It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

1. **A Christian father \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his own children.**

Ephesians 6:4 (CSB) Fathers, don’t stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

# Repent and be baptized.

Romans 3:23 (CSB) For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

It is a natural aspect of the human condition for any father to have things in his past that he regrets.

Repentance is an act of acknowledging past wrongdoing, expressing regret or contrition, changing one’s attitude toward one’s own sin, and committing to trust and obey Jesus. It is a transformative process that involves turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

Ephesians 1:7 (CSB) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

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Almighty God, be round about our homes, and may we know that our house is the house of God because of the love that is there. If any man would trouble his home, trouble him in return; vex his soul, send darkness upon his eyes, and drive away his malign purposes, and teach him he who would spoil a home would wreck heaven itself if he could. Look upon our fatherless and motherless ones; be with all who are in trouble of heart and dare not say so; and do this because we gather at the Cross, the Cross of Christ, —because we assemble on lovely, mournful Calvary. O Savior of the world, make us glad this day! Amen.