

Remnant Life Church
November 2, 2025
God Sees You Differently
I Samuel 16:1-13

We have spent the last couple of Sundays looking at perception verses reality and answering the question “Who are you?”

- With the most important element being God’s place in each of those
- And we have come to the conclusion that God’s perspective and ours, or the worlds, are very different
- And that is meant to encourage you to change your natural views of yourself and your life
 - IOW, to begin to see yourself as God sees you

This morning, I want to examine one more thing as it relates to this theme – one more truth

- God see you differently than the world does
- Because what he is looking at, what He prioritizes in your life is nothing like the world’s priorities

READ – I Samuel 16:1-13

This is the familiar story of the anointing of David to be king of Israel

A brief history lesson of how we got to this point:

- Following the death of Moses, Joshua became the leader of the people (**Deut 34:5-9**)
- Following the death of Joshua (**Josh 24:28**) the people entered into the times of the judges
- The book of Judges is the primary historical link between Joshua and the time of the kings
 - A period of about 350 years
 - During this time, God raised up 13 judges to lead and deliver the people from the punishments that came from worshipping other gods
 - It was a cycle of embracing other cultures and beginning to worship their false gods
 - God’s punishment
 - The people’s repentance
 - God delivering them through the leadership of the judge
 - There would be peace and then the cycle would start up again
- The 13th and final judge of Israel was Samuel
 - He was also a prophet and priest, so he served God in multiple capacities
 - When he was becoming too old to fulfill his duties, he appointed his 2 sons, Joel and Abijah, to take his place (**I Sam 8:1-2**)
 - But they were not godly and the elders went to Samuel and said, “We want a king!”
 - Samuel was reluctant to take their request to God because he felt as if they were rejecting him as judge and prophet

- But God said to him do what they are asking for they are not rejecting you they are rejecting me (**I Sam 8:7**)
- The fact that Saul became the first king of Israel was not within the first will of God for His people
 - This is an excellent example of the difference between the perfect will of God and the permissive will of God
 - God permitted the people to have a king but His perfect will was for them to worship Him as their king
 - God even warned them of what would happen if He gave them what they wanted but their hearts were stubborn and they, in essence said, we don't care!
- Now on the outside, Saul seemed exceptionally qualified
 - Physically he was a big man among the people when the average height of a man in that time was about 5'7"
 - Saul was said to be 'head and shoulders' taller than anyone else
 - Given that the height of a human head and shoulders can measure anywhere between 12-14 inches
 - Saul could have been anywhere from 6'6" to 6'9" tall
 - He was also a Benjamite
 - The tribe of Benjamin was located on the boarder between Judah and Israel so he would appeal to both the northern and southern tribes
 - Finally, he was a capable military leader as we read regarding his early victories in battle including the Philistines
- But because he was not God's choice for the people, Saul proved many times to be a man with great faults
 - He ignored God's directives given to him through Samuel (**I Sam 15:3**)
 - He then demonstrated not only his pride but his disregard for the law of God
 - He offered a sacrifice to God at Gilgal which was only for Samuel, a priest, to do (**I Sam 13:8-9**)
- Saul's disobedience showed that he could not be trusted to follow God and be an instrument of His will
 - After his sin at Gilgal Saul was permitted to continue serving as king for the rest of his life – 42 years in total
 - But it was without the blessing and presence of God as we read that the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul (**I Sam 15:23**)
 - And because of that a spiritual void was created in his life
 - One that permitted an evil spirit to torment him until the day he died
- On the outside, in the eyes of the world, Saul had it all
 - But the outside of a person does not guarantee the inside to be of the same quality
 - Yet that is certainly what the world values the most – what is on the outside

- God does not see that as important in fact if the world highly values something you can be certain that it means very little to God

In the account we read this morning we see this truth played out perfectly as Samuel anoints God's choice of king

