

Introduction: It is human nature to ‘size up’ people by their appearance, how they look to the eyes. I remember that from the time I could read, my mother always told me, ‘Don’t judge a book by its cover’. She was right; but, how can we rightly judge what is inside people? It takes a lot of sympathetic listening, and sensitively asking the right questions, to begin to know a person’s heart. Every human being is broken in some way, but we are all uniquely broken. So, how can we ever really understand a person’s heart, and be a friend to our neighbor? *** Full understanding will only happen when all who will be, are reconciled to God by the salvation IN Jesus. We must bet our lives, our existence, on the truth that He died to take our brokenness and sins on Himself. Then, if we humbly confess our condition to Him, we will be forgiven. Then, His Holy Spirit will come into us with power to enable us to live according to the instruction He gave through Moses. We will be given His wisdom and be filled with the greatest fruit of the Holy Spirit: LOVE (Colossians 1:28-31; Galatians 5:22-25). *** When all this happens, we can help our broken neighbor come into God’s family IN Jesus. We are also enabled to pray in the faith of Jesus to be given God’s plans for us, and also to desire with all our hearts what God desires for us to do. He is not willing for any to remain broken (Psalm 34:18; 147:1-3; Isaiah 61:1-3). As we help our neighbors to live in God’s family, and enjoy His love, we can help them to build positive memories of blessings God has given them, and more and more as the years go by. *** We have heard that even the prophet and priest Samuel, who was mentioned with Moses and Aaron (Psalm 99:6; Jeremiah 15:1), was initially swayed by physical stature and appearance when Yahweh sent him to anoint one of Jesse’s sons to be His chosen king of Israel. But when his youngest son, David, was anointed king, the power of the Holy Spirit came upon him. It was the Holy Spirit who inspired David to write over fifty Psalms that covered every aspect of a right and intimate relationship with God after being saved – even in the darkest of times. *** One of David’s Psalms declares that those saved by God will always remember Him; and, will in turn, as they boast about God, cause others to remember that God will give them plans in accordance with His will, and He will put in their hearts right desires to know and do His will for them. *** Let’s now discover more about these truths from our passages.

I. Yahweh sends Samuel to anoint a son of Jesse king; Samuel is impressed with the first-born son; but, Yahweh says He chooses based on a person’s heart, and He chooses the eighth son. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

A. Yahweh tells Samuel to stop grieving over Saul and go to Jesse’s house to anoint one of his sons as His chosen ruler after consecrating them to His service. (*Verses 1-5*)

1. Then Yahweh said to Samuel, ‘How long are thou mourning Saul, and I, even I have rejected him to be king over Israel; thou must fill thy horn with oil, and thou must go, I will send thee to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have seen in his sons, king to Me’. (*Verse 1*)

Saul: Last week we heard Saul’s doubled-down disobedience put a permanent end to his days as king.

Samuel was invested in Saul, but could do nothing to change the past, so he must move on.

Jesse: Yahweh tells Samuel that He has seen among the sons of Jesse of ‘House of Bread’ His king.

2. Samuel said, ‘How will I go? Saul hears (of it) he will slay me’; then Yahweh said, ‘A heifer in thy hand thou will take, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to Yahweh; call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show thee what thou will do; thou anoint to Me whom I say’. (*Verses 2-3*)

Fear: For a moment Samuel has a fear of man. At many times, God said those continuing in this fear are sinning (1 Samuel 15:24; Proverbs 29:25; Isaiah 51:7-13; John 12:42-43).

Excuse: Yahweh gives Samuel a plausible explanation for his action, but it is not the full truth.

3. Samuel did what Yahweh commanded: the elders of Bethlehem trembled to meet him, one said, ‘(In) peace (do) thou come?’; he said, ‘(In) peace to sacrifice to Yahweh I come; y’all must consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice’; then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and called them to the sacrifice. (*Verses 4-5*)

Consecration: The city is afraid, but Samuel comes in peace. Before they offer the sacrifice, they must make themselves holy before Yahweh so God can work in them (Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Philippians 2:12-13).

Application: In light of this, we must always ask God to consecrate us, to make us holy IN Christ Jesus.

B. Samuel is swayed by the outward appearance of the older sons; but, Yahweh says they are rejected because He looks at the heart; then, the last-born son, a shepherd, is anointed king and empowered by God’s Spirit. (*Verses 10-16*)

1. The sons came, (Samuel) saw Eliab and said, ‘Surely, before Yahweh (is) His anointed’; then Yahweh said to Samuel, ‘Thou will not pay attention to his appearance, or his stature, because I have rejected him, because (it is) not as man sees: because man looks (only with) eyes, and Yahweh into the heart’. (*Verses 6-7*)

Rejected: Despite his appearance, even to Samuel, Jesse’s first-born son is rejected by Yahweh.

Yahweh looks at heart: Yahweh tells Samuel that He looks (chooses) people to serve Him in a role based on what He sees in the heart of that person.

2. Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel, and he said, ‘Also, this one had not been chosen (by) Yahweh; then Jesse made Shammah pass by [with the same result]; then (all) seven of his sons ... and Samuel said, ‘Yahweh has not chosen these’. (*Verses 8-10*)

Not Chosen: Apparently, all seven sons lacked in their heart what God required for His king.

God chooses based on the heart.

3. Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are finished the sons?’; and Jesse said, ‘Yet remains the youngest, behold! he is keeping the sheep’; Samuel said, ‘Thou must send and take him, because we will not go back until he comes here’. (*Verse 11*)

Samuel’s question: Because of what Yahweh commanded him, Samuel correctly assumes Jesse has another son.

4. Then (Jesse) sent and brought him: he was flushed with handsome eyes and looked good; then Yahweh said (to Samuel), 'Thou must rise up and anoint him, because this is him'. (*Verse 12*)

Yahweh anoints: Yahweh knows David has a heart towards Him, so He commands Samuel to anoint David to be His new king.

David is anointed king because of his heart for God

5. Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him ... and the Spirit of Yahweh rushed upon (in power to make) David (succeed) from that day forward; then Samuel went to Ramah. (*Verse 13*)

Spirit's power: Once David was anointed king by Samuel, Yahweh's Spirit dramatically came on him!

Application: We must realize we can only serve God in 'good works' as His Spirit gives us a right heart.

II. God's people ask Him to protect their king David and they petition Him on behalf of David; then, they praise God for salvation and exhort people to remember the Name of Yahweh. (*Psalms 20:1-7*)

- A. David's people ask God to support their king and to give him the right desires and plans. (*Verses 1-4*)

1. {To the director, psalm to David} Yahweh will answer thee in the day of trouble / it will (securely be) set the high – the Name of the God of Jacob. (*Verse 1*)

About David: A good Study Bible will point out David composed this Psalm when he was king as a prayer from his people to God to protect him.

Protected: The word used has to do with needy people who love God being protected by Him by being lifted above their troubles in Him (Job 5:11; Psalm 91:14).

2. He will send thee help from the sanctuary / and from Zion, He will strengthen thee. (*Verse 2*)

Strengthen: The word translated 'strengthen' is a rare poetic word used only twelve times, eight times in poetic passages, including Isaiah (9:7) which says Messiah's throne will be strong in justice.

3. He will remember all thy offerings / and thy burnt offerings He will accept. (*Verse 3*)

Accept: The word for 'accept' is literally 'make fat' which was considered the best part of an offering (Psalm 36:8). In the fellowship offering, the fat must always be offered to Yahweh (Leviticus 3:16).

4. He will give to thee thy heart's desire / and all thy plans He will fulfill. (*Verse 4*)

Fulfill plans: The plans that Yahweh will fulfill are according to His counsel. And those whose hearts are dedicated to be close to God, will be given to understand what He has planned for them.

According to heart: And, the desires of David's heart were aligned with Yahweh's desires because David's heart was fully for his God!

David is anointed king because of his heart for God

Application: Therefore we must pray to seek to have a heart fully devoted to God, and right with God; so that we will pray that all our plans and desires come from Him (Psalm 37:4).

- B. God's people pledge to praise their God for salvation, and say they will cause others to remember the Name of Yahweh. (*Verses 5-7*)

1. We will shout for joy over thy salvation / and in the name of our God we will set up a banner / and

Yahweh will fulfill all thy petitions. (*Verse 5*)

Salvation: The key truth here is that Yahweh will save His king David and all God's people will rejoice with loud voices. There are two more rare poetic words in this line: the first is 'petition' which ironically occurs again only in the Psalm about God giving us desires (Psalm 37:4!); the second is 'set up a banner' which only occurs three other times in Song of Solomon (5:10; 6:4, 10).

2. Now I have known Yahweh saved His anointed / He will answer him from His holy heaven / with strong salvation (by) His right hand. (*Verse 6*)

Save the king: Yahweh will save His anointed king David because he had a heart to know his Covenant God.

David is anointed king because of his heart for God

3. These (trust) chariots and these (trust) horses / but we, in the Name of Yahweh our God, will cause (people) to remember (Him). (*Verse 7*)

Cause to be remembered: David says that all God's people will boast of their Covenant God by forcing His enemies to remember all the times God miraculously delivered them, His people!

Yahweh saves His anointed who boasts in Him

Application: We must follow David's heart example and always remember that our salvation IN The King of kings is given so we may carry out God's will to use us to make disciples of our neighbors.

Conclusion: Yahweh sends Samuel to anoint a son of Jesse to be king. Samuel is impressed with the first-born son; but, Yahweh says He chooses based on a person's heart, and He chooses the eighth son. God's people exalt Him for their king David and they petition Him on behalf of David. Then, they praise God for salvation and exhort people to remember the Name of Yahweh.

David is anointed king because of his heart for God