

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 11

God Looks at the Heart

God Looks at the Heart

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To introduce David to the students, and to show that their heart is more important to the Lord than their looks.

Key Verses

1 Samuel 16:1-13—Main Teaching Passage

Psalms 139:1-6

Matt 12:34

Acts 13:22

Memory Verse - 1 Samuel 16:7b

"For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, 2 John 1:6.

Ask the students, "Has anyone ever hear the word 'Hypocrite' before? What is a hypocrite? What is Hypocrisy?"

Hypocrisy is saying you believe, think, or do something that you don't actually believe, think, or do.

Ask, "What does it mean when we say, 'Don't judge a book by its cover?'"

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Saul had been chosen as the King of Israel. Saul was the tallest man in Israel. He was strong, wealthy, and attractive. On the outside, Saul seemed like everything you would ever want in a king. On the inside, however, he was far away from the LORD. In fact, Saul has disobeyed God on multiple occasions and God has rejected him as king over Israel. Samuel, God's prophet was now looking for a new king to anoint.

1 Samuel 16 begins with God calling Samuel to go and anoint one of the sons of Jesse as the new King of Israel. Samuel voiced his concern that if Saul heard that a new king was being anointed, he would try and kill Samuel. God simply ignored this and told Samuel a second time to go, so Samuel did. When Samuel went before Jesse and his sons, he saw the eldest son Eliab and thought, "This is definitely the right one." Eliab was tall, strong, and good looking, just like Saul. God, however, rebuked Samuel. Eliab was not the one to be chosen as king. He 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."

All of Jesse's sons lined up before Samuel. Abinadab was not chosen, neither was Shammah. When all of Jesse's sons had been looked over, Samuel asked if there are any others. Jesse replied that there was only one left, David the youngest, who they obviously believed would never be chosen. In fact, they hadn't even invited David to attend the ceremony. Samuel stated that until David arrived, no one would sit down out of respect for who he now guessed would be chosen by God to be the next king. The Lord told Samuel that David would be the new king. David was anointed with oil, and the Spirit of God fell on him.

LOOK

We live in a culture obsessed with looks. We have to have the latest phone, the newest pair of basketball sneakers, the right clothes, and the right look. We hang around the people that have all those things, and we ignore the people that don't. We go gaga over the newest celebrity, singer, or athlete. Even the magazines that we read tell us that we are supposed to look a certain way, and if we don't, we are failures. God doesn't care about that one bit. God is not impressed if you wear Kobe's newest sneaker. God is not impressed if you have the newest iPhone. God is not concerned if your clothes come from Hollister or from Walmart. None of those things define you, and that's what God cares about... You!

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

When God looked at Jesse's sons, He didn't see the tallest or the strongest. He wasn't interested in who could do the most push-ups or who could play the guitar the best. He was looking at their hearts. God saw David not as the youngest, smallest, weakest brother. God saw a man who loved the LORD. When God looks down at you, He judges your heart. Psalm 139 tells us that He knows every last thing about us, even what we think.

When God looks down at your heart what does He see? Does He see someone who comes to church on a Sunday morning but inside doesn't care about God one little bit? Or does He look down at someone whose heart is inclined toward Him? You can fool the world by the way you act, but you can't fool God.

We need to be very careful about the way we judge people based on their appearance. If someone looks a certain way, wears certain clothes, or owns certain cool gadgets, that doesn't reveal to us the state of their heart. Those same celebrities that we idolize all too often because they are living the life of the rich and famous are some of the loneliest people in the world. They might have money, but they don't necessarily have hope.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize 1 Samuel 16:7b.

Pray: Ask the Lord to give the students a heart that is toward them. Pray that like David, they would become men and women after God's own heart. Ask for help to see with Christ's eyes the people around us.

Parent Question: Are there any Christian men or women that you really admire? Who and why?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on 1 Samuel 16 by David Guzik

1 Samuel 16 - God Chooses David

A. Samuel anoints David as king.

Psalms that may go with this period: 8, 19, 23, and 29.

