

## **Lesson 20 - The teeny, weenie . . . true king Samuel anoints David, from 1 Samuel 16**

*The Jesus Storybook Bible - pgs. 116 - 121*

### **Lesson**

The moral of this story seems obvious: “You can’t judge a book by its cover.” After all, 1 Samuel 16:7 says, “The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

It’s true; you can’t judge a book by its cover. But that is not primarily what this story is about. You can either read the Bible as if it’s nothing but examples and things that you have to do, or you can read the Bible as if it’s primarily about what God has done. In other words, you can either read the Bible as if it primarily about you, or you can read it as if it’s primarily about God.

This story is about the search for a true king. It starts with Hannah at the beginning of the first book of Samuel; she has a vision and sings a song of a true king. When she describes a true king, she depicts him as one who lives to serve, who does not accumulate power but distributes power: “He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor” (1 Samuel 2:8). She describes a king with the heart of God.

In this story, Saul has turned out not to be that king. Saul has turned out to be a king just like all the other kings of the world. So God sends Samuel to the house of Jesse to anoint a new king.

The first of Jesse’s sons whom Samuel sees is very tall and powerful, and so Samuel assumes that he must be the new king. He makes that mistake again and again. Jesse makes the same mistake; he doesn’t even think to ask David to appear at first because he is so small and inconsequential. But David is the one who is anointed king.

If you do not put this story into the context of the whole Bible, or even into the context of the rest of the David narrative, it is possible to think that because of what God says in 1 Samuel 16:7 (“the Lord looks at the heart”) that God chose David because he had an intrinsically good heart and the rest of the brothers had bad hearts. You could conclude that God was looking for someone who is really good — a person with great character — and that is who he is going to make king.

But when you read the rest of the life of David, it becomes blatantly obvious that his record is not that much better than Saul’s. So there is no way David has an intrinsically good heart. But he does have a heart that hungers and thirsts after God, and that is what makes him a “man after [God’s] own heart” (Acts 13:22). And, like David, we will never develop kingliness without knowing the true King.

David’s kingship points to Jesus’ kingship. Like David, Jesus was a child from Bethlehem who was not the world’s choice. When you read the

Gospels, it is clear that no one believed that Jesus could be the Messiah. He wasn't beautiful, or political, or military, or rich. Jesus on the cross was not just forgotten by his Father but forsaken by his Father.

Jesus does exactly what Hannah prophesied a true king would do: he came to serve and to lift the needy so that they might inherit a throne of honor. Jesus is the true King on earth who reflects the heart of God. The search for a true king ends with Jesus.

**Memory Verse**

Psalm 16:8 - "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. I will not be shaken."

\*\*\*Lesson taken from *The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum*, written by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Sam Shammas.

If you do not have a copy of The Jesus Storybook Bible, we will have them for purchase in Cranmer Hall for \$10.