



“What Matters Most to God”

1 Samuel 16:1-13

LISTEN

Record your insights and observations from this week’s sermon:

SHARE

This week’s study takes us back into the Old Testament, to the story of the prophet Samuel anointing young David as the next king of Israel. The key verse is 1 Samuel 16:7 – “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” This verse touches on the human tendency to judge a book by its cover. Give an example of a time when you judged someone on the basis of his or her outward appearance, and turned out to be wrong about that person.

REFLECT

- a) Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.
- b) According to 1 Samuel 16:1, God rejected Saul as king over Israel. Why did God do that? (See 1 Samuel 13:1-15 and 15:1-23.)

- c) Did Samuel have reason to fear that Saul might kill him (vs. 2)? Why or why not?

- d) King Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin. Why is it significant that David and his family belonged to the tribe

of Judah and lived in Bethlehem? (See Genesis 49:8-12, Isaiah 11:1, Micah 5:2)

e) What lessons do you learn from the fact that God selected the youngest and least likely of Jesse's sons to be the next king of Israel?

f) Why is it important that "the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power" after his anointing by Samuel (vs. 13)?

APPLY

a) Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. Why does God often choose to work through people the world views as foolish, weak, lowly, and despicable?

b) In verse 6, Samuel looks at Jesse's oldest son Eliab and concludes, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." Of course, Samuel turned out to be wrong. Have you ever made the mistake of guessing God's will on the basis of outward appearance? Explain.

c) How does this week's passage reveal God's grace and our need of it?

d) How might we at UPC do a better job of valuing people on the basis of God's love for them rather than their performance?

PRAY

a) Pray for our missionaries of the week, Jon and Sara Pfeil. They are working in Japan with a team of church planters in Tokyo and Chiba, focusing on college students.

b) Pray for our new partnership with Christian HELP, a faith-based employment service. UPC now serves as a satellite location for job counseling.

c) Pray for the Session and Youth Committee as they seek God's man to lead our youth ministry.