1. (1-3) God tells Samuel to go and anoint a new king over Israel.

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

a. **How long will you mourn for Saul:** There is a time to mourn, but there is also a time to move on. **Fill your horn with oil** must have excited Samuel, because he knew that God wanted him to anoint someone else as king over Israel.

i. God will never allow His work to die with the death or failure of a man. If it is *God's* work, it goes beyond any man. Perhaps Samuel was paralyzed with mourning because of Saul's tragic rebellion, but God was not paralyzed.

b. **I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite:** Israel's next king would be found **among his sons**, the sons of Jesse. Jesse was the grandson of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 4:17, 22).

c. **How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me:** We can certainly *understand* Samuel's fear. There isn't any doubt that Saul would consider this treason. At the same time, it shows a note of fear in Samuel we are almost surprised to see. Perhaps Samuel's excessive mourning over Saul introduced an element of fear and unbelief in his heart. Samuel didn't have anything to worry about, because God promised **I will show you what you shall do**.

i. Was God telling Samuel to lie? Not at all. "This was strictly *true*; Samuel *did offer a sacrifice*; and it does not appear that he could have done the work which God designed, unless he had offered this sacrifice, and called the elders of the people together, and this collected Jesse's sons. But he did not tell the principle design of his coming; had he done so, it would have produced *evil* and *no good*.." (Clarke)

d. **For I have provided Myself a king among his sons:** Years before this, Israel rejected the LORD as their king and they wanted a human king instead. God gave them a human king after their own desire (Saul) but God was still on the throne, crowning who He pleases as He pleased.

i. The simple fact was that God *did* rule Israel. They could recognize His rule, submit to it, and enjoy the benefits. Or they could resist His reign over Israel and suffer because of it. It does not matter what my attitude towards God is as far as it affects His ultimate victory. The LORD is God and King, and will always triumph. But my attitude matters *a great deal* as it affects my ultimate destiny.

ii. We don't have to fear for the future when we know God has provided for Himself leaders. In some unlikely place God is raising up leaders for His people. He will keep them obscure and hidden until the right time then He will raise them up.

e. **You shall anoint for Me the one I name to you:** The first king of Israel was anointed *for the people*. He was the "king from central casting," the kind of king the *people* wanted. Now the "people's choice" failed and disqualified himself. "Now," the LORD said, "It's time for a king **for Me**." God was going to show Israel *His* king.

2. (4-5) Samuel comes to sacrifice at Bethlehem.

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?" 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.

a. **So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem:** Bethlehem was a small town not very far from Jerusalem. It was the home of Ruth and Boaz, from whom the family of Jesse descended. It was a hilly grain-growing region with many small grain fields carved into the hillsides.

b. **And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"** Considering what Samuel had just done with the Amalekite king Agag (1 Samuel 15:33), it is no wonder the elders of Bethlehem were afraid.

c. **Come with me to the sacrifice:** The idea was not that Jesse and his sons were to just watch Samuel sacrifice this heifer. They would watch the sacrifice and then share in a large ceremonial meal, eating the meat that came from the sacrificed animal.

i. When an animal was sacrificed to atone for sin none of it was eaten and it was all burned before the LORD. But when an animal was sacrificed as a peace offering, a fellowship offering, or a consecration offering, then part of the animal was burnt before the LORD, and part of it was eaten in a special ceremonial meal.

3. (6-10) God doesn't choose any of Jesse's older sons.

