



August 17, 2025
A Man After God's Heart
What God Sees
1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. **Opening Discussion:** (You will probably want to use only one of these openers)

- a. Have you ever made an important decision that you were convinced was correct, only to learn later that it was horribly wrong? How did you respond in that situation? Was it something you had to live with, or were you able to correct your decision?
- b. When teams were being chosen for games or sports while you were in school, were you usually chosen early, late, or somewhere in the middle? How did you feel about the order in which you were chosen? What factors did you feel contributed to the selection order?
- c. Has someone you trusted ever betrayed you and damaged your reputation? What was your response to the betrayal? How long did it take you to get over the event?

2. **Prayer:**

- a. Adoration – Pray a Psalm or other Scripture to focus on praising God.
- b. Confession – Spend time confessing any known sins. 1 John 1:9
- c. Thanksgiving – Thank God for answered prayers, blessings, gifts, and opportunities to serve.
- d. Supplications
 - i. Pray for the activities of His Church locally and around the world.
 - ii. Pray for the spiritual and physical needs of others and yourself.
- e. Least Reached People Group: **Western Baloch of Turkmenistan** (*from the IMB “Loving the Lost Through Prayer” guide*)

“The small Baloch (buh-LOOCH) minority in Turkmenistan are part of the larger Baloch population spanning Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The Baloch foster a profound sense of solidarity. They are united by their rich traditions, shared history, Balochi language, and Muslim religion. Baloch women wear intricate red designs that show their remarkable skills in embroidery. Rug weaving is also a prevalent craft. Family is central to their culture, and they are forbidden to marry outside the Baloch community. It’s hard for Baloch to seek truth outside of Islam because their community would see that as being disloyal. Pray the Lord will send believers to share the gospel with the Baloch in Turkmenistan whose hearts are seeking truth.”

3. **Sermon Key Points**

- a. God Saw In David What Others Couldn’t See
 - i. God rejected King Saul who looked and acted like a normal king.
 - ii. God cares about heart, not appearance.
 - iii. God chose David because he was aligned to God’s heart.

- b. What Does God See In You?
 - i. Hopefully, Jesus!
 - ii. Cultivate a heart like that of Jesus.
- c. Ask God to Help You See What He Sees In Others
 - i. With God's Spirit living in you, you don't have to see like everyone else.
 - ii. As you grow in Christ, listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit

4. Bible Study:

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after the sermon, make time to consider:
 - i. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
 - iii. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
 - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. **Monday:**
 - i. The focal passage for this week is 1 Samuel 16:1-13.
 - 1. Before reading the focal passage, read these earlier passages from 1 Samuel as background: 8:4-9 & 19-22, 9:15-17, 9:27-10:1 & 20-24, 13:7-14, and 15:1-3, 13-19, & 34-35.
 - 2. Now read and meditate on the focal passage.
 - ii. What truths do these passages show you about God?
 - iii. What characteristic did Samuel seem to think was important when Saul was proclaimed king (see 10:24)? What did God eventually reveal to Samuel was of much greater importance (see 13:13-14)?
 - iv. We must be cautious not to misinterpret the final phrase of 1 Samuel 15:35. Whose fault was it that Saul was rejected as king? Who could he blame? In what way was Saul's situation the same as that of each of us until we accept Christ as our Savior?
 - v. Why did Samuel grieve over Saul? How did Paul demonstrate this same attitude (see 2 Corinthians 12:20-21)? What do these passages teach us about what our attitude should be towards sin in the lives of others?
- c. **Tuesday:**
 - i. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13, meditating especially on verses 1.
NOTE: Old Testament history differs from the history we are accustomed to reading. The events are often not recorded in chronological order but instead are arranged to make spiritual (theological) points about the history of Israel. This seems to be the case with God's selection and Samuel's initial anointing of

David. We can only speculate about “when” it occurred relative to some of the other events in 1 Samuel.

