

Introduction: It is much easier to see than to perceive. Seeing is done with the eyes and familiarity based on experience; but, perceiving is done with the heart and mind. It takes soul searching and prolonged pondering. *** Everyone has first impressions of people, formed within seconds of seeing someone. But, as a friend told me long ago, there is no way to measure the heart of a person. This can only be done by being with a person over time in many different situations with many different people. *** To have a deep understanding of another person is hard work. This may be the biggest reason many human relationships are fragile. *** Today we have heard how one of God's greatest prophets is no different from any of us. When he was told The God of Israel had chosen a man to be king of Israel instead of Saul, and this man was a son of Jesse in Bethlehem, he was wrong seven times. *** And Samuel was wrong even after God told him that while people look at outward appearance, He looks at a person's heart. What matters most to God is what is deep inside a person, at the very core of his or her being. The God of Israel was looking for a man so devoted to Him that he would always depend on God's grace; unlike Saul did when he became fearful, took matters into his own hands, and demonstrated a lack of continual faith in The Faithful God. *** So, to Samuel's surprise, God rejected David's seven older brothers, all impressive physical specimens, and chose the eighth and weakest of Jesse's sons. This 'runt of the litter' was assigned one of the lowest occupations in the Israel of one millennium before The Messiah came. He tended the family's sheep. Sheep are among the foulest smelling and most foolish of all God's creatures. But this shepherd turned king revealed his heart for God in many prayer songs. In one, knowing his heart had led him astray, he asks his God to (re-)create his heart to be pure so he could enjoy and praise his Savior-God.

I. The Covenant God of Israel tells Samuel He has seen a son of Jesse to replace Saul as king. (1 Samuel 16:1-10)

A. Yahweh sends Samuel to Bethlehem in peace to invite Jesse and his sons to a sacrifice he is offering Yahweh. (1 Samuel 16:1-5)

1. The Covenant God of Israel tells Samuel not to grieve that He rejected Saul, and commands Samuel to fill his horn with oil and go to Jesse because He has seen one of his sons to be His king. (Verse 1)

Samuel grieves: Young Samuel had sympathy for Eli. Now he has sympathy for the humble man he anointed king (1 Samuel 9-10).

Saul rejected: But when Saul disobeyed a command of Yahweh through Samuel, he was rejected as king over Israel (1 Samuel 15). Still, Saul lived for another fifteen years (2 Samuel 5:4; Acts 13:21).

Yahweh provided: Yahweh told Samuel He has provided ('seen' – Genesis 22:8, 14) a king.

2. Samuel is concerned Saul will kill him; so, Yahweh tells him to offer a sacrifice and call Jesse (I possess) and his sons; and, He will make known to Samuel whom to anoint. (Verses 2-3)

Samuel's question: Samuel knows of Saul's increasing instability and fears Saul will kill him if he anoints someone to replace Saul as king.

Yahweh's answer: Yahweh assigns a priestly task to Samuel in addition to his assignment to anoint a king who will be to and for Yahweh.

3. Samuel did as Yahweh spoke and came to Bethlehem, the elders trembled to meet him and said, 'Do you come (in) peace?'; he said, '(In) peace I have come to sacrifice to Yahweh, so sanctify yourselves and come to the sacrifice', he sanctified Jesse and his sons and called them to sacrifice. (Verses 4-5)

Obedience: Samuel fully obeyed both tasks Yahweh had assigned to him.

Elders: The elders gave Yahweh's prophet the same fear and reverence they gave to Yahweh Himself.

Sanctification to sacrifice: All followers of Yahweh must sacrifice to Him in holiness (sanctification) AND the sacrifice makes them holy (sanctified). Now that Messiah-Savior has come, His holy sacrifice of Himself can make those who trust in His sacrifice for them AND offer themselves to Him holy!

B. As Samuel sees Jesse's sons, starting with the oldest who was of great stature, he thinks each one is Yahweh's anointed, but none are chosen. (1 Samuel 16:6-10)

1. Then they came and he saw Eliab (my father-God) and said, 'Surely Yahweh's anointed', and Yahweh said, 'Do not look at his appearance or stature, because I have rejected him; because men see with the eyes, Yahweh sees the heart'. (Verses 6-7)

Saw Eliab: Samuel saw a physical specimen, as impressive as Saul was (1 Samuel 9:1-2), and was sure Eliab was God's choice.

Yahweh rejected: Yahweh considered him unfit to be king, despite his superior appearance.

Heart of man: God sees deeply into people. He seeks a 'man after His own heart' (1 Samuel 13:14), someone with a heart that will be faithful to Him by grace (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 2:8-10). The Covenant God can reshape such a person's heart to be clean before Him (Psalm 51:10).

Only God can make a heart clean

2. Then Jesse called Abinadab (my noble father) and made his pass before Samuel who said, 'This also is not Yahweh's chosen'; then Jesse called Shammah (astonishment) with the same result. (Verses 8-9)

NOT chosen: Two more sons of Jesse are not chosen because their hearts are not faithful to Yahweh.