So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed *is* before Him." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his 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." So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

a. **Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him:** As Samuel looked at the oldest son **Eliab** he thought, "This man sure looks like a king. This must be the one God will tell me to anoint. That's a good choice, God!" Samuel saw a tall, good looking young man who *looked* like he would be a great king and leader.

b. **Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him:** Samuel

made the mistake of judging Eliab based on his **appearance**. This was the same mistake Israel made about their first king. Saul *looked* the part but he didn't have the *heart* a king of God's people should have. It didn't matter how good Eliab *looked* because God said, "**I have refused him.**"

c. **For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.** This was both a *statement of fact*, and an *exhortation to godly thinking*.

i. First, it was a *statement of fact*. **Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.** Even the best of men will look **at the outward appearance**. At the moment, Samuel was guilty of it. We must understand that we can't read the secrets of another's heart and we often do only judge on outward appearance. "The world is full of idolatries, but I question if any idolatry has been more extensively practiced than the idolatry of the outward appearance." (Blaikie)

ii. It was also an *exhortation to godly thinking*. God told Samuel, "Your natural inclination is to only judge on outward appearance. But I can judge the heart that you can't see. So look to Me and don't be so quick to judge a person only on their **outward appearance**." Samuel needed to know his natural inclination to judge only on **outward appearance**, but he didn't have to give into it. He could seek the LORD and seek God's heart and mind when looking at people.

d. **The LORD has not chosen these:** God told Samuel that He had not chosen any of the seven sons of Jesse attending the feast. It wasn't that these sons of Jesse were bad men, but they were not God's choice. God had a man in mind different from Samuel's or Jesse's expectation.

i. Eliab and the seven oldest sons of Jesse were perfect potential kings as far as the flesh is concerned. But God didn't want a king after the flesh. Israel already had a king like that.

4. (11) Samuel asks about an absent son.

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."

a. **Are all the young men here?** Samuel had a problem. God told him of Jesse, *I have provided Myself a king among his sons* (1 Samuel 16:1). Yet here were the seven sons of Jesse and God did not choose any of them. Since Samuel knew God's word was true he knew there must be another son of Jesse who was not at the sacrificial feast.

b. **There remains the youngest:** This shows the low regard David had among his own family. First, his father didn't even mention him by name. Second, he wasn't even invited to the sacrificial feast. Third, he was only called to come because Samuel insisted on it.

i. "So small was David in his father's esteem that it wasn't considered necessary to include him in the family when the prophet of God called them to sacrifice." (Redpath)

ii. When we consider that David was the youngest of eight sons, we aren't surprised at the low regard he had in his own family. It wasn't because David's character or conduct was unworthy, it was simply because he was the youngest of eight sons.

iii. God often chooses unlikely people to do His work, so that all know the work is God's work, not man's work. He wants to work in a way so that people regard His servants as they regarded Samson: they wondered at the secret of his strength (Judges 16:5).

iv. "You may not be intellectual or well thought of in your family circle; you may be despised by others for your faith in Christ. Perhaps you had only a little share in the love of your parents, as David did. But remember that those who are rejected of men often become beloved of the Lord." (Redpath)

c. **And there he is, keeping the sheep:** David was called for this great anointing when he was out **keeping the sheep**. David simply did his job and was faithful in small things and what his father told him to do.

i. **Keeping the sheep** was a servant's job. The fact that David was out **keeping the sheep** showed that the family of Jesse was not especially wealthy, because if they were wealthy a servant would be **keeping the sheep**. But they were not affluent enough to have servants.

ii. **Keeping the sheep** meant you had time to think. David spent a lot of time looking over the sheep and looking at the glory of God's creation. God built in him a heart to sing about His glory in all creation (Psalm 19:1-4 and Psalm 8 are good examples).

iii. **Keeping the sheep** took a special heart, a special care. It meant you knew how sheep needed the care and help of a good shepherd. You learned that you were a sheep and God was your shepherd. During these years, God built in David the heart that would sing about the LORD as his shepherd (as in Psalm 23).

iv. **Keeping the sheep** meant you had to trust God in the midst of danger. David had lions and bears and wolves to contend with and the sheep had to be protected. "The country round Bethlehem was not a peaceful paradise, and the career of a shepherd was not the easy life of lovesick swains which poets dream." (Blaikie)

v. David's years **keeping the sheep** were not *waiting* time; they were *training* time. David was a great man and a great king over Israel because he *never lost his shepherd's heart*. Psalm 78:70-72 speaks of the connection between David the king and David the shepherd: *He also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the ewes that had young He brought him, to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.*

5. (12-13) David is chosen and anointed.