- ii. What does verse 1 suggest about the timing of David’s anointing? Who is controlling when it will occur?
 - 1. How might we paraphrase God’s question to Samuel in verse 1 in today’s vernacular?
 - 2. Did God tell Samuel to stop grieving (mourning)? According to 1 Samuel 15:35, how long did his grieving continue (Samuel’s death is reported in 25:1)?
 - a. What might this suggest about how we should respond to God’s leading even in those times we are grieving?
 - b. Luke 14:26 is often seen as a troubling verse. How would God’s question to Samuel present the same principle Jesus was teaching? What must be our first (only) priority?
- iii. Who was Jesse (see Ruth 4:17) and what is significant about Bethlehem (historically – not in the future with the birth of Jesus – see Genesis 35:16-20)?

d. Wednesday:

- i. Today, meditate on Samuel’s response to God in verses 2-4a.
- ii. What does Samuel’s initial response show? Why would he have feared for his life?
 - 1. God expects, and certainly deserves, our complete obedience. Still, He also listens to us when we ask about His commands (consider also the responses of Moses at the burning bush and Mary when told she would be the mother of Jesus). What does it teach us about His nature that He listens and responds to such questions?
 - 2. Isaiah famously responded in a very different manner in Isaiah 6:8. Which response are you most inclined to make if God sends you: “How can I” or “Send me”?
- iii. How does God respond to Samuel’s concern? Did taking a heifer to sacrifice guarantee Samuel’s safety? What did?
 - 1. If God intended that David was to be anointed by Samuel, what was going to prevent it? What are the implications of that in our lives when we are commanded to do something?
 - 2. How might we misread God’s instruction? What did God fully expect Samuel to do with the heifer?

e. Thursday:

- i. Meditate today on verses 4 and 5.
- ii. Why would the elders in Bethlehem have been frightened by the appearance of Samuel?
 - 1. What does that suggest about the relationship between Samuel and Saul at this point?

2. What does Saul know about God's will (see 13:14 and 15:28), and how is he responding?
 3. What does this suggest about the repentance he proclaimed in 15:24?
 - iii. Samuel knew God was about to reveal the next king, but after assuring the elders that he had come in peace, what was Samuel's next act? Why would Samuel have insisted that the elders, Jesse, and his sons must take time to consecrate themselves before the sacrifice (see Exodus 19:10, and Leviticus 7:19-21)? What does it suggest about our inclination to "take shortcuts" in order to get the results for God sooner?
- f. **Friday:**
- i. Read 1 Samuel 16:6-12.
 - ii. What seems to have been Samuel's initial selection criteria? What lesson did God need to reteach Samuel? What was God's selection based on?
 - iii. Do you think Jesse knew what Samuel was doing? Would he have likely been so willing to present his sons if he knew one would be anointed king in an act of treason against Saul, the ruling king?
 - iv. Who did Samuel make clear (verse 10) was making the selection as the sons were presented?
 - v. The Hebrew word translated "youngest" in verse 10 can also mean smallest. How does this suggest David may have compared to Eliab?
 - vi. How does verse 12 describe David? While we might take the description as a compliment, how would the apparent description of a young boy seem unacceptable for one being chosen as king to lead a nation often at war?
 - vii. How do we know that David was unquestionably the correct choice (verse 12b)?
- g. **Saturday:**
- i. Read and meditate on verse 13.
 - ii. How did God confirm His choice? What parallels can you think of in the New Testament (see Matthew 3:16, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 10:44, etc.)?
 - iii. In what way do we share the same privilege that David was given?
5. **Application:**
- a. We should be acutely attuned to the truth that God looks at the heart and not at outward appearances. While we cannot know the heart, we must avoid making judgments on appearance.
 - b. When God calls, we must obey, even into the most dangerous situations. As Christians, we are commanded to "take up our cross," not run and hide.
 - c. Shortcuts are never an option in doing God's work. If He has declared a way for things to be done, that is the way they must be done. Shortcuts may seem to save time, but ultimately, they will not bring Him all the glory.