

SUNDAY HANDOUT FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION - October 25th

Chosen and Anointed (1 Samuel 16:14-23)

What is the most important part of a person? Many would point to a person's eyes, height, or physique. We live in a world that places great value on outward appearance and physical stature. Yet, in 1 Samuel 16, God chooses a new king and His decision is utterly unexpected. Through this surprising choice, God reveals that His perspective is radically different from ours: Man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart. This passage challenges us to look beyond outward appearances and live with our hearts open before God.

1. An unlikely king chosen (16:1-13)

2. A Spirit-filled servant (16:14-23)

3. A heart God sees (16:7)

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Can you think of a time God used someone you wouldn't have expected to teach you something important?
2. Samuel assumed Eliab was God's chosen king because of his appearance and stature. Have you ever been confident that someone was the right person for a role or responsibility based on appearances, only to discover later that you had overlooked something important about their character?
3. Jesse did not even bring David in from the field when Samuel first arrived. Have you ever felt overlooked, underestimated, or forgotten by others? How might David's story encourage you to trust God during those seasons?
4. If God looks at the heart, how should that change the way we choose friends, evaluate leaders, raise our children, or decide whom to trust with responsibility?
5. Proverbs 4:23 tells us to guard our hearts because the heart shapes our lives. What influences, such as entertainment, social media, relationships, or personal ambitions, are most likely to shape your heart away from God?
6. Have you ever done something that appeared generous, spiritual, or selfless on the outside but was motivated by a desire for approval, recognition, or control? What did that experience teach you about the importance of examining your motives?
7. In Matthew 15:8, Jesus warns about honoring God with our lips while our hearts remain far from Him. What spiritual practices help you cultivate genuine affection for Christ?
8. Sunday's message emphasized that God often works through people the world overlooks. How might this idea challenge the way you view yourself, someone in your church, or a person you have been tempted to dismiss?
9. What is the difference between merely appearing to be a godly person and actually becoming a person whose heart is devoted to God? What would that difference look like in your daily life?