**THE LORD LOOKS AT THE HEART**

1 Samuel 16:1-23 Key Verse 16:7

*“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’”*

1. Read verses 1-5. What does the Lord say to Samuel, and what does this show us about Samuel? (1) What does Samuel ask the Lord? (2a) How does the Lord instruct Samuel to anoint the one He chose? (2b, 3) How does Samuel obey? (4-5)
2. Read verses 6-7. Which of Jesse’s sons did Samuel see first, and what did he think of him? (6) What does the Lord tell Samuel to ignore (7a)? What does the Lord look at? (7b) How can our standard of judgment become more like God’s?
3. Read verses 8-13. In what order were Jesse’s sons presented to Samuel? (8, 9, 17:13) How is David finally selected? (11-12) What are some of David’s characteristics? (11, 12, 18) Which of these characteristics was the Lord looking at? What happens to David when he is anointed? (13)
4. Read verses 14-17. What happens to Saul, and why did this happen to him? (14) What do Saul’s attendants suggest to him to make him feel better? (16) Why might this help?
5. Read verses 18-23. How did the Lord work to bring David into Saul’s service? (18) What can we learn here about how well David served Saul? (21, 22, 23) Why do you think God used David to bless Saul?