

## Looking Beyond Appearances

In 1 Samuel 16, God shifts the focus from mourning Saul to choosing a new king—a decision based not on looks or worldly status, but on the condition of the heart. God asks Samuel, ***“How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from being king?”*** (1 Samuel 16:1, NKJV), and instructs him to fill his horn with oil and go to Bethlehem. Samuel is understandably anxious, even fearful that if Saul hears he’s been sent to anoint someone else, he might react with violence. Yet God provides a way forward, assuring Samuel that His plan must be fulfilled.

Arriving at Jesse’s house, Samuel meets several of Jesse’s sons. The first son, Eliab, impresses with his appearance—yet God reminds Samuel, ***“Do not look on his appearance, or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart”*** (1 Samuel 16:7, NKJV). One by one, Samuel presents Jesse’s sons before God, and none fit the divine criteria—until young David, tending the sheep, is brought in. Despite his humble beginnings, God declares, ***“Arise, anoint him; for this is the one”*** (1 Samuel 16:12, NKJV), and Samuel anoints him. From that day forward, the Spirit of the LORD comes powerfully upon David.

This account speaks directly to me in several ways:

- **God Values the Heart Over Appearances:**  
Like many of us, I sometimes judge situations or people based on what is visible—success, charm, physical appearance. Yet God reminds me that true value lies in the heart. David, though young and unassuming, possessed a character that made him the rightful choice. I’m challenged to look beyond the surface in both my personal life and in my relationships.
- **Trusting God’s Timing and Direction:**  
Samuel was willing to risk his safety and reputation to follow God’s specific instructions, even when it meant facing potential danger from Saul. This reminds me that when God calls me to step out in faith, I need to trust His guidance rather than relying on my own judgment, even when circumstances are uncertain or risky.
- **Embracing Humble Beginnings:**  
David’s journey—from a shepherd boy to God’s chosen king—encourages me that God often works through the seemingly ordinary parts of my life. I may not always feel impressive or powerful by worldly standards, but God’s anointing can transform even the most humble beginnings into something extraordinary.
- **God Equips Us with Unique Gifts:**  
Later, we see David’s musical gift bringing relief to Saul when an evil spirit troubled him. This moment highlights that God not only chooses us but also provides the talents we need to fulfill our purpose. It reminds me to recognize and use the gifts God has given me, even when they seem small in the grand scheme.

## 07-Bible Reading Study Notes

### 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Chapter 16

Ultimately, the story of Samuel's anointing of David challenges me to value inner character over external appearances, to trust in God's perfect timing, and to embrace the unique calling He places on my life. May I always be open to His guidance, willing to step out in faith, and ready to use my gifts for His glory.