

1—God’s View of David: A Man After God’s Own Heart

Text: 1 Samuel 16



Memory Verse: “But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart”

(1 Samuel 16:7, ESV).



One of the biggest mistakes we can make is judging a person based on superficial characteristics. We can disrespect a person because they are of a different color, are physically unattractive to us, or even because of their age. When we do so we may miss out on the good influence of a godly neighbor, or a future godly spouse, or even the wisdom of an aged brother or sister in Christ. Chances are, if

we had lived during the time of Christ, we would have completely missed out on Him too (Isaiah 53:2)!

On the other hand, we can give too much credibility to others simply because of their family’s reputation, or because they are physically attractive, or because of their wealth or eloquence. We must be careful not to be overly impressed with physical and material characteristics and learn to be more impressed with the spiritual heart of individuals. There’s an old phrase: “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” This phrase applies to judgments which are far more important than our next book choice. We could add: “Don’t judge a preacher by his suit (or lack thereof)” or “Don’t judge a date by their body or looks” or “Don’t judge a church by its building.” The list could go on and on.

The nation of Israel had made the same mistake. Their first king, Saul, was tall and handsome. Yet, he was an utter failure as a leader. God rejected Him because he was too easily pulled into making decisions out of pride and the will of the people rather than out of respect for God’s will. So, a new king for the future is selected, David, and the first lesson God wants to teach Israel about their new king is a lesson in what really matters. *It is not nearly as important how other men view a person as in how God views us.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Think about the text just prior to David being “*anointed*” as the next king. How had Saul, the first king of Israel, failed God and what did God do about it (1 Samuel 15-16:3)?

Sunday Night Youth Devotional Study (5-3-2020)

2. When Saul was anointed, what seems to be one of the primary qualifications the people had in mind as he was chosen (1 Samuel 9:1-2; 10:23-24)? Once Samuel arrived in Bethlehem, at Jesse's house, who did he assume would be anointed as the next king and upon what similar basis did Samuel make this assumption (1 Samuel 16:4-7)?

3. Rather than physical characteristics or military prowess, what was God looking at when He selected David (see 1 Samuel 13:13-14)? What is said about David's heart in the following passages (Acts 13:22; Hebrews 11:32, 39)?

4. Read the following passages and, in a word or two, write down what they indicate about David's heart...

- 1 Samuel 17:45-47, 52-53—
- Psalm 33:16-18—
- 1 Samuel 24:4-7; 26:8-10—
- 2 Samuel 12:13; Psalm 51:1-4, 17—
-

David Had a Heart of . . .

- **Courage**
- **Humility**
- **Composure**
- **Repentance**

5. Below, write out Proverbs 21:2. What does God "test" according to Jeremiah 17:10? What condition can our "heart" be in? Was David's "heart" always perfect? How can our hearts be changed (Ezekiel 18:31; Acts 15:8-9; James 4:7-10)?

Key Lessons:

- Men may look on the physical person; God looks at our hearts! We need to focus more on inner, spiritual qualities than outer, physical appearances.
- Saul and David both sinned. The difference in the two men is a good heart confesses and repents instead of making excuses.
- God can only change your heart if you draw near to Him!

Additional Notes: _____