- And what we see at the outset is the truth of God as it relates to those who worship Him
 - God does not value the exterior of a person's life
 - He looks into the heart
 - Man's view is horizontal; God's is vertical into the very fabric of our being
- And so, the entire process of identifying the next king of Israel will now be orchestrated by God
 - It begins with Samuel being sent by God to the town of Bethlehem to the home of Jesse
 - I believe this is the first indication that something different is happening
 - Because Bethlehem is nothing more than a small village, a hamlet
 - Not like Jerusalem or even the smaller towns that are near to Jerusalem such as Bethany or Bethpage
 - Bethlehem was 6 miles from Jerusalem
 - And we realize that even the name has meaning and significance
 - Bethlehem means "House of bread."
 - It was located within a vast acreage of fertile fields that are perfect for the growing of wheat and barley used to make bread feeding the people of the region
 - And while this tiny town was the unassuming home of the next king it would also be the very place that God, some 1000 years later, would send a descendent of David, Jesus, who would become the bread of life for the hearts and souls of everyone ([John 6:35](#))
 - This small village begins to show that God often uses the small and insignificant to accomplish His will
- Yet do we not often disqualify ourselves from believing God can work in and through us because we are not this or that?
 - I'm not educated, I don't have the right experience, I'm shy, I don't have the right personality or temperament, I have a sinful past
 - Whatever your excuse you are stuck within the world's standard of value
 - But God sees you differently
- We can see what God values as the story unfolds
 - Samuel tells Jesse to get his sons together
 - Jesse had 7 sons, but he only brought out 6
 - The first son was the world's definition of qualified – he would have been a repeat of Saul
 - Eliab was tall and handsome and even Samuel is impressed
 - But it is here that we read the core of God's truth not just for that time but for us today
 - [1 Sam 16:6-7](#) - *When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." But 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 people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

- This is what you must come to embrace as the truth of God
- God looks at the heart and He knows the value of who He created you to be!
 - God saw in David, though he was not even presented to Samuel, what was most important
 - What was on the inside
- The other thing we realize in both the stories of Saul and David is that God does not require a perfect vessel through which to accomplish His will
 - Saul had many faults and they eventually disqualified him
 - But David’s failings are also well documented
 - What was the difference?
 - David understood repentance
 - David’s heart, while not perfect, was continually after the things of God
 - That is the key to being a vessel of service to God
- In fact, God will work through and utilize our weaknesses to His glory
 - How?
 1. Our weaknesses make us more dependent on Him
 2. They keep us from becoming arrogant and proud
 3. They cause us to realize our need for others and the importance of fellowship - accountability
 4. And they make us more sympathetic to others as they deal with their own weaknesses

And in all things, God’s plans are perfect

- God sent Samuel to the perfect place to anoint the next king of Israel
 - He had a specific person prepared
 - He had a timeline laid out
 - And He had a plan that would one day lead to the birth of the Savior of the world
- The second king of Israel was God’s choice, not the peoples.
 - And as we join the actions of the OT with that of the New, there is a type of Christ in David becoming the second king Israel
 - In a similar way man, the first Adam, made himself the first king in the Garden of Eden when he usurped God’s authority over his life and put himself in that place by his disobedience
 - The Bible tells us, however, that the Second Adam was obedient to God
 - The Second Adam was Jesus Christ and He was God’s choice to be the Savior of the world, a place that no man could fulfill
 - This morning you have a choice
 - To be the king of your own life
 - Or to surrender to God’s choice, Jesus Christ, to be the lord of your life

Just like for David, God has a perfect plan for your life

- The Apostle Paul writes in **Eph 2:10** – *For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*
- But the first thing you must do is recognize that the value points of the world are not God’s points of value
 - He sees you differently!
 - He loves you just as you are

I have also been fascinated by the stories behind the writing of the great hymns and songs of the church

At the age of 32, Charlotte Elliott suffered a serious illness that left her a semi-invalid. She fell into a deep depression, and within the year she was also experiencing a severe spiritual crisis. The early 1800’s Swiss evangelist Cesar Malan was visiting her family, and she confessed to him that she didn’t know how to come to Christ. His famous response to her was, “Come to him just as you are.” Her depression, however continued and one night, some twelve years later, she lay awake, still deeply distressed by her uselessness as an invalid, and by the doubts of her spiritual life. The next day, as she reflected on that previous night, she decided that it was time to meet her spiritual troubles head on and conquer them by the grace of God. And so she took up pen and paper, and wrote down her own “formula of faith,” remembering the words of the visiting evangelist all those years ago. In the end she had written these words...

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bid’st me come to thee, O Lamb of God I come.

Just as I am and waiting not, to rid my soul of one dark blot, to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God I come, I come.

This hymn famously became the song sung during every altar call of the Billy Graham crusade with words perfectly expressing the need of every person’s heart.

- And just as you are, today, right now God loves you and He sees you this morning through the eyes of His perfect, forgiving love
- God has a story for your life, and He has called you as His child to serve Him
- He sees you differently than the world does, and because of that, you can serve Him...just as you are.