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2  Not As It Appears

3  The Calling of Saul

- Why did the elders of the tribes of Israel request a king from Samuel?
- Samuel's sons were dishonest and perverted justice by taking bribes.
- However, instead of asking for a different judge they asked for a system of government that was like the nations around them.
- Initially grieved and distressed, Samuel receives permission from God and goes out to anoint a king for Israel.

4  Without Equal

- There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish . . . 2 He had a son named Saul, an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites — a head taller than any of the others. (1 Samuel 9:1–2 NIV)
- They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others. 24 Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the man the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people.” Then the people shouted, “Long live the king!” (1 Samuel 10:23–24 NIV)

5  The Fall of Saul

- “Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do.” (1 Samuel 10:8 NIV)
- He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. (1 Samuel 13:8 NIV)
- But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command.” (1 Samuel 13:14 NIV)

6  The Fall of Saul

- Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.” (1 Samuel 15:3 NIV)
- But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs — everything that was good. (1 Samuel 15:9 NIV)
- To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.” (1 Samuel 15:22–23 NIV)

7  Samuel's Bias

- God sends Samuel to Bethlehem to the household of Jesse. (1 Sam. 16:1)
- When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.” (1 Samuel 16:6 NIV)
- 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 man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7 NIV)

8 Samuel’s Bias

- Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.” 11 So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered, “but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.” (1 Samuel 16:10–11 NIV)
- So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; he is the one.” (1 Samuel 16:12 NIV)
- After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’ (Acts 13:22 NIV)

9 Appearances

- Making judgments based upon appearances seems to have been a problem from the very beginning.
- When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. (Genesis 3:6 NIV)
- He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (Isaiah 53:2–3 NIV)

10 Appearances

- At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. (Matthew 11:25–26 NIV)
- Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. (1 Corinthians 1:26–27 NIV)

11 Cult of Celebrity

- Fascination of Famous People
 - Movie Stars, Entertainers and Models
 - The Rich
 - Athletes
 - Politicians
- Value based upon Appearances

12 Role Model?

13 God Looks at the Heart

- I do not accept praise from men, but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. (John 5:41–42 NIV)
- How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?
- Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved praise from men more than praise from God. (John 12:42–43 NIV)

14 God Looks at the Heart

- If God looks at the heart, He will see things in people and perhaps even in ourselves that we initially don't.
- If we make “valued judgments” based upon appearances, we can find ourselves missing God's will or even opposing the things of God.
- God is still looking for people who are after His own heart and are willing to listen to Him and do His will.
- If you are “in Christ” you are already called of God. Because He has seen a willingness in you to run after His heart.

15 Looking for Fame

- The world values our talent and abilities, but God values character.
- Being popular and having lots of people who admire us is definitely rewarding, but not to have God's admiration is a disaster.
- It is better to be a faithful servant of God, than win all of the praises of men.

16 Seeking God's Heart

- I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. (Psalms 84:10 NIV)