SERIES ON 7 SAMUELP(, **\***(, . in Ca

## 1 Samuel 16 How Does God See?

"Social Media Companies faced with growing evidence that their products were harming young people, they mostly engaged in denial, obfuscation, and public relations campaigns. Companies that strive to maximize "engagement" by using psychological tricks to keep young people clicking were the worst offenders. They hooked children during vulnerable developmental stages, while their brains were rapidly rewiring in response to incoming stimulation. This included social media companies, which inflicted their greatest damage on girls, and video game companies and pornography sites, which sank their hooks deepest into boys..."

"...By designing a firehose of addictive content that entered through kids' eyes and ears, and by displacing physical play and in-person socializing, these companies have rewired childhood and changed human development on an almost unimaginable scale."

Jonathan Haidt - The Anxious Generation

"To pay full attention to something that is inconsequential or completely unimportant is to be blind, is to be fooled, is to have your pocket picked, is to not see truly, is not to see reality. God is saying to Samuel, "Not only you but the whole human race, not just you but man, the whole human race, humankind are obsessed with things that are not real."

Because of sin, we look at the wrong things in leaders, marriage, and saviors. We want them to look a particular way. God wants us to form us into a particular kind of people.

#### 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (ESV)

David Anointed King 16 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you."

4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." 11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here."

12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome.

And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

# We serve a God who Sends Us, Sees Us, and Shows Us.

### 1. Sends Us

## 2. Sees Us

#### 1 Samuel 16:6-7

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him."
7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his

appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

"Every No from God is a mercy."

-Elizabeth Elliot

#### 1 Samuel 13:13-14 (ESV)

13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then, the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you."

"Two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly (city) by the love of self, even to the contempt of God; the heavenly (city) by the love of God, even to the contempt of self."

-St. Augustine

# 3. Shows Us He helps us see what He sees.

#### 1 Samuel 16:2-3

2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you."

"When Samuel looks at Eliab the first time and he says, "Surely this is him," what does he say? What is the word he uses? "This is the anointed." In Hebrew, the word he is using is mashiach. In the Greek Old Testament, the Septuagint, the word he is using is christos. In other words, Samuel knows everything hinges on, "Is this the Christ?" It wasn't Eliab, but actually it's not David. Here is what the New Testament tells us. There was another child of Bethlehem who was not allowed in but kept out with the sheep and the animals..."

"...There was another who was anointed by the Spirit. He was sent out into the wilderness not just to be hunted by Saul, but assaulted by Satan. There was another one who was not just forgotten by his Father, but forsaken by his Father on the cross. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The most beautiful and brilliant and gorgeous person in the universe, Jesus Christ, lost his physical attractiveness..."

"...Isaiah 53 said, "He had no attractiveness by which we should desire him." The most beautiful being lost his physical attractiveness so we, being spiritually unsightly, could be beautiful in the eyes of God because Jesus on the cross paid the debt we owed eternal justice."

#### -Tim Keller

#### Psalm 51:16-17

16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

"The breaking itself is important because it is irrevocable, and so is the idea that in one sense it is, as Judas crudely observes, a 'wasteful' or useless gesture, while at the same time being, as Jesus counter, 'a beautiful thing.' My understanding of this passage was deepened and transformed by a conversation with one of my parishioners, now in heaven. She had a daughter who was multiply disabled. Brain-damaged and confined to a wheelchair, she could hardly recognize, respond to, or communicate with those around her, but her mother poured out years of love and care for her before the girl eventually died..."

"...And she told me once how, when she was despairing, heartbroken, and ready to give up, the image suddenly came to her of Mary and the broken jar of ointment. She realized this, in her own way, was who she was and what she we was doing: pouring out every day the unreturnable love and care that so many in society might think, like Judas, was a 'waste', but was somehow, in spite of everything renewing a beauty and a hope."

-Malcolm Guite - The Word in the Wilderness

They will see, smell, and remember you as a living example of grace and your life as an invitation to lay what they find most valuable at the feet of the one they find most beautiful.

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