

# THE LORD SEES *THE HEART*

unit 10 | session 4



## CHRIST CONNECTION

David didn't look like a king on the outside, but God saw his heart and chose him to be the next ruler of Israel. Jesus looked like an ordinary man to the people around Him, but He is God's Son and the Savior of the world.

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

### 1 Samuel 16:1—1 Samuel 16:13

## WE LOOK AT APPEARANCES

### 1 SAMUEL 16:1-10

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." 4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." 7 But the LORD said to 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: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 10 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

## GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART

### 1 SAMUEL 16:11-13

11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." 12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

## MAIN POINT.

God cares about the condition of our hearts.



## THEOLOGY CONNECTION

### CHRIST AS KING

God has always been King over His creation, whether in heaven or on earth. Yet some of His creatures in both realms have rebelled against Him, leaving destruction in their wake. To restore His broken world, God promised a King who would deliver His people and restore all of creation. The promise of a coming King finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ and looks forward to its perfection when Jesus returns for His bride, the church.

# DISCUSSION

## WE LOOK AT APPEARANCES

### 1 SAMUEL 16:1-10

- What do you think Eliab was like for Samuel to assume he was God's choice for Israel (v. 6)?
- ♥ • Is it comforting that God looks at the heart? Why or why not?
- 👤 • Why do we often look to what's external (appearance, possessions, popularity, grades) for our value? How does verse 7 change your thinking?

## GOD LOOKS AT THE HEART

### 1 SAMUEL 16:11-13

- What does it show about David's status that his father didn't include him with his brothers?
- ✝ • In what ways did David not fit the mold of a king? Read Isaiah 53:2-4. How did Jesus not fit the mold?
- 📖 • God always had a plan to send Jesus as King. How would His reign be totally different from any other worldly king?



**WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE SO THAT YOU INVEST MORE IN THE CONDITION OF YOUR HEART THAN IN SOCIAL STATUS OR APPEARANCES?**

## CULTURAL CONNECTION

Why are we so obsessed with outward appearances? Is it wrong to care about them? This obsession with appearances isn't new. Throughout Scripture we find countless examples of men and women fixating on the external: Adam and Eve, Solomon, the Pharisees. Our culture follows suit. Our phones and social media accounts are probably two of the biggest contributing factors. For generations before us, magazines and movies fed an obsession with looks. Humans have always tended to look at outward appearances and assign worth based on them. It's not wrong to care about our appearance. God created us for His glory, and He wants us to take care of our bodies and to treat them with respect. Our bodies enable us to serve the Lord in worship. We are His most complex design, but we are just that: His design. So, instead of fixating on appearances, we can seek to give God glory with our bodies and, more importantly, in our character.



## DAY ONE

# 1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-31

Have you ever felt like you weren't good enough? Maybe you felt like you weren't good enough to be selected for a team or to hang out with certain people. Maybe you felt like you'd never be good enough to do well in school or to make someone proud. Maybe you felt like because your family wasn't important enough in your community, you'd never receive certain privileges that others receive.

This concept of us being "good enough" is one we just don't find in God's Word. In fact, we actually find God using the people who weren't good enough by worldly standards to do great things for His kingdom. David was one of them. He lived in the very small town of Bethlehem. He was the youngest son of a large family. Even his father never assumed that David would be the best choice from among his sons, but David was the Lord's choice—not because he was good enough but because God is good. God still chooses those of us who aren't good enough, wise enough, wealthy enough, important enough. Why? So that we can't boast in ourselves. When God chose us, it was because of His kindness and His goodness. It was because of His glory and His power. In reality, even the best of us have nothing to brag about because nothing we could ever do on our own would be enough to earn salvation. When God sent Jesus to earth, He chose us. And now, we have the opportunity each day to choose Him.

- **WHEN HAVE YOU STRUGGLED WITH NOT FEELING "GOOD ENOUGH"?**
- **HOW DO THESE VERSES ENCOURAGE YOU?**

## PRAY

**GOD, I KNOW I CAN'T EVER BE GOOD ENOUGH TO EARN YOUR LOVE OR TO DO GREAT THINGS FOR YOUR NAME. YOU ARE GOOD, AND I KNOW YOUR SON'S BLOOD MAKES ME RIGHTEOUS.**



## DAY TWO

# **GALATIANS 1:10**

It can be easy to fall into a trap of pleasing other people. Some of us know what it's like to obsess over making other people happy. Being consumed with making sure everyone is pleased with us can cause us to make decisions that aren't grounded in God's Word. For example, we may fear that we'll upset our friends by speaking up about a sinful situation, so we just stay quiet to keep the peace. But we may worry so much about what others think that even our good decisions to live for Christ become more about pleasing them rather than pleasing God. Neither of these scenarios are healthy for us because they'll both fail us eventually. We'll eventually grow tired either way.

God doesn't command us to please other people. He commands us to live boldly for Him and to be a light in the darkness, and sometimes this won't please people at all. This passage also warns us that even doing the right things for people rather than God is dangerous. Our motivation for doing all the right things must come from a heart that wants to please the Lord. And even further than that, the desire to please the Lord must be rooted in love for Him and gratitude for His Son. If it's rooted in anything else, it treads closely to legalism, which is the idea that we can be good enough to make God happy and to earn salvation. Instead, our desire to please God must flow from the realization that God has already accomplished our salvation through the death of His Son.

