

God Looks at the Heart



MEMORY VERSE: "The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7b



1 SAMUEL 16:1-7

Who Will Be the New King?

Saul was the first king of Israel. He initially trusted God, but then he stopped so God sent the Prophet, Samuel, to find the person He had chosen to be the new king.

1. What instructions did God give Samuel? Why did Samuel hesitate to do as God asked?
vv. 1-2

2. Read verse 7. What do you think it means to look at the heart of a person? List some examples of inner qualities that God might value.

3. Why is God's way of judging better than the way most people judge?



1 SAMUEL 16:8-13

God Chose the Future King

4. How many sons does Jesse have total and how many did he present to Samuel? What do verses 11 and 12 tell about the youngest son?

5. What happened when Samuel anointed David as King? Why is this important?

6. Does God's choice of David encourage you? Why?



1 SAMUEL 16:14-23

David Serves King Saul

7. Why was Saul filled with depression and fear? What did Saul's servants suggest to help him? vv. 14-16
8. Why did they pick David to play for Saul? vv. 18 What relationship developed between Saul and David? vv. 22-23
9. Often we expect God's plans to be immediate, but David wouldn't become king until after Saul died. Not only that, but before becoming king, he would serve the existing king. What might God be doing here? What do you think God is doing in your life when his timing is different than yours?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

Saul stopped trusting and obeying God and so God rejected him as king. When God chose David to be King he was just a young shepherd boy but he had a warrior heart and God was with him. David was an unlikely choice but the Lord looked past the outward appearance and saw the heart of a king—one who would love and follow Him. David was known as “a man after God's own heart” and this alone is what sets him apart from others. God wants to use you for great things too! Follow David's example and choose to follow and love God.

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear God, help me to remember that it is not what I look like that matters to you but who I am. Thank you that my worth and value are determined by You rather than by some outward quality. I want to be more like David and be known for having “a heart after You.” Please help me to love and follow You every day.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



Draw a heart and inside fill in some of the inner qualities that God sees in you.

1 Samuel 16 (NLT)

1 Now the Lord said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king." 2 But Samuel asked, "How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." "Take a heifer with you," the Lord replied, "and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me." 4 So Samuel did as the Lord instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. "What's wrong?" they asked. "Do you come in peace?" 5 "Yes," Samuel replied. "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too. 6 When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the Lord's anointed!" 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

8 Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "This is not the one the Lord has chosen." 9 Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, "Neither is this the one the Lord has chosen." 10 In the same way all seven of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 11 Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats." "Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives." 12 So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the Lord said, "This is the one; anoint him." 13 So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.

14 Now the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul, and the Lord sent a tormenting spirit that filled him with depression and fear. 15 Some of Saul's servants said to him, "A tormenting spirit from God is troubling you. 16 Let us find a good musician to play the harp whenever the tormenting spirit troubles you. He will play soothing music, and you will soon be well again." 17 "All right," Saul said. "Find me someone who plays well, and bring him here." 18 One of the servants said to Saul, "One of Jesse's sons from Bethlehem is a talented harp player. Not only that — he is a brave warrior, a man of war, and has good judgment. He is also a fine-looking young man, and the Lord is with him." 19 So Saul sent messengers to Jesse to say, "Send me your son David, the shepherd." 20 Jesse responded by sending David to Saul, along with a young goat, a donkey loaded with bread, and a wineskin full of wine. 21 So David went to Saul and began serving him. Saul loved David very much, and David became his armor bearer. 22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse asking, "Please let David remain in my service, for I am very pleased with him." 23 And whenever the tormenting spirit from God troubled Saul, David would play the harp. Then Saul would feel better, and the tormenting spirit would go away.

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