

## 1 Samuel 16:1-13 — God Looks At The Heart

**June 5, 2022**

Good morning CrossWinds! It is June and summer is finally here. If you are new, my name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors. It is great to have you. We are in 1 Samuel 16 this morning. Take out your outline and open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16. While you are doing that, let me tell you how the teaching will work for the next few weeks. Pastor Jordan and I decided to divide 1 Samuel 16 into two messages. We will cover the first 13 verses this morning and the rest of the chapter next week.

After next week, Pastor Jordan will be on his summer sabbatical. We will take a break from 1 Samuel for most of the summer. During the summer, we will be in a series called, “What does the Bible say?” We will answer the top questions from the preaching topic survey we took this spring. On this campus, I will teach for the first three weeks of the series. In week one we will look at, “What does the Bible say about beating temptation?” That was one of the most popular topics you wanted to learn more about. Temptation is something all of us can relate to so it will be a good topic. Week two will be, “What does the Bible say about demons?” I have never preached a sermon on demons so that will be fun. Week three will be, “What does the Bible say about angels?” There is much more to come in that series. I will tell you more about it next week.



In late August, when Pastor Jordan returns, we will return to our studies 1 Samuel and be at 1 Samuel 17. That is the story of David and Goliath, which is a

great place to begin our fall study on the life of David using the rest of 1 Samuel as our guide.

Let me pray then we will get to our studies.

## Introduction

If you saw this week's 60-Second sermon preview, I told you about a secret in my marriage. Cindy and I do not always agree. We do not see things the same way. When we first married, I thought a pile of dishes in the sink was a good thing. You waited until there was no more room to do dishes. Cindy saw that one very differently. When there is a dirty dish, she cleans it by the end of the day. When I was a single guy, I threw all my laundry in the coin-operated washer. The more laundry I could stuff in the washer, the more money I saved. Cindy thought about it differently. She wanted a separate laundry load for darks and lights. We also learned we don't approach morning and evening the same way. She is a night owl. I am an early bird. My eyes glaze over around 9:00 PM. Nighttime is her most productive time of day.

I assume we are not the only couple that is wired differently.

If you look around, it isn't just married couples that have different points of view. It seems like everyone looks at the world differently.

When people have different opinions or different points of view, we are told the most important thing we can do is learn to respect and value other people's opinions if they are different from our own. After all, our opinion is just our point of view. Who are we to say that our point of view is better than someone else's. If we say our point of view is better than someone else's, we are called a bigot.

Mature postmoderns are to appreciate and accept other points of view and know that one point of view is no better than another.

That sounds good but does it work in practice? If my point of view is that society is unjust and corporations are corrupt so I can break store windows and steal the TVs from store shelves, I guarantee you the owner of the store I am destroying doesn't feel the same way. How do we determine who is right? All points of view can not be right.

Let me suggest another subject on which people have different points of view, that is the identity of Jesus Christ.

The point of view that I hope most of us in the room hold is that Jesus is the Son of God who took on human flesh. He is the one who died in our place for our sins to bring us back to God. It is only by faith and trust in Jesus alone that we are forgiven and brought back into a relationship with God. Jesus is the only one who can save us from our sin. As Jesus said in the Bible, I am the way, the truth, and the life. Nobody comes to the father but by me. Jesus is also the judge of the universe before whom all people will one day stand. These are some of the clear teachings of the Bible.

There are many other points of view that people have about Jesus but they all have one thing in common. They do not agree with the point of view that I just gave you. Some people think Jesus was just a good teacher. Others believe Jesus was a myth from history.

In our postmodern age of tolerance, different opinions about Jesus are thought of as merely people's different points of view about Jesus. Maybe you

have family members or friends who look at your Christian faith that way. You think the way you do about Jesus because that is just your point of view. I think the way I do about Jesus because I have a different point of view. There is no way you can say your point of view about Jesus is any better than my point of view about Jesus. But is that true? Today we will find out how to answer this postmodern question that all of us face when we are reaching people with Jesus in our community.

In your mind, travel with me back to the days of 1 Samuel. Travel back to the days when the nation of Israel asked for a king and God gave them a king. His name was Saul. What we need to remember about King Saul, the Bible tells us Saul was a king the people chose for themselves. Saul was a king that had the qualities the people wanted. He fit the people's criteria. Look how Samuel described King Saul when he presented him to the people.

