

Sermon Notes - Sunday 17th June

‘Mind the Gap – Having a Biblical view on Fatherhood’

The Centre for Social Justice suggested that the effect of family breakdown in our country has left some areas of our towns and cities as virtual ‘men deserts’ and that this is ‘an ignored form of deprivation with profoundly damaging consequences on social and mental development’.

- Do you think that good fathering is an ‘endangered species’ in our nation and that there is a cultural gap between what the Bible teaches on fatherhood and how society understands it?
- As we draw lessons from the life of Joseph, what can we take from what we know of his devotion to Mary that might suggest he was a good father to Jesus and his other children? Read Luke 2:39-52

Encourager. Read Colossians 3:21.

- What does it mean to ‘embitter your children’? How might we inadvertently do this?

Malachi 4:6 mentions a time when the hearts of Fathers will be turned towards their children and vice versa.

- What might get in the way of our ‘hearts being turned towards our children’?

Provider. Read 1 Timothy 5:8. How did Joseph provide for his family?

- Is provision purely financial or is there more to it than that?

Read Exodus 20:12. With the Social Care funding in crisis, how are we as a society honouring our parents by providing for them in their old age?

- What kind of provision do children need from their fathers?

Instructor. Read Ephesians 6:4 and Proverbs 22:6.

- What indications do we have that Joseph took seriously the responsibility to instruct his child(ren)?

How do parents prioritise spiritual instruction and attending church when other attractions compete for their attention (sport, dance, drama, parties etc)?

Carer. Read Psalm 103:13. Compassion is a fatherly characteristic!

- How easy do we find it to show emotion, physical affection and express words of love and affirmation to our children? What do we learn about ‘Care’ in the person of the Father in the story of the Prodigal Son?

We can all be EPIC to our own children, our extended family or to children around us in our church family. How might the church provide a context in which we can encourage Dads to excel in being great Dads for the benefit, not only of their relationship with their children but also for the betterment of society? Pray together for fathers everywhere.