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!*" 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.

a. **Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking:** The physical description of David tells us he had a fair complexion (this is probably the meaning of **ruddy**, and a light complexion was considered attractive in that culture). He had **bright eyes**, which speak of vitality and intelligence. David was also **good-looking**.

i. David had a pleasant appearance, but he did not look like Saul, who looked like a leader and a king (1 Samuel 9:2). David looked nice but you didn't look at him and say, "There's a born leader. There is a king." That is what people said when they looked at Saul. When they looked at David they said, "That's a nice looking boy."

ii. We don't know how old David was at this time. The ancient Jewish historian Josephus says that David was ten years old. Others guess he was about fifteen years old. It's safe to say he was in that range.

b. **And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"** By all outward appearances David's seven brothers seemed to be better material for royalty. As unlikely as he was, David was **the one**.

i. David was a shepherd, but there were a lot of shepherds. David was good-looking, but so were a lot of young

men. David was young, but there were plenty of young men God could have chosen. God described what made David special in 1 Samuel 13:14: *The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD had commanded him to be commander over His people.* What made David **the one** was that he was *a man after God's own heart.*

ii. God's choice of David shows that we don't have to quit our jobs and enter into full-time ministry to be people after God's own heart. We don't need to be famous or prominent to be people after God's own heart. We don't need to be respected or even liked by others to be people after God's own heart. We don't need status, influence, power, the respect or approval of men, or great responsibilities to be people after God's own heart.

iii. Where did David get this heart? Obviously, from time spent with the LORD. But someone started him on that path. David says nothing of his father, but twice in the Psalms he refers to his mother as a *maidservant* of the LORD (Psalm 86:16 and 116:16). Probably, it was David's godly mother who poured her heart and love and devotion of the LORD into him, and gave him a foundation to build on in his own walk with the LORD. Like Timothy, God used David's mother to pour into him a godly faith (2 Timothy 1:5).

c. **Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers:** From the actions of David, Jesse, and David's brothers, after this we can assume that only God and Samuel knew exactly what happened here.

i. Everyone else probably thought that Samuel just honored David for an unknown reason. Probably no one even dared to think this was a divine royal anointing. But God knew, because He had worked in David's heart for a long time. "The public anointing was the outcome of what had taken place in private between David and God long before." (Redpath)

d. **And the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward:** The real anointing happened when the Holy Spirit came upon David. The oil on the head was just a sign of this inward reality.

e. **So Samuel arose and went to Ramah:** Samuel did not begin a "Let's Enthroned David" political party and he did not begin to undermine Saul's throne, looking for a way to establish David as king. Samuel took one look at David, and reacted exactly the way God wanted him to: "LORD, I don't know why You chose this kid. But You will have to put him on the throne. I can't do it."

i. God did do it. 1 Samuel 16:13 is the first mention of the name "**David**" in the book of 1 Samuel. He has been referred to prophetically before (as in 1 Samuel 13:14 and 15:28). But this is the first mention of his *name*, which means "Beloved" or "Loved One."

ii. David will become one of the greatest men of the Bible, mentioned more than 1,000 times in the pages of Scripture - more than Abraham, more than Moses, more than any mere man in the New Testament. It's no accident that Jesus wasn't known as the "Son of Abraham" or the "Follower of Moses," but as the *Son of David* (Matthew 9:27 and at least a dozen other places).

iii. "From whatever side we view the life of David, it is remarkable. It may be that Abraham excelled him in faith, and Moses in the power of concentrated fellowship with God, and Elijah in the fiery force of his enthusiasm. But none of these was so many-sided as the richly gifted son of Jesse." (Meyer)