And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the LORD has set a king over you. 1 Samuel 12:13 (ESV)

King Saul had many good qualities of kingship. He was able to win battles. He was able to rally the nation. He was taller than everyone else. He was better looking than most people. On the outside, it looked like King Saul possessed everything the nation needed and wanted in a king. The problem was what the people weren't able to see. The problem was what King Saul was like on the inside. In 1 Samuel 13 and 15, we watched Saul intentionally disobey God when it didn't fit his agenda. How can you be the king over God's people if don't have any interest in obeying God who is over the people? A king in Israel who sees no

problem in disobeying the God who is over Israel is a bad deal. That is why God rejected Saul as king.

In 1 Samuel 16, we have a new development. A new king is coming. Let's see what happens.

Last week, 1 Samuel 15 closed with these words.

Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel. 1 Samuel 15:34–35 (ESV)

That is a tough way to end a long relationship. Saul and Samuel never saw one another again for the rest of their lives. That sounds like a bad breakup. Some time passed and we pick up in 1 Samuel 16.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel?... 1 Samuel 16:1a (ESV)

The Hebrew word for grieving is a strong word. It is used to describe someone mourning over the death of a loved one. It is the kind of sadness that comes when someone unexpectedly loses their spouse or their child. This was not casual grief on the part of Samuel. This was deep grief. I want us to stop and think about this. Samuel loved Saul. Samuel cared about Saul. It was not a business-type relationship between these guys. Samuel had genuine love and care for Saul. When Saul made sinful choices, Samuel was hurt because he cared about him. Even when Saul rejected God and went his own way, Samuel still genuinely loved him, cared about him, and grieved for him.

I think there is a little lesson for us in that thought. How many of you have loved ones that have rejected Jesus? I do. How many of us have friends at work or in the community that have turned away from Jesus? I do. In those moments,

it is easy to shake the dust off our feet and ignore what they have done. I think we should learn from Samuel's grief at this moment. When someone turns away from God, especially if it is someone you love, it is appropriate to grieve. It is appropriate to grieve deeply. When we don't mourn over someone we love who walks away from Jesus, that may show how little genuine love we had for them in the first place.

That being said, it appears Samuel overindulged in his grief too much. God rebuked him. Samuel, you are grieving too much. Stop grieving over Saul since I have rejected him. Let's not stay stuck in the past. We need to move to the future.

As I was studying, I wrote down this thought in these verses. **In the darkest moments of our suffering, God is often preparing His power and grace.** This is what God is doing in this passage. Put yourself in Samuel's shoes. He is overwhelmed with grief. He faithfully led a nation for a lifetime. He turned the nation's leadership over to King Saul and Saul rejected God. The prophet and the king will never see one another again. The future looks dark. It looks hopeless. Where is there hope and joy? It was in that time of darkness that God breaks in and tells Saul he is up to something new. He is going to show his undeserved power and grace again. God has not forgotten about his people. There is hope. God has a new king.

This theme of God bringing grace and rescue in times of hopelessness and darkness is not just found in this tiny section of 1 Samuel 16. It is also found throughout the Bible. Remember this in the Exodus? When God's people were in

a hopeless situation. They were making bricks without straw. They were forced to throw their children into the Nile River to die. That is when God's grace showed up and he came to the rescue. He sent Moses as the deliverer of his people. The same is true for the whole period of the Judges. God's people would end up in hopeless situations because of their sins. They would be conquered and oppressed by another country. It was in those times of darkness God would send a judge from unexpected places to rescue his people. The same was true at the time of Samuel's birth. You may remember that it was during the corrupt priesthood of Eli and his two wicked sons when the people had no hope that in response to Hannah's prayers God enabled her to conceive Samuel. Then God ordered circumstances so Eli and his two corrupt sons died in one day and only Samuel, the righteous priest and prophet was left standing.

This principle of God providing grace and rescue in times of hopelessness and darkness is not just true in the Old Testament. It is also true of the Christian life. When we were brought low. When there was nothing we could do to pay for our sin and free ourselves from the debt of our sin God send Jesus his own son to die in our place for our sin to bring us back to God. Jesus saved us. Jesus did what we could not do.