- **WHEN HAVE YOU STRUGGLED WITH WANTING TO PLEASE OTHER PEOPLE EITHER TO FIT IN OR TO MAKE THEM PROUD?**
- **WHY ARE WE OFTEN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT PLEASING PEOPLE INSTEAD OF GOD?**

## PRAY

**GOD, I CONFESS THAT SOMETIMES I WANT TO PLEASE PEOPLE. SOMETIMES MY MOTIVE IS TO MAKE SOMEONE ELSE HAPPY INSTEAD OF PLEASING YOU. HELP ME TO SEEK TO PLEASE YOU IN ALL I DO.**



## DAY THREE

### ISAIAH 53:2-4

We tend to place a lot of emphasis on outward appearances. Pay attention to social media, and you'll notice the extreme efforts people make to keep up with culture's standards for beauty and strength. Our physical appearance is often the first thing people notice about us, right? And we often judge other people by their appearances too. It's not fair, but it's certainly the way our world works.

This passage in Isaiah is a prophecy concerning the Messiah. Isaiah spoke of a coming Savior who wouldn't quite fit the expectations of the people. Instead of coming in majesty, He would arrive in humble conditions. Instead of coming from among the wealthy, the physically beautiful, and the royal, Jesus would be "despised and rejected by men" (v. 3). He wasn't impressive by worldly standards, and nothing about His appearance drew people's attention. Jesus could've come another way. He is the King of kings, the Son of God. He could've arrived in majesty and glory, but He came humbly and lowly. He identified with humanity, and because of this, many people struggled to believe He was the Messiah. Their expectations of His outward appearance and strength kept them from seeing the truth. Though some people couldn't see it, Jesus fulfilled this prophecy and shattered cultural expectations.

- **WHAT DO YOU THINK PEOPLE ASSUMED THE MESSIAH WOULD LOOK AND ACT LIKE?**
- **HOW DOES IT INCREASE YOUR FAITH TO SEE THAT JESUS FULFILLED THIS PROPHECY?**

### PRAY

**JESUS, THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE. THANK YOU FOR COMING HUMBLY AND FOR TAKING OUR SIN ON YOUR SHOULDERS. THANK YOU FOR GIVING UP A THRONE IN HEAVEN TO SAVE US FROM OUR SIN.**



## DAY FOUR

# ROMANS 8:38-39

Think about your most valuable possession. It might be something you saved money to buy, or it might be something someone gave you. Maybe it was expensive, or maybe it holds a lot of sentimental value. The truth is that no matter how much you try to protect what's valuable to you, you could lose it one day. It could break. It could be stolen or ruined. We protect what we value, but sometimes, those efforts fail. Sometimes what was once valuable loses all value.

Your salvation is entirely different. God's love for you is so complete and so sure that nothing can change it. As believers, we often don't consider the truth that our salvation is the most valuable thing we have. It cost God His only Son. It cost Jesus His life; His blood was the payment for our sin. Nothing is more valuable than the blood of Christ. And the best news is that nothing—nothing that happens to us and nothing we can do—can take away our salvation. Nothing can separate us from God's love. Let this truth encourage you and comfort you this week. Even when you fall short of God's glory, He still loves you. Even when life feels cruel, your salvation is secure. May your daily life reflect how much you value God's love.

- **DOES YOUR LIFE REFLECT THAT GOD'S LOVE AND YOUR SALVATION ARE MOST VALUABLE TO YOU? WHY OR WHY NOT?**
- **WHEN HAVE YOU WORRIED THAT YOUR SALVATION COULD BE TAKEN FROM YOU? HOW DOES THIS PASSAGE COMFORT YOU?**

## PRAY

**JESUS, MAY MY LIFE REFLECT THAT YOUR BLOOD IS  
THE MOST VALUABLE THING TO ME. MAY I LIVE IN  
A WAY THAT SHOWS THE WORLD THAT YOUR LOVE  
AND MY SALVATION ARE SECURE.**



## DAY FIVE

# MATTHEW 23:1-28

It's tempting to invest a lot of effort in what others will see. We invest in things which might raise our social status and popularity: the way we dress, the activities we take part in, or the people we associate with. We invest in things which make us feel more beautiful or important in the world's eyes. We invest in doing all the right things so that people notice and give us praise. During Jesus's life, many of the religious leaders also invested more in outward appearances. They did all the right things; they obsessively followed the law. They prayed loudly so that others would hear them, and when they gave money, they did so publicly so that people would admire them. In response, Jesus called them "hypocrites" because their outward actions contradicted the corruption living within their hearts.

Your life—your priorities, your words, your actions, the things you love—reveals what you're investing in the most. But like the Pharisees, it's easy for us to mask what's really in our hearts with outward appearances. In the same way that Jesus knew the Pharisees' hearts, He knows ours. Here's the truth: investing in raising our social status and in how people view us will leave us tired and empty. Instead, when we invest in knowing Jesus and in letting Him make us more like Him, we'll find meaningful life. Why? Because our efforts to impress people will fail us. Applause from people will fade. Their opinions of us will shift. But God's love never changes. Knowing Him and investing in our relationship with Him will overflow onto the parts of our lives that others do see. And those parts will reflect our hearts.

- **WHERE ARE YOU INVESTING YOUR EFFORTS—IN RAISING YOUR STATUS OR IN YOUR WALK WITH CHRIST?**
- **IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU GUILTY OF HYPOCRISY? HOW CAN YOU TAKE STEPS TO CHANGE THIS?**

## PRAY

**GOD, I WANT TO INVEST IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU BECAUSE IT PURIFIES MY HEART. I WANT MY GENUINE LOVE FOR YOU TO OVERFLOW INTO EVERY PART OF MY LIFE.**