

Are you mourning for Saul?

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Father, even as we are in Your presence this evening, touch our hearts Oh God, search our hearts, search the desires in our hearts Oh God, for if our desires are misplaced, truly Father we cannot delight in You. Oh Father when You search our hearts, Oh Father I pray, You will be able to see that we truly desire You above everything. That our delight is truly in You, oh God. Every time we come together, every time we sit with Your Word, we hear Your Word Father, I pray Father, change our desires. That we may desire You, as David said in his psalm, as the deer panteth for the water so my soul longs after You. This evening touch us. One more time You have enabled us, You have given us life, You have given us strength, You have given us time, to come into Your presence, to sit at Your feet and learn of You. And I pray Father, the Word will touch and the Word will today, change some of our desires. For in Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Can you go to *1 Samuel 16*? We have been looking at King Saul. King Saul was sitting on the throne, he is still on the throne, but has been disqualified. Pray to God that there is no one who is here or hearing, who is still seated but has already been disqualified. He sat on the throne for another 20 years at least. But he was disqualified.

Those of us who have been gathering over the weeks, the months, for different meetings, we know that God asks questions. Whenever God asks a question, we need to stop there. Stop right there in our tracks and listen, because usually, we are the ones who have all these questions, Lord why? That is the usual question. Or Lord when? Or Lord How? Or Lord where? We have all these questions but God also has questions. You know, there are so many questions in the Bible.

The questions are,

1. Where are you? (The first question is, Adam, Adam where are you?)
2. Who told you?
3. What have you done?
4. Why are you angry?
5. Where is your brother?
6. Where are you coming from and where are you going?
7. Why did you laugh?
8. What is your name?

These are all God's questions to us. We need to be very careful about these questions. Now God is going to ask another question today.

1 Samuel 16:1

¹Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul

Saul is your flesh. Your life in the world which you wanted, so much prominence, name, reputation, everything connected with that, is Saul. And when you are called to separate and come out and be part of God's plan and to be obedient unto God, we still long for that old life. Because there was so much that fed the flesh when you were Saul. And God is asking this question. How long will you mourn for Saul. How long?

seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?

Seeing that the old you which wanted to be popular, which wanted to be powerful, which wanted to be known as somebody, I've rejected that old you from reigning, over my life, over my kingdom. That will never inherit. Then how come you still long for that? How come, He says, you still mourn for that? Ask ourselves, honestly when we think about "Good old days" what was so good about those days? For a child of God, the good and the better is always ahead. A closer walk with thee. A closeness where there is a constant separation from the things of the world and the good days are always ahead. But we have eaten the lie of the enemy and we say "you know what, those good days when I was on the stage, everybody applauded or when I was in this office, I got this award and everybody said you are so great, you are so cool, you are so

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smart. Remember the day when I got this trophy and these crowds were there” or at least you longed for that. That is Saul. *1 Samuel 9:2* tells us what Saul was. That is what all flesh longs for.

1 Samuel 9:2

²***And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.***

Flesh will always, even when it makes a popular decision, will want to be close to the flesh that is tall and handsome. You didn't get it. When you are making a popular decision saying that “I have evolved” and now I believe saying same -sex marriage is okay, I don't want to be on the street with a gay man or a lesbian who is really struggling for basically, to be approved, but I would be found in the presence of George Clooney and make this announcement, because he is considered the most handsome man, at least by popular vote in the world. So I want to be found in his company while I make this popular announcement. That is what 1 Samuel 9 says. Because, you know why? Because there was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. What is that we long for? As men or women, young men and young women, what is that we long for? Tall handsome, charismatic or thin, pretty? What is that we long for? In *1 Samuel 16:7*

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷***But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him.***

If God were to tell any of these young un-married girls, do not look at his appearance or physical stature, what will you do or any of these young men? Do not look at her looks or her color. It's difficult right? Because we all want to marry tall handsome men and pretty looking girls. God says don't look at him.

For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

We know this verse. We have read it so many times; we have heard it so many times. But let us be honest. Do we really believe this? Do we really work on our heart? Meaning, this is what God is interested in. God is interested in my heart. We sang today, many songs which were connected basically with the heart. But, do we really believe what they said? That is what I said, when we prayed, Show me my desires. I'm not able to delight in You because until my desires change, how am I going to really worship You? My desires are not connected with You or Your kingdom. My desires are always connected with other stuff. And I find it very difficult to delight in you. Worship has to be manufactured. Do we really, really believe that God looks at my heart? Even when we say God knows my heart, we don't even know what we are actually talking about. “Oh God knows my heart”. Does God really know your heart? Of course He does. But do you know what God thinks about your heart? Will God be able to say about you or me, that is a man, a woman after My heart? That's what it means when you say God knows my heart.

God is saying, 'Don't consider anyone's appearance, outward appearance or height.' Reason? 'I have rejected him. I've refused him.' Have you ever stood before a mirror and wished you looked different? Be honest, my hand is first up. Listened to somebody else and wished you were so intelligent? 'I wish I had that one's intelligence.' or eloquence or whatever. And you were dissatisfied with what you were. Because every program in the T.V and every advertisement in the world is trying to make a king Saul out of us. Not a David, but a king Saul out of us. And we actually mourn. If you're honest before God, we mourn. We wish. 'I wish'. Many people when they say, 'I wish I hadn't messed up when I was young', they are not talking about their sins, they are talking about their failures not to become like King Saul. A foot taller like the others. 'I wish I had eaten better, exercised more I would have had more muscles'. 'instead of now trying at 35, I wish I had try Fair and Lovely when I was 17. Now it's a little too late because my skin is more like leather.' I wish, I wish. See, God sees yours and my heart. When you say, 'I wish I had more intelligence', God. 'I know. I know what you mean, it's got nothing to do with Me. It's only connected to the loss of this world. Because if it was really connected with Me, whatever has happened in the past is irrelevant to God once you have to come to Christ. I'll turn it around and now My plan begins for you. You will not look at the past with regret. Because you have peace about your past. All those mistakes you made in the past remember? That made you into the man or woman of God. But when you look back and say, Oh! I wish. God says, 'You know what? You're mourning over Saul. Because if you really really hadn't come through that way you also wouldn't have come to the point of brokenness were you really desire Me. You wouldn't have wanted Me.'