So in a time of darkness when Israel's king was rejected by God and Israel's prophet and king are forever separated, God takes the initiative and brings rescue. It is time for a new king.

...Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 1 Samuel 16:1b (ESV)

Bethlehem was a town about 11 miles south of Ramah. There is no reason to think that Samuel knew Jesse and his family. There is no insider connection. Jesse was the grandson of Boaz and Ruth whom we meet in the book of Ruth.

In Bethlehem among the sons of Jesse, the next stage of Israel's history was about to begin.

The precise words here are important. They are:

...I have provided for myself a king among his sons...

What does God mean when he says, "I will provide for myself a king." He was saying that the kind of king God would provide for himself from Jesse's sons would be a different kind of king than Saul.

If you have been with us for earlier weeks in this series, you will remember that Saul was a king the people chose for themselves. God gave Saul to people so that he would fulfill the check boxes that the people were looking for in a king.

"...Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations." 1 Samuel 8:5 (ESV)

And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you. 1 Samuel 12:13 (ESV)

While it is always true that God is sovereign and in control of all things, that does not lessen the fact that fundamentally Saul was appointed because of the people's demand and he was chosen by the people's criteria for what they wanted in a king. The time has come for God to appoint a different kind of king. It would not be a king based on the criteria the people were looking for but a king who would fit the criteria of what God wanted for a leader. We have seen hints of this coming.

But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people,



because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.” 1 Samuel 13:14 (ESV)

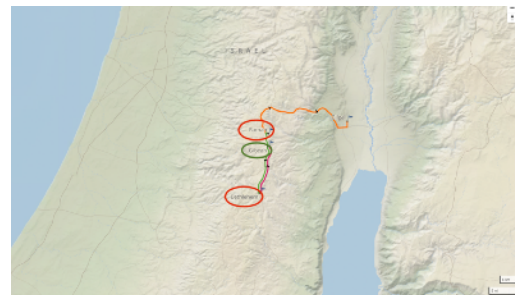
And Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. 1 Samuel 15:28 (ESV)

So Samuel was to anoint a new king for the nation. It would be a different kind of king, a king God would choose. Samuel was reluctant to get involved in anointing a king. He knew that King Saul would not be happy to hear Samuel anointed a new king. That would be considered treason.

And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.”... 1 Samuel 16:2a (ESV)

To get from Ramah to Bethlehem Samuel would need to pass through Gibeah, which was where Saul lived. We know relations between Saul and Samuel were completely broken down.

Remember they will not see one another again for the rest of their lives. While Samuel still had spiritual authority over Saul, Saul had the army and he wasn't



afraid to use it. Later in 1 Samuel 22 we will see the brutality of Saul when he didn't hesitate to kill all the priests in the city of Nob when Saul thought they were plotting against him. It wasn't true. The priests were not plotting against him but the point is Saul didn't hesitate to bump people off, even if they were men of God. Samuel has a valid reason to fear travel to Bethlehem to anoint a new king.

While Samuel's fears were not unfounded, they were not to deflect Samuel from obeying God's word.

...And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." 1 Samuel 16:2b-3 (ESV)

We should take a moment to talk about this for a moment. Some people struggle with this verse. They claim God was instructing Samuel to deceive people, to lie. That is not true. What God did is give Samuel another reason to travel to Bethlehem besides anointing a son of Jesse to be king. Samuel was to travel to Bethlehem to offer a sacrifice. Now, if people asked Samuel what he was doing, he would simply tell them he was on his way to Bethlehem to offer a sacrifice. He was telling the truth but he didn't need to tell people the rest of the reason for his travel to that city. God was not instructing Samuel to deceive anyone. We do this all the time. We tell people only the truthful information they need to know. We don't tell people everything we know.

Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem... 1 Samuel 16:4a (ESV)

Unlike Saul, Samuel obeyed God's word and did what God told him to do even though he feared for his life.

...The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 1 Samuel 16:4b-5 (ESV)

If Samuel was afraid to go to Bethlehem, it appears the elders of the city were even more afraid to have Samuel in Bethlehem. Apparently, the conflict between Samuel and Saul was well-known. The town leaders didn't want to be drawn into the argument. In addition, I think people were a little fearful of old-man

Samuel at this time. The last action we heard from Samuel was hacking Agag, the king of the Philistines, into little pieces. No wonder people were afraid of him!