3. Jesse made his seven sons pass before Samuel who said, 'Yahweh has not chosen these'. (Verse 10)

Seven: Seven is the number of completeness. None of Jesse's mature sons is qualified to be king.

II. Jesse's youngest son is anointed king; and, a Psalm he wrote requests a pure heart; David's Anointed descendant commands people: judge as God does. (1 Samuel 16:11-13; Psalm 51:10-14 & John 7:24)

A. After Jesse's youngest son is anointed as king by Samuel, The Spirit of Yahweh comes on him and stays. (1 Samuel 16:11-13)

1. Then Samuel said, 'Are all the sons here?'; Jesse said, 'There still remains the youngest, behold!, he is keeping the sheep'; Samuel said, 'Send and take him (to me) for we will not sit around (the sacrifice) until he comes here'. (Verse 11)

Youngest remains: Samuel has not seen the eighth born. Eight is the number of new beginnings.

Jesus rose from the dead on the eighth day from the day He rode into Jerusalem (John 12:1-13).

2. Jesse sent and brought him in, and he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and goodly to see; then Yahweh said, 'Arise! Anoint him! Because this (is) he. (*Verse 12*)

Great appearance: Ruddy is 'edom' (Genesis 25:25). His eyes had light in them, reflecting on his whole body and soul (Matthew 6:22).

AND Yahweh chose: God chose David because of what He saw in his heart, and his appearance was good.

By choosing him to be the anointed king of His people, God says he will make his heart clean.

Only God can make a heart clean

3. Then Samuel took his horn of oil and anointed him, then the Spirit of Yahweh prospered on David from that day forward; then Samuel went to Ramah (hill). (*Verse 13*)

Holy Spirit: David received God's Spirit for the rest of his life before Pentecost. In the wilderness, the seventy elders received God's Spirit to prophesy, but not again (Numbers 11:24-30).

Years later David broke two of the Ten Commandments at the same time. His experience led him to write the prayer song we heard earlier.

B. David writes a prayer song requesting a pure heart from God so he will have joy in God's salvation. (*Psalm 51:10-14*)

1. A clean heart, Thou must create to me God; and a spirit of right Thou must renew in me; Thou will not cast me away from Thy Presence; and The Spirit of Thy Holiness, Thou will not take from me. (*Verses 10-11*)

Create clean heart: God has always been able to create a clean heart in His people and to renew their spirit to be morally right. Now He does it through faith in the work of Jesus on The Cross.

Only God can make a heart clean

NOT cast away: Realizing the gravity of his rebellion, David pleads God will never remove from him the presence of His Spirit; and, the word spoken about him when he received God's Spirit be fulfilled.

2. Thou must restore to me the joy of Thy salvation; and with a spirit (of) nobility, Thou will uphold me. (*Verse 12*)

Joy: All who experientially know God's salvation IN The Savior, Jesus, have abiding joy in His Spirit.

Noble: All who are in The Prince of Peace share in His nobility (Revelation 20:4-6).

3. I will teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners to Thee will return. (*Verse 13*)

Conversion teaching: Those who live in God's salvation with His Spirit in them, restored and upheld in His joy, will be given the ability to teach repentance to conversion even to transgressors.

Application: Let us seek the filling of The Holy Spirit so others are converted from depression and death TO joy and life IN Jesus.

4. Thou must deliver me from blood(guilt) God; The God of my salvation; my tongue will sing for loud joy (of) Thy righteousness. (*Verse 14*)

Deliver: Deliverance from the blood of death due to sin is what all people need AND can find in The Savior God, now revealed as God's Son Jesus.

Righteous joy: The clean heart that can only come through God's work IN Jesus' Death and Resurrection to make people righteous before God, results in praise songs of loud joy.

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C. Jesus commands people not to judge by appearance; but, by God's righteous judgment they must judge. (*John 7:24*)

1. You all must not be judging according to appearance. (*Verse 24a*)

NOT surface looks: Jesus makes what God revealed to Samuel a command for His disciples.

People tend to see the surface, not the depths

2. But (in) the righteous judgment, you all must be judging. (*Verse 24b*)

As God, so us: Jesus says the judging of His followers must be done in the righteousness with which God judges.

In other words, as God judges, so must His people judge. May we only judge under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit according to The Word He inspired (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Application: May we all come boldly to The Father in heaven that He may make us clean in our hearts to have the joy of Jesus' salvation. Then, we must pray to be filled with The Holy Spirit forever so we make judgments of others according to God's character: LOVE, Grace, Mercy, Righteousness, and Justice.

Conclusion: Yahweh commands Samuel to stop grieving for Saul and to go to Jesse in Bethlehem because one of his sons has been chosen to be anointed king of Israel. As seven sons of Jesse come to Samuel he is impressed with each one, but God says no to all of them. Then David is called and God chooses him because of his humble and thankful heart.

One thousand years later, David's descendant, The Messiah Jesus, forbids judging on appearance. It's all about the heart.

Only God can make a heart clean