

“Dadification”

June 21, 2026

Malachi 4:5-6

Sermon Points:

I. The Tension of Father’s Day

- **Acknowledge the Diverse Emotional Landscape:** Father’s Day can be a day of excitement or a day that brings up past hurts and disappointments.
- **The Healing Father:** For those carrying burdens of failed parenting or unfulfilled longings, the Heavenly Father sees this pain and offers healing and wholeness through His redemption plan.

II. The Concept of "Dadification"

- **Defining the Shift:** "Dadification" represents a cultural shift where fathers are increasingly expected to move beyond the "breadwinner" role to become active, hands-on, and emotionally nurturing parents.
- **The Standard and the Struggle:** While involved fatherhood is a blessing, many struggle with an "inner critic" or a sense of failure when they feel they do not meet these high standards.

III. Biblical Hope: Turning Hearts (Malachi 4:5-6)

- **Context of Hope:** The book of Malachi addresses spiritual apathy; its final words offer a message of hope before a long period of silence.
- **The Elijah Mission:** God promises to send "Elijah" to "turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers".
- **The Power of a Turned Heart:** Drawing from the spiritual showdown on Mount Carmel (**1 Kings 18:16-39**), the "Elijah" spirit is characterized by a plea for God to turn the hearts of His people back to Him.
- **Priority of Relationship:** At the core, God desires that our hearts first turn back to Him, regardless of our past brokenness.

IV. Practical Dadification: Intentionality and Time

- **Investment Through Presence:** Turning hearts requires unhurried, intentional time.
- **Quantity as Quality:** In the eyes of children, "quality time" is often understood as "quantity time"—being present in the mundane and the special moments.
- **Parenting as Spiritual Formation:** The act of turning hearts toward one another is a profound spiritual experience that mirrors our design to be in relationship with God.

V. The Core of Christian Parenting (Deuteronomy 6:20-25)

- **Sharing the Living Faith:** Parenting is ultimately about sharing the story of what God has done for us.

- **A Testimony of Deliverance:** When the next generation asks the meaning of God's laws, the response is a testimony: "We were slaves... but the Lord brought us out... with a mighty hand" (**Deuteronomy 6:21-22**).
- **Righteousness Through Obedience:** Leading a family in faith means being careful to obey God's commands as a reflection of His righteousness.

