



By Dr. Stephen G. Tan | 1 Samuel 16:1-13

## DISCUSS

Whether fairly or unfairly, many of us tend to pass judgment on others based on their appearance, how they act, what they wear, and how they talk. We place a high value on image and appearance to gauge a person's impact on society. This may be why we spend a lot of time on our own image, making sure we project a good outward image of ourselves to the point that we forget to cultivate our inward character. But as a follower of Jesus, we need to look to scripture to see what criteria God uses to size us up and assess our lives in order to be chosen to be used by Him in an impactful way. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

### **God does not assess us based on our looks nor on our reputation (v. 1-6).**

- Why did God tell Prophet Samuel to anoint someone else to be the new king of Israel when King Saul was still the current king during that time?
- Who was Jesse? What did Prophet Samuel do before he anointed one of Jesse's sons to be the next king?
- In the process of selecting who would be the next king, how was it communicated to us that God does not assess us based on our outward appearance and packaging?

### **God assesses us based on what He sees in our hearts (v. 7-11).**

- In what way does God look at a person differently from how you look at a person? What does it mean that the Lord looks at the heart (of man)?

- Does it encourage you that God looks at your heart and not on your outward looks, intelligence or popularity? Why or why not?
- Why do you think God can use you even if you are broken, came from a dysfunctional family, not eloquent nor as good looking or intelligent as others?
- If God looks at your heart, have you examined your heart lately? What does your heart look like?

### **God is looking for a heart that is wholly devoted to Him (v. 11-12).**

- What happened when David was called to the lineup?
- From God's standpoint, what made David stand out among his brothers so that he would eventually be anointed as the next king?
- How does being a shepherd give you glimpses of how David developed a heart for God, a heart wholly devoted for Him (Psalm 23; Psalm 19:1)?
- What can you learn from David's life that will cause your heart to be attuned with God's and focus solely on Him being all-powerful, loving, and mighty?

## REFLECT

It would be many years before David was crowned king over all Israel. He was anointed early because God wanted David to continue guarding and cultivating his shepherd's heart until such time he would rule over all Israel. How do you guard your heart so that you would be blessed and approved by God?

## PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You that You do not assess us based on our looks or reputation, but based on what You see in our heart. Lord, as You look for a heart that is wholly devoted to You, may You find mine to be after Your own heart. In Jesus' name. Amen.