

"He shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children"

Malachi 4:6 and selected Scriptures

INTRODUCTION: Malachi 4:1-6

Too many fathers today have no time for their children.

(too pre-occupied with careers, money, houses, pleasures, etc.)

Examples of dads who neglected their sons:

David neglected Absalom when he needed attention. (II Sam. 14:23,24; 28)

Eli neglected Hophni and Phineas when they needed discipline. (I Sam. 2:12; 3:13)

Isaac neglected Jacob by showing favoritism to Esau. (Gen. 25:28)

(Note: Jacob would later follow suit and favor Joseph and Benjamin)

Samuel neglected his sons perhaps by being overly busy in the ministry.

(I Sam. 8:3, 5)

Manoah neglected Samson's need for self-control by catering to his unbiblical wants. (Jud. 14:1-3)

***Dad, isn't it time you paid more attention to your children?**

Observe three examples of fathers who had a heart for their families.

I. **Job** SACRIFICED for his family to BE RIGHT with God (Job 1:1-5)

II. **Abraham** TAUGHT his family to OBEY God (Gen. 18:19)

III. **Joshua** LED his family to SERVE God (Josh. 24:15)