So Samuel told them he has showed up for a pastoral visit. He brought an animal to sacrifice. The people were to prepare themselves and come to the sacrifice. If you are slaughtering an ox, there would be enough meat for everyone in the small town. Samuel just wanted to make sure Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice.

The scene was set for a moment in history that involved the selection of a new king.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." 1 Samuel 16:6 (ESV)

When Jesse and his sons arrived, Samuel's eyes were immediately drawn to one of them. His name was Eliab. He was Jesse's firstborn. He was tall, good-looking, and probably the star quarterback on the Bethlehem high football team.

From Samuel's point of view, Eliab was just the kind of guy they needed as a king. He checked all the boxes. He was tall, good-looking, carried himself well, a perfect leader. While Samuel was reaching for his horn of anointing oil, let's stop and think for a moment. Do you remember the last time there was a tall good-looking man that checked all the boxes on what the people wanted out of a king in the book of 1 Samuel? It was Saul in 1 Samuel 9:2. Maybe Samuel shouldn't be so quickly drawn in by first impressions. That is what happened the last time and it didn't end well.

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)

God has a point of view and his point of view is different from our point of view. If we take the text literally, it tells us God is not limited in his assessment of people. From our point of view, we can only evaluate people by outward appearances. God is not limited to seeing outward appearances. He is not deceived by outward appearances. He sees a person's heart. He knows the truth about our inner world.

But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind,... Jeremiah 11:20a (ESV)

At least one reason your point of view and my point of view may be different is that we both have limited points of view. We have limited experiences, limited understanding, and limited knowledge. We can only make judgment calls based on the information we have. This is why many people see many things differently.

God is different. While our information about people is limited, God's information about people is unlimited. This means if God has a point of view on something, his point of view is not simply another point of view in the postmodern world. God's point of view is the only point of view that is right because only God has all the facts and evaluates all the information.

This is why in our postmodern world where people say the Bible's point of view is no better than someone else's point of view, we can not agree. Our personal points of view are based on our limited information about what is right and wrong whereas God's point of view is based on his unlimited information of what is right and what is wrong. This is why if God's word has a point of view on a matter, such as the identity of Jesus, it is wise for us to adopt God's point of

view and not stubbornly hold to our own point of view. If our point of view is different from God's point of view, one day we will discover our point of view was dead wrong. It always works that way.

Verse 7 is saying more than God's point of view about a person is better because only God knows people's hearts.

The verse literally says that man sees according to the eyes, but the lord sees according to his heart.

That is, when God sees, he does not just see things as we do, by taking in impressions. God's point of view is literally determined according to the intentions of his heart. This is very important.

A man after God's own heart is understood in popular Christian culture to mean a particularly godly man, a man with a heart like God's. That isn't what these words mean. A man after God's own heart literally means a man after God's own choosing. It literally means a man that God has set his heart upon. *A man after God's own heart is talking about the place the man has in God's heart, not the place God has in the man's heart.*

This is ultimately not a statement of God finding a particularly godly guy in Jesse's house but it is a statement about God's gracious and sovereign choosing a young man in Jesse's family and bringing out of him the character qualities God wants in him. Later when we get to 2 Samuel, David will talk about this. David will say that all the success in his life was not because he was a perfectly godly guy. It was because God graciously chose to set his affections on him and David knows he didn't deserve it.

Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it. 2 Samuel 7:21 (ESV)

In 1 Samuel 16:7, what Samuel is searching for is the man God had chosen in his heart that he would use for his good purposes. That is what made him different from Saul. God has a different purpose for Saul.

Then 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.” And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.” 1 Samuel 16:8–10 (ESV)

The words have changed but the idea is the same. None of these were the ones the Lord had “seen” according to his heart as a king for himself, the king that he would choose.

The idea that God graciously chooses a person or a group of people for himself is talked about in the Bible. It is called the doctrine of election. The Bible teaches that God chose Israel to be his people. They didn’t earn that or deserve that. God chose David to be his king. There was nothing about David that made him worthy of God’s choosing. God chose Jerusalem to be his city. God chose to fulfill his purpose to save us through Jesus Christ. Jesus is called God’s chosen one (Luke 9:35). As Christians, we are called God’s chosen people.

