

Fathered by God – Part 1 (9-1-2019)

Introduction: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (Talk with his dad)

Malachi 4:5-6 (ESV)

(5) "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. (6) And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Notes: There is a great need for Fathers, and they are all too often absent (see [Father Absence Statistics](#) chart)

This verse in Malachi was a prophecy pointing forward 400 years to John the Baptist . . .

Luke 1:16-17 (ESV)

(16) And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, (17) and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

Notes: John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, who came to meet this need . . . Jesus referred to God as Father 165 times in the Gospels compared to only 15 times in the entire OT (Prayer Series)

John 14:6-7, 18, 23 (ESV)

(6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (7) If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." . . . (18) I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you . . . (23) If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Notes: Jesus' offer to us regarding His Father:

A way to the Father, Know the Father, to be in his family, to be loved by him, to be at home with him.

A glimpse at our Father in Genesis . . .

Genesis 2:7-10 (ESV)

(7) Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (8) And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. (9) And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (10) A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.

- Vs. 7 - He formed us by hand, in his image, and breathed life into us . . .

Psalms 139:13 (ESV)

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

- Vs. 8 - He placed us in a garden. Nature & Adventure with safe boundaries. Room to play and explore!

American Society of Landscape Architects - Research on Boundaries:

A simple study was conducted to discover the effects of a fence around a playground and the consequent impact it would have on preschool children. Teachers were to take their children to a local playground in which there was no fence during their normal recess hour. The kids were to play as normal. The same group was to be taken to a comparable playground in which there was a defined border designated by a fence.

In the first scenario, the children remained huddled around their teacher, fearful of leaving out of her sight. The later scenario exhibited drastically different results, with the children feeling free to explore within the given boundaries.

The overwhelming conclusion was that with a given limitation, children felt safer to explore a playground

(See [Research on Boundaries](#))

- Vs. 9 - He provided for our needs & our enjoyment!

Genesis 2:15-17 (ESV)

(15) The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. (16) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, (17) but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Notes: Purpose & Structure

- Vs. 15 - He gave us purpose & function, to tend what He has given us (we are all stewards)
- Vs. 16-17 - He gave us a rule, a clear consequence for breaking it, and ultimately the freedom of choice.
- And we broke the rule . . . (Genesis chapter 3)

Genesis 3:7-9 (ESV)

(7) Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. (8) And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (9) But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

Notes: Notice 2 things God does . . .

- First, there is God's regular presence, and it doesn't stop because they messed up!
- The Father pursues us, even when we hide from Him!

Watch how God handles the fall-out . . .

Genesis 3:21-24 (ESV)

(21) And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. (22) Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" (23) therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. (24) He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Notes:

- He provided the covering for them
- He followed through on the consequences – for their own good! (Even death was a mercy)
- He was a perfect Father, and his kids blew it. So bad in fact that it caused the entire fall of mankind!

Conclusion: Jesus knows and loves His Father, and he longs to reveal Him to us. We need a good Father in our lives, and we need to learn from Him so we can be more like Him. My hope in this series is that we can be more aware of his presence and guidance in our lives, and that we could learn from the perfect Father how we can parent well.