

I. Introduction and review: Appearances can be deceiving.

II. The LORD sends Samuel to anoint a new king. v. 1-5

- A. The time for mourning is over. v. 1a Ecc. 3:1-8
1. Samuel is deeply moved over Saul's failure. 15:35,11b Jer. 15:17ff Ro. 9:2
 2. We should be grieved for the sins of our churches and our nation. Mt. 5:4 23:37
- B. It is time to anoint the king the LORD has chosen. v. 1b,3 2:10,35 10:1 Ex. 30:23-25
1. The new king will be chosen from among the sons of Jesse the Bethlehemite of the tribe of Judah (the grandson of Ruth and Boaz). Gen. 49:10 Mic. 5:2 Ruth 4:17ff
 2. God's choice will be revealed at a sacrificial feast. v. 3
 3. Unlike Saul, the people's choice, this king will be God's choice. 8:5,22 12:13 13:14 Dt. 17:14f Hos. 13:11 Ps. 78:70-71
- C. What will King Saul do? v. 2
1. Samuel fears Saul's reaction. v. 2a
 2. The LORD instructs Samuel to say that he is going to make a sacrifice. v. 2b
 3. Is the LORD encouraging Samuel to deceive Saul? 15:29 Titus 1:2 Ezek. 24
 4. There are other occasions in which some of the truth is justly concealed from those who don't have a right to the whole truth. 20:29 11:10 Ex. 5:1 Josh 8
 5. Are we ever allowed to deceive others?
- D. Samuel goes to Bethlehem. v. 4-5
1. Why are the Elders of the city terrified? v. 4b Pr. 28:1
 2. Samuel reassures them and invites them to a special sacrifice. v. 5

III. God sees not as man sees. v. 6-13

- A. Samuel (and Jesse) see imperfectly -- only the outward appearance. v. 6-7a, 8-10
1. Samuel sees Eliab and is impressed. v. 6 10:23-24 9:2 17:13
 2. Seven of Jesse's sons pass by Samuel, but none is the chosen one. v. 8-10
- B. The omniscient LORD sees the heart. v. 7b 13:14 I Chr. 28:9 He. 4:12 Ps. 139:23-24 I Ki. 8:39 Is. 11:3 55:8-9 Luke 16:15 Mt. 12:34-35 II Chron. 16:9
1. He does not have our human limitations. 15:29
 2. God searches our inner being -- He knows our thoughts, our character, our motives, and our desires. Ps. 139 Jer. 17:9-10
 3. There was nothing on the surface especially impressive about David. v. 11b
 4. There is nothing outwardly impressive about the people whom God chooses today. I Cor. 1:26ff Isa. 55:9 Ps. 89:27 I Chron. 5:1
 5. The son rejected by men is the LORD's choice. I Pe. 2:4
- C. David is anointed by Samuel. v. 11-13
1. Samuel realizes there must be another son. v. 11a
 2. Jesse's youngest son is summoned from the fields. v. 11b-12a Ps. 78:70-71
 3. David's life as a shepherd prepared him to be king. 17:34-37 Ps. 23
 4. It turns out he isn't so bad looking after all. v. 12 17:42 Ge. 29:17 39:6 II Sa. 11:2
 5. Samuel anoints David before his family. v. 12c-13a 2:10,35 II Sa. 2:4 5:3 Ps. 89:20
 6. The Holy Spirit comes upon David to equip him for his work. v. 13b 10:10
 7. Do David and his family comprehend what the LORD has done? 16:19

IV. Application: The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart.

A. Don't judge others based upon outward appearances. Mt. 7:1ff

1. Our eyes (and other senses) often deceive us.
2. Don't show favoritism based upon outward appearances. Js. 2:1ff
3. Assume the best about the motives of others. I Cor. 13:7
4. Look beyond outward appearances when choosing leaders. I Ti. 3:1-7 Acts 20:28
5. Don't merely look upon outward appearances when choosing a spouse. Pr. 31:30
6. Don't merely look at outward appearances when choosing a church.
7. Realize that people may have deep heart needs of which you aren't aware.

B. Don't judge yourself based upon outward appearances.

1. We don't even fully understand our own hearts. Pr. 21:2 Jer. 17:9-10 Heb. 3:13
2. Don't put too much focus on your outward appearance. I Pe. 3:3-4 I Tim. 2:9-10
3. God is not impressed by your money, your clothes, your car, your job, your house, your car, your popularity or your education.
4. Watch over your heart. Pr. 4:23 Ps. 51:6 66:18
5. Your identity is in Christ. I Cor. 6:11 Rom. 6:1ff II Co. 5:17

C. What kind of person does God seek to serve Him today?

1. God makes surprising choices when He chooses His servants. I Cor. 1:27ff
2. God may be using your apparently insignificant life experiences to prepare you for important service to Him.
3. God's promotions are often sudden and surprising.

V. Concluding applications.

A. David points us powerfully to Christ.

1. He is the anticipated one. 13:14 15:28 Luke 2:29-32
2. He is the Anointed One, chosen by God to be king. 2:10 16:13 Ps. 89:20 Lu. 9:35
3. He is born in Bethlehem. 16:1 Mic. 5:2 Mt. 2:6
4. He appeared to be lowly, unattractive, and unimpressive. 16:7 Isa. 52:14 53:3-4 Mark 6:3 Mt. 11:18-19 John 7:41-42 I Pe. 2:4 Ps. 118:22-23
5. He is beautiful. 16:11 Song of Sol. 5:10
6. He came bringing peace. 16:5 Isa. 9:6 Luke 2:14
7. His time of obscurity prepared Him for His glorious work. Luke 2:40 Heb. 5:8
8. He knows the hearts of men. 16:7 John 2:25
9. He is the Good Shepherd who tends His sheep. v. 11 II Sa. 5:2 John 10:11
10. Though He is anointed as king, we await the full manifestation of His reign.
11. He will come to the world in judgment. v. 4
12. He begins a dynasty which will never end. II Sam. 7:15 Ps. 89:29

B. God sees you perfectly -- Is this good news or bad news? What does He see in you?

Discussion question

1. Do you mourn over the sin of others?
2. Are we every allowed to deceive others? To whom do we owe the truth?
3. In what ways are we misled by looking upon the outward appearances of others?
4. How are we tempted to try to appear better than we are?
5. Is the fact that God sees you perfectly good news or bad news? Why?
6. What does this text teach us about the kinds of people God chooses to use?
7. How can we apply verse 7 in the choices we make in relationships?
8. How had David's work as shepherd prepared him to be king?
9. How might God be preparing you for important things through your present life?
10. What do you see about Jesus in this passage?