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,... 1 Thessalonians 1:4 (ESV)

Before some of you get upset about the doctrine of election, which is clearly taught in the Bible, recognize that the good news of election is that the accomplishment of God’s purposes does not rest in our hands. It rests in God’s hands and God’s grace in our lives. Just as there was nothing we could do to save ourselves, so God did it all through Jesus, ultimately we can not perfectly

hold on to Jesus so the good news is that God has also graciously chosen to hold on to us. Our salvation ultimately comes from God's grace and our perseverance in Christ also ultimately comes from God's grace. At the end of the day, God gets all the credit for every good thing.

Therefore whatever good qualities we see in this new king that makes him different from King Saul are ultimately a consequence of, not the reason for, God's choice of him.

**Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?"... 1 Samuel 16:11a (ESV)**

After all of Jesse's sons were paraded before Samuel, and God chose none of them, Samuel was understandably perplexed. Is this everyone?

I can imagine Jesse pausing them saying, "Well there is one more." He is just a little boy. Surely you don't want to see *him*.

**...And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." 1 Samuel 16:11 (ESV)**

So they waited. This presumably took some time. The fact that Samuel would not let them sit until the youngest son arrived was an incentive to get this son in a hurry.

When the little boy arrived, we are given a description of his appearance.

**And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome... 1 Samuel 16:12a (ESV)**

Ruddy means red. He either had red hair or reddish skin, which would mean he was of a lighter complexion compared to most of the darker-skinned people of his culture. He had beautiful eyes, which means he was nice to look at. He was attractive. He is also described as handsome. That means good-looking

in appearance. We tend to see these as compliments on David's good looks and we think of him as a good-looking masculine man. These words were not meant to be taken that way. Eliab was the oldest in the family. He was the one who was tall. He was strong. He looked like a warrior and a king. David was the exact opposite. He was the youngest in the family. Remember his father brought all his other sons but David because he was so young and insignificant. David was a good-looking junior boy. Today we would say he was cute. At this stage of his life, compared to Eliab and the other brothers, there was nothing outwardly impressive about him. He was just a cute kid.

...And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." 1 Samuel 16:12 (ESV)

There was nothing about his outward appearances that would make anyone think he was God's chosen king. The only reason he was anointed to be king was that God chose him and there was no outward merit that attracted people to him.

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers.... 1 Samuel 16:13a (ESV)

It doesn't occur to anyone that this little shepherd boy could be used by God in a powerful way. After this, David was not interviewed by the Bethlehem paper about being the new king. He didn't get a special seat at the dinner table. His father sent him back to tending the sheep. Everyone sees this anointing but from their perspective, there is nothing overly special. What they didn't see from their point of view, God saw from his point of view. One thing significant changed.

...And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. 1 Samuel 16:13 (ESV)



This is the first time we hear the name David in the Bible. We will hear much more about him. Realize that everything good that happens with David from this point forward comes because God has chosen him and because sent his Holy Spirit on him. God's spirit will be equipping David to be the man he needs to be to accomplish the task God has given him to do.

What I want to do at this point is to look back on these verses and share with you some of the thoughts I wrote down about David's anointing in the margins of my notes. Some of these thoughts I have already shared with you and others are new. I hope they are helpful.

1. **When God's spirit came on David, it introduced him to trouble, it didn't take him away from trouble.** This is a lesson from 5,000 feet. As soon as David was anointed by Samuel and God's Spirit came into his life, trouble began in David's life. There will be envy, deception, and plots against David's life starting in 1 Samuel 18 and continuing for the rest of this book. David, the man with God's spirit on him will be hunted by King Saul who will want to kill him. As I thought about this, what happened to David also happened to Jesus, David's greater son. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, in Mark 1, we see the Holy Spirit come on Jesus in bodily form like a dove. From that moment forward, trouble began in Jesus' life. After Jesus' baptism, God's spirit immediately drove Jesus into the wilderness to face the devil, temptations, and wild beasts. Those troubles continued through the rest of Jesus' life. The same thing that happened to David and to Jesus happens to you and men. Just as the coming of the Holy Spirit into David's life meant the

beginning of trouble and the coming of the Holy Spirit into Jesus' life meant the beginning of trouble, the coming of the Holy Spirit into our life will often mean trouble. Those troubles are not necessarily a sign of sin in our life. They are a sign of sonship in our life. Just as God used years of trouble in David's life to form his character and to make him into a different kind of king than Saul, God sometimes brings hard times into our lives for good purposes. God uses troubles to teach us to pray, humble us, get us to slow down to read our Bible, and teach us to seek him. God uses those troubles to show us our sins and teach us to repent. God's purpose in those troubles is never to ruin us. It is always to mature us and improve us so we become more and more like Jesus.

