

# THE LORD LOOKETH ON THE HEART

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

Text: 1 Samuel 16:7

(1 Samuel 16:7) "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."

Introduction:

Everyone is familiar with the motto of the United States Marines: "We're looking for a few good men." It is also true that the Lord is looking for a few people with hearts yielded to Him, people whose service would be the outpouring of a spiritual heart. Reading 1 Samuel 16 causes great conviction and concern. The Bible tells us in this portion of Scripture that the Lord sees our hearts. God looks down from Heaven and sees past everything about us external; he sees straight into our hearts.

What does God see when He looks into your heart? The Bible says, "... for the LORD seeth not as man

seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7) ."

This passage in 1 Samuel refers to a time in history when Israel demanded a king. They had rejected the rule of God, and they did not want to obey the prophets. They said, "Give us a king like other nations."

(1 Samuel 8:3-10) "And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment. {4} Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, {5} And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. {6} But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. {7} And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. {8} According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. {9} Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them. {10} And Samuel told all the

words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king."

The Bible introduces that king in 1 Samuel chapter 9. His name was Saul. The Bible says that Saul was from a very wealthy family. He was strong, he stood head and shoulders above all the Israelites, and he was valiant.

Notice:

## **1. SAUL HAD A HEART THAT WAS PROUD**

(1 Samuel 13:1-4) "Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, {2} Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent. {3} And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear. {4} And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal."

A. Religious self-willed

1. Claimed to have done something that he really didn't
2. Called for the sacrifice in which he was not to conduct

(1 Samuel 13:9-11) "And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. {10} And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. {11} And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;"

- a. The sacrifice was only to be carried out by the priest.
  - b. He thought so much of the victory and of himself that he would carry out the sacrifice.
3. One of the greatest tests of a person's character comes when God begins to bless him.

4. Too often Christians become filled with pride and want to practice religion their own way.

## B. Open disobedience

Saul's sin was not only that he made up his own way to serve and worship God; it was also open disobedience.

(1 Samuel 15:1-8) "Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. {2} Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. {3} Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. {4} And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. {5} And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. {6} And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye showed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. {7} And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. {8} And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites

alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword."

1. Instead of following God's command, he made excuses.

(1 Samuel 15:21-22) "But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal. {22} And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

### C. Rebellion

Open rebellion follows open disobedience.

(1 Samuel 15:23) "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king."

1. God hates rebellion
2. God will not use a heart of rebellion but will reject it efforts

## **2. DAVID HAD A HEART THAT WAS PURE**

A. David is anointed.

(1 Corinthians 1:27) "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;"

(1 Corinthians 1:29) "That no flesh should glory in his presence."

B. Good credentials are not necessarily God's first choice.

1. David was the youngest.

C. God is interested in using those with a pure heart.

1. God passed over 7 brothers that were stronger, and mightier in the world's eyes to choose the youngest boy because he had a heart for Him.

(Psalms 57:7) "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise."

### **3. GOD HAD A PLEASED HEART**

Because of David, God had a pleased heart.

(1 Samuel 16:12) "And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he."

#### **A. Not everyone was happy**

1. When God is blessing your life and is pleased with you, not everyone will rejoice.

(1 Samuel 18:9) "And Saul eyed David from that day and forward."

a. Not everyone will support you if you take a stand and say, "I'm going to have a pure heart for God. I want God to bless me. I want His power on my life."

2. But David did not care what others thought only what God thought.

(John 15:18) "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."



(1 John 3:13) "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."

Close:

The Psalmist said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: {24} And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalms 139:23-24)

Let's allow God to try our hearts to reveal what is not pleasing to Him. As we change to fit His design and strive for pure hearts, God will use us for His glory.