**THE LORD LOOKS AT THE HEART**

1 Samuel 16:1-23 (Key verse 7b)

*The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”*

* + - 1. Read verse 1. How did Samuel feel after the Lord rejected Saul as king over Israel? (1, 15:35) But, after some time, what did the Lord say to Samuel? To help Samuel move on, what instructions did He give Samuel? But why did Samuel hesitate to obey the Lord’s word? (2a) How did the Lord continue to help Samuel? (2b-3) Here, what can you learn about God who helped Samuel overcome his grieving heart?
      2. Then, what did Samuel do? (4-5) How did Samuel respond when he saw Eliab? (6) What did Samuel look at to identify Israel’s next king? (7) But what did God say to Samuel about Eliab? How does God look differently at us than people? What does it mean that the “Lord looks at the heart?”
      3. How many sons had Jesse passed by Samuel? (8-10) Each time, what did Samuel say? Who was missing? (11) Why did Jesse not invite his youngest son? But what did Samuel insist Jesse do? Describe David’s outward appearance (12) What did the LORD tell Samuel to do when he was brought in? Why did God chose David over his 7 older brothers? What happened when Samuel anointed David? (13)
      4. Why did the Spirit of the Lord depart from Saul? (14a, 15:10-11; 22-23) Then what happened to Saul? (14b[[1]](#footnote-1)) What did Saul’s attendants suggest to deal with his spiritual problem? (15-17) Who did one of the servants suggest and why? (18) What can you learn about God who opened the way for David to enter Saul’s service? (19-22) How did God use, David, to bring relief to Saul? (23)

1. An evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. NLT: *Now the Spirit of the LORD had left Saul, and the LORD sent a tormenting spirit that filled him with depression and fear*. God allowed evil to come to Saul. Ultimately, Satan and evil spirits, belong to the Lord. God is not the source of the evil itself. God simply withdrew the hand of His protection. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)