**2. God began preparing David to be king long before he made him king.**

Regardless of how much or how little David understood the meaning of his anointing, David was just a boy when this happened. There was a lot of forming in David's heart that would take place in the following years long before he began to reign as king. Saul was different. He became king in the middle of his life when his character and habits were already shaped. Just like Samuel, God began calling David to when he was young. He began shaping him through experiences as a shepherd defending sheep against lions so he would be prepared to fight Goliath. God developed David's courage as he fought lions and bears to death when only a youth. As I was pondering this, I realized God is still about this work today. God is still calling and preparing some of his greatest workers when they are young. This is why I am so

thankful for our AWANA program and Pastor Kris leading our junior and senior high students. I am so thankful for Hidden Acres and how God uses those ministries inside and outside the church as part of his good plan to craft the young men and women he is calling when they are young.

3. **God often uses the least likely to accomplish his purposes.** David was the youngest of Jesse's sons. He wasn't even invited to the sacrifice. He was the one nobody chose yet he was the one God chose. God choosing and setting his affections on the least and the most insignificant is a theme in Scripture. God does that repeatedly in his word. He does that in the church today. Look what Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, and not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 1 Corinthians 1:26–27 (ESV)

If you are here this morning feeling that you are nobody special, that you are ordinary, that so many people are better than you and more competent than you, take heart. You are just the kind of person God loves to set his affections upon. You are the kind of person upon whom God loves to shower his grace because that way our inability better highlights God's grace in our lives.

4. **The qualities God desires out of our life and the qualities he brings out of our life with the Holy Spirit.** We read that after David was anointed, God's Holy Spirit rushed into David's life. The Holy Spirit began growing in David the character qualities God wanted out of David. It was God's Holy Spirit that brought out of David's life the good things that he was known for.

This is the opposite of King Saul, Saul was fully convinced of his own greatness and built monuments to himself. Since Saul thought of himself as great that led God's Holy Spirit away from him and brought Saul crashing back to earth. The danger of relying on our talents and skills is that we run the risk of following Saul, not David. When it comes to making a lasting impact for God's kingdom, nobody has what it takes apart from the Spirit.

5. **When we look at people, be careful not to judge by appearances.** Just as Samuel would have anointed the wrong king if he was just judging by appearances, in the same way, it is easy for us to judge people just by their outward appearances. Just as Samuel needed God to guide him to the right person when making choices, we need to pray and ask God to guide us to the right decision when making choices.

## Conclusion

David's father and family had no idea of the significance of Samuel's anointing when things went back to business as usual when Samuel left.

They also had no idea that just over 200 years after David the prophet Micah would write these words about a descendant of David that would be born in Bethlehem.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Micah 5:2 (ESV)

In Bethlehem someone unique would be born, someone who has always existed will be born into space and time in that city. God will break into space and time by taking on flesh and becoming a man in the city of Bethlehem.

On a starry night in Bethlehem Jesus was born. He looked like any other baby unless you could see things from God's point of view.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:8–12 (ESV)

The only way to understand the significance of David's anointing in Bethlehem was to see things from God's point of view. The only way for anyone to understand the significance of Jesus' birth was to see things from God's point of view. God gave the shepherds the ability to understand the birth of Jesus from God's point of view.

Today, how do you look at Jesus? Do you look at him with your limited understanding based on external observations? Do you see him as nothing more than another baby born in the history of the universe or do you see the birth of Jesus from God's unlimited point of view, the only point of view that is right? Jesus is God in the flesh who came to be the savior of the world. Today what is your point of view when it comes to Jesus? Everyone is entitled to their point of view when it comes to Jesus but only God's point of view is right.



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