

Look Below the Surface
Sunday Morning, June 12, 2016

Introduction:

While on earth, Jesus was often ridiculed by religious leaders because of whom He chose to spend time with. That's because Jesus viewed those people very differently than the religious leaders did. The way God sees people is often not the same as the way we see people.

(1 Samuel 16:1–13)

1 Now the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." But the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'"

3 Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

4 So Samuel did what the Lord said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him!"

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1

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7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

8 So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."

9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."

10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these."

11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

Only when we get a glimpse of people the way God sees them can we truly understand His love for others.

2 (Turn Inside Out) 

God Sees the Heart

As Jesse presented Eliab, Samuel was impressed by what he saw and likely heard.

- In **(1 Samuel 16:6)**, Samuel was ready to choose Eliab as the next king of Israel because of what he physically saw.

6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before Him!”

- In **(1 Samuel 16:7)**, God explained that He was interested in what Samuel couldn’t see ... the heart.

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

God isn’t just interested in what we do. He’s interested in why we do it.

- In **(Revelation 2: 1 – 5)**, the church in Ephesus was doing all the right things for the wrong reason.

1 “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

2 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

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3

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3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.

4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

- In **(Jeremiah 17:10)**, God says He tests the heart that gives motivation to our actions.

I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

God Sees His Strength in Our Weaknesses

Jesse dismissed David because of his weaknesses.

- According to **(1 Samuel 16:11)**, David’s own father didn’t even invite David to be considered as the son Samuel was searching for.

11 And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all the young men here?” Then he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.”

- In verse 11, Jesse pointed out that David was young and just a shepherd.

God finds strength in our weaknesses.

4 (Next Sheet of Paper)



- In **(Isaiah 41:10)**, God says He provides the strength needed for His people.

Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

- In **(2 Corinthians 12:9)**, Paul wrote that Christ is made perfect in our weaknesses.

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

God Sees His Perfect Son Instead of Sinful Man

David, like all the champions God used before and after him, was far from sinless.

- In **(2 Samuel 12)**, the prophet Nathan pointed out to David that he had sinned greatly. • In verses **(13–14)**, David repents and is forgiven, but the price will be his son.

13 So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

14 However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

God saw a future perfect Son and King who would die so David's sin could be forgiven.

- If we read **(John 3:16)**, we will discover the Son who died for all our sins.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- In **(2 Corinthians 5:21)**, we find that Jesus, who was sinless, became our sin so we could become righteous.

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Conclusion:

Aren't you glad that God sees differently than we do? He sees through the eyes of His own grace. All this week in VBS, our kids will be studying how Jesus demonstrated this grace. Their key verse will be

(Psalm 139:23-24) *(Holman Christian Standard)*

23 Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my concerns.

24 See if there is any offensive way in me;
lead me in the everlasting way.

May God search our heart, remove any offenses, and lead us to Him.

Let's pray.