

# Samuel Anoints David

1 Samuel 16:1-13

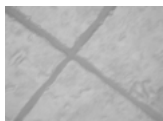


## bible verse

Committing to memory

### 1 Samuel 16:7

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



## story lesson

Bible story

The Lord has high expectations of his representatives. Saul failed in obeying the word of the Lord. He was a man plagued by disobedience and foolishness. As we shall see in the remaining chapters of 1 Samuel, Saul moves over to the bad guy role—the thwarter of God's intended plan. Because the Lord rejected Saul as king, a new king needs to be anointed...one that has God's intended purposes in mind...a representative that strives after God's own heart...a lion of the tribe of Judah.

The scene opens with Samuel still mourning over Saul's demise. He's bummed. The Lord taps Samuel on the shoulder and asks him how long he plans to mourn for Saul, since he has been rejected as king. "Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king" (1 Samuel 16:1). Samuel stutters something about Saul finding out about this, but the Lord helps him think of a ploy—bring a sacrifice to the town.

As Samuel approaches Bethlehem the town elders are afraid. They ask Samuel if he is coming in peace. Yes, Samuel replies. Then he consecrates a man named Jesse and his sons to come to the sacrifice with him. Samuel saw Jesse's oldest son, Eliab.

# Ms

main street

December 26, 2010

GOOD  
EVIL

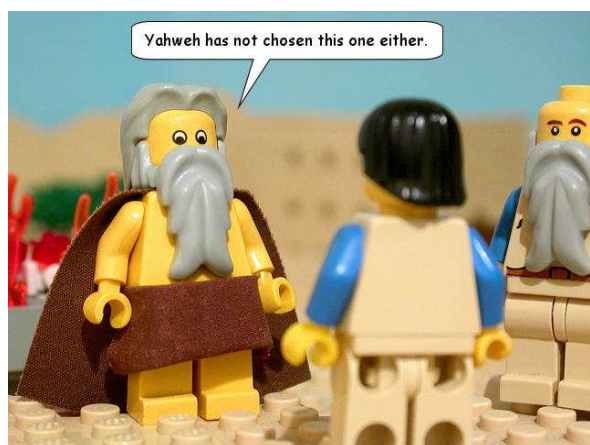
Surely, thinks Samuel, this is the Lord's anointed. Just look at him! (1 Samuel 16:6).

We do not know for sure what Eliab looked like, but he probably had a good-looking appearance, even kingly. Maybe he looked even better than Saul did when the people wrongly asked for a king (they ended up with one head and shoulders above the rest...and look how that turned out for them).



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 man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). Samuel was checking out the things that did not necessarily matter in a king (i.e. the outward stuff), whereas the Lord is way more concerned with the attitudes and intentions of the heart (the inward, un-see-able stuff).

**May the Lord give us all eyes to see the inward and not focus on the outward.**



The second son, Abinadab, was brought before Samuel, but he too was rejected. Then, Shammah passed by Samuel, but alas, he too was not chosen. Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but not one of them was chosen by the Lord. Samuel asked Jesse if he had anymore sons. Yeah, Jesse told Samuel, I've got the youngest out in the field watching sheep. Jesse was probably thinking, surely this son was not the chosen one. Samuel said: "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives" (1 Samuel 16:11). Jesse had youngest son brought in before Samuel.

"He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; he is the one.' So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power" (1 Samuel 16:12-13). Thus the newly appointed king was anointed and it was God's choice because he saw the heart of this fine, young lad. In the sight of all of his brothers, David was anointed as king of Israel.



Kind of reminds the thoughtful Bible reader of Joseph and his brothers back in Genesis, doesn't it? Back in those days the blessing and the inheritance was always passed down to the oldest son. That was the tradition. Usually, God tends to work in ways that defy the way things are supposed to be done. No one would have chosen snobby Joseph to be the vice-pharaoh of Egypt, and neither would they have chosen David—young lad, David—to be the anointed king over all Israel.



## life application

Making it real

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### **Looking at the Inward Character, not the Outward Appearance**

Jesse sees the outside. Eliab sees the outside (he looks rather kingly). Samuel sees the outside (look at him, he would make a great king). God, however, looks at the heart. He sees what often cannot be seen—character and integrity. Man gets confused because we attribute leadership to those who have charisma and “skills.” God doesn’t get confused because he sees the heart of the leader even if charisma and “skills” are lacking. God can work with a moldable heart.



## questions

remembering

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- 1. What does Samuel anoint with?** Oil
- 2. What city did God send Samuel to in order to anoint the next king?**  
Bethlehem
- 3. Why did Samuel think that Jesse’s oldest son Eliab was probably the next king?** Because he probably looked kingly—his outward appearance and his height were good
- 4. Which of Jesse’s sons ended up being anointed the next king of Israel?** The youngest son, David
- 5. Why did God choose the youngest and the smallest, and not the oldest and the biggest?**



## coloring sheet

On the next page

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