

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – June 26, 2022

Theme: Lessons from the life of David Topic: Appearances can be deceptive

Main Text: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Key verse: 1 Samuel 16:7b *“For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: God rejected Saul for his disobedience when he went to fight the Amalekites. God had instructed him to destroy the Amalekites completely - men, women, children, and animals (1 Samuel 15:3). But Saul disobeyed God and was rejected (1 Samuel 15:7–9). God needing to appoint a new king over Israel, sent Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint a king that He would show him, and Samuel went. When he arrived at Jesse’s, he looked at Eliab and judged based on what he could see that he was likely the chosen king (1 Samuel 15:6). God knew what Samuel was thinking and immediately spoke to him. God knows us inside and out (Psalm 139:2; Acts 1:24).

1. **(a) Samuel was a man of God, a prophet and yet, he made an error of judgement. Even Jesse was thinking the same way as Samuel. What would have happened if Samuel could not hear from God and chose to ‘vet’ his thoughts with Jesse? (b) What does this show us about human nature compared to God? (c) What does this teach us about relying on friends and family, and not on God, to validate our thoughts about a thing? (Read Psalm 37:5; Proverbs 3:6).**

God is more interested in what goes on in the heart of a man than in what he or she looks like on the outside. He’s always been interested in the heart which is why He tells us repeatedly to guard it (Deuteronomy 4:9; Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:18 - 19; Luke 6:45). God does not see as man sees. Put besides his brothers, there is absolutely no basis on which anyone would have imagined David to be king material. Age, experience, family status, were all against him. Yet, that is the person God chose. God saw something in David that no man, not even the prophet Samuel could have seen. At the time, David was what we would call a ‘diamond in the rough.’ But this ‘diamond’ was only visible to the Divine Eye. Whether or not prophet Samuel saw what God saw in David, we do not know but he simply anointed the one God directed him to. Therefore, we must trust and obey God.

2. **(a) It is curious that Jesse, after presenting his 7 sons, had to be prompted by Samuel to see if he had any other sons somewhere. Did Jesse forget? (b) What must it have felt like to Jesse and prophet Samuel that God chose the least likely person? (c) What does this say about our mindset when it concerns people that we think God cannot use?**

We may not know why Prophet Samuel insisted on having each of Jesse’s sons pass before him. Samuel could have saved the time and effort, or at least spared the young lads the embarrassment of each having to be individually rejected by God! Perhaps, God wanted to reinforce the lesson about the deceptiveness of looks. The fact is that no matter how matured and experienced we may be, we simply cannot see into a man’s heart. So, we must lean on God’s wisdom and direction (Proverbs 3:5-6). Consider Moses, when he left Pharaoh’s palace, God did not use him right then to deliver the children of Israel from slavery even though He could have, after all, Moses was strong, knowledgeable, a prince, raised in the palace of a king. But He chose to let him wander in the wilderness for 40 years. And there he lost all the things which the world pays attention to - his eloquence, poise, polish, status. That was when God found him fit for His use.... That was when his heart was right. The disposition of a man’s heart is what determines the extent to which God can use him. David was unpolished, unassuming, and unfinished, like a piece of clay. He tended to sheep and goats. A smelly, lowly job. But because he had the right heart, God could use him. And when he was anointed by Samuel, the Bible records that the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward (1 Samuel 16:13b).

3. **(a) In what ways do we in the world today, relegate people and tag them as ‘castaways? (b) What are some of the consequences of focusing on outward appearances? (Read Genesis 27:21–23, 30, 31, 35). (c) What are some practical areas of life, and ways where these lessons can be applied?**

Prayer: *Dear Father, create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Purge me of every sense of self, of pride and arrogance. Rid me of every consciousness of self-achievement, class, status, qualification, title, or rank And use me, in Jesus Name I pray, Amen*