

after God's heart

a series on the life of King David



God Looks at the Heart

We're continuing in our After God's Heart series by looking at the anointing of David. In context, this passage takes place after God had rejected Saul as king for disobeying God two times. At this point David is probably between 10-12 years old. We'll focus our discussion today on the difference between what people versus God look at.

LOOKING BACK:

- Vision Statement: Explain the purpose of lifegroup.
- Introduction Question: What stands out to you when you meet someone for the first time? Or what are you looking for?
- Praise Reports and Prayer Requests.
- Accountability Question: How did I choose to keep God's commands this last week?

LOOKING UP: 1 SAMUEL 16.1-13

1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." **2** But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" **3** Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." **4** Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" **5** Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. **6** When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." **7** But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." **8** Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." **9** Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." **10** Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." **11** So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." **12** So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

Discussion Prompts:

- What stands out to me from this passage?
- What do I learn about people?
- What do I learn about God?
- What do I learn about being a person after God's heart?

LOOKING FORWARD:

Practical: In today's passage we see that, unlike people, God looks at the heart and not at the outward appearances. This is an important point for us to discuss in depth because it is really easy for us to overemphasize the outward appearances.

- In what ways have I seen those around me focus on outward appearances?
- In what ways do I personally focus on outward appearances?
- What does it mean that God looks at the heart?
- What would it look like for me to focus more on my heart?
- What can I do this week to emphasize my heart over outward appearances?
- Close by praying for each other to be able to be people after God's heart this week.

Prayer Maps:

- Who on our prayer maps overemphasize outward appearances over the heart?
- How can I pray this week for these people to encounter God's heart and begin to see that it's the heart that matters more?