Where are you father?
Speaker: Karam Singh

**INTRODUCTION**

Since the fall of mankind, as recorded in the Bible, human history has been marked by countless instances of cruelty and violence. Much of this harm has been inflicted by men upon others. Statistical data from prisons around the world show that over 90% of the incarcerated population is men. This reality underscores a troubling pattern—not only of male violence but also of broken familial relationships, particularly between fathers and their children.

Many of these men are not merely faceless criminals, but also sons and fathers themselves. When fathers turn their hearts away from their children—through abuse, neglect, or absence—the natural response is often for children to mirror this emotional distance. If unaddressed, this disconnection can evolve into a generational cycle, as wounded children grow into parents who pass on their unresolved pain.

This phenomenon, commonly referred to as "father wounds," represents emotional and psychological trauma that arises from a father's physical or emotional absence, or abusive behaviour. Such wounds leave lasting impacts on a child's development, identity, and ability to form healthy relationships, resulting in fractured family structures with long-term consequences.

How can we begin to restore these broken relationships? How can hearts be turned once again towards both fathers and children?

A foundational step is to reorient our hearts toward a higher model of fatherhood—our Heavenly Father, who embodies love, patience, and forgiveness. As the saying goes, "Hurt people hurt people, but loved people love people." Healing must begin with acknowledgement, repentance, and a willingness to change.

To break the cycle, fathers must take deliberate steps to examine their roles and responsibilities:

- **Heart**: As the biblical teaching suggests, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Fathers must reflect on what they truly value and how that shapes their relationships with their children.

- **Action**: Words are not enough. Children need fathers who lead by example—those who live out the love and integrity they speak of.

- **Availability**: Time is one of the most valuable gifts a father can give. Whether abundant or limited, time spent with children must be intentional and meaningful.

- **Forgiveness**: Healing begins with humility. Fathers should seek forgiveness from their spouses and children where harm has been done and extend forgiveness in return.

**DISCUSSION**

1. From the sermon, what Scriptural passage(s) will you meditate on this week? (Scripture references from the sermon: Malachi 4:5-6 NIV)

*For each passage:*

2. What do you know of the passage's context?
    a. Within the Biblical book
    b. Within the Bible as a whole
    c. Within the time and place it was written

3. What is happening in the passage?
    a. **Who** is doing **what** to **whom**?
    b. And (based on the same Scripture) **why**?
    c. What questions (if any) do you have on what is revealed to us?

4. What might God be speaking to you through the passage?
    a. What aspect of the passage are you drawn to?
    b. Why are you drawn to it?
    c. How might this aspect of the passage speak to your current situation in life?
    d. What might the passage be calling for you to shift?

**MEMORY VERSE**

See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction. - Malachi 4:5-6 NIV

**AN E1R1 REFLECTION**

Although we should go on overseas mission trips, we should not neglect our "missions" at home. The best evangelism begins at home. Start where the "hearts" are closest—your family and inner circle. If there is tension, bitterness, or disconnection with loved ones, seek to restore those relationships.

A reconciled family can be a powerful witness of the gospel. People are more likely to receive the message when they see the message lived out in loving, healthy relationships.