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The problem of feeding king Saul is you cannot handle rejection. Flesh always wants to be in the lime light. So flesh when it is anointed will obey only when it doesn't face rejection or to gain approval. And if somebody else gets approval then flesh becomes very jealous. Saul is a jealous man. A Saul in me is very jealous. If the Saul in me is very strong, I will be jealous when he (Vijay) preaches. 'Oh, he knows the Old Testament so well.' Saul in us cannot handle the approval, of someone else getting approved. And the Saul in us, jealousy will move into anger. Saul is a very angry man. Like I said, Wednesday meeting are solely for believers. So many believers grieve over Saul, like Samuel. 'I wish I had been made differently. I wish.' But God says, 'You know what? Saul cannot reign over Israel.' Beauty, popularity, intelligence, eloquence none of this can rule over Israel. And the passage begins by God reasserting His sovereignty over Israel. He says,

1 Samuel 16:1

¹Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have ('I have' it's got nothing to do with the people. 'I have. I have chosen. (KJV will say) I have provided.' and it's very interesting. It says, 'I have..)' **provided Myself a king among his sons."**

Not Israel a king. 'I have provided' who? 'Myself' I have provided myself a king. When it came to Saul, 'I have provided Israel a king.' when it comes to David, 'I have provided Myself a King. I have chosen.' Earlier you all have provided yourself a king He says, You made your choice. The choice is very clear 6'3" handsome, broad shoulders, a foot taller than anybody. Choice some, pretty as a picture or eloquent or intelligent. This is what you chose. You either chose a handsome husband or a pretty wife or a smart husband or an intelligent wife. 'You never went', God says, 'before God', and if you have gone to God, God would have said, 'look at that one and don't look at the stature or don't look at the height.' You wouldn't. Those are choices the flesh always makes. God says, 'Where has it led you? Stop here now and see where has your choices led you actually. Where has it led you?' He tells Samuel, 'You do one thing, listen to Me now, fill your horn with oil and go. Just obey Me. Fill your horn with oil and go. Not your flask. The flask was kept for Saul. Horn. Because now your going to anoint the next man with power, with authority. Flask won't do. The horn. Take your horn and fill it with oil and go. Samuel's response. Here is Samuel mourning over Saul and yet knows the wickedness of Saul. He says,

1 Samuel 16:2

²And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me."

Oh! so you know Saul well and yet you're mourning over him. Deep inside you know, if I had been that I would never had followed God. Yet you grieve over him. Yet you wish things were different. Yet you wish you hadn't made those choices. Yet you wish you had been successful in that way in the world. But you know Saul well. God says, 'Don't worry. There is an easy way to deal with flesh.' what is it?

But the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'

Just mention sacrifice and flesh will run away. Because flesh does not like sacrifice. Saturday is sacrifice, Wednesday is fast. Saturday is fasting and prayer. You want to get rid of king Saul's, tell them, 'come for fasting and prayer'. They'll go away. Don't tell him I'm going to anoint. Anointing meeting everybody will come. I mean somebody else who comes out of the flesh and get angry too fast. Tell them prayer and flesh will not turn up there. Don't worry about that. You just say you are going for sacrifice. It's true. Where ever sacrifice is involved usually the flesh will disappear.

God says, 'Go to Jesse, I will show you what you shall do.' This is where obedience comes. He doesn't tell anything at once. 'Go to Bethlehem, go to Jesse's house, I will show you when you reach there what I will do.' God is in complete charge. All the people are not going to make a choice at all. He says, 'I'm going to make the choice who is going to be My king over Israel'.

I'm telling you when Jesus takes over your life; all the choices will be made by God not by you. It will always be made by God, not by you. You will have very little say in it other than to listen and obey, it will be made by Him. 'And you shall now anoint for Me.' Anoint for? Not the people, **you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you.** You know how ministry works? How ministry begins? Ministry begins in this way. God will anoint somebody for Him and He will name them. It's got nothing to do with the people. Because the call is from God. If the call is from people, let them anoint him. If the call is from God,

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God says, 'He is anointed unto Me. And I will name Him or her to you. The entire perspective will change if you closely study the Word of God. It has got very little to do with the people. It has got to do with God; these are God's sovereign choices. The people are scared. You will see in *verse 4*, people are scared.

⁶So Samuel did what the Lord said and went to Bethlehem and the elders of the town trembled and said, 'Do you come peaceably?'

Because when the prophet walks in people tremble. Because you do not know what the Word of the Lord is going to be. It could be judgment. They trembled, 'Are you coming in peace?' And he said, 'relax.' *verse 5*.

He says, "You know what, I don't have much of a clue what is happening here. The Lord told me, 'Go to Bethlehem.' He told me, 'Go to Jesse's house.' He told me, 'Offer a sacrifice.' That much I know. I'm not very clear. So I believe as the sacrifice begins I shall get, or as you gather I shall get more directions from God."

This is how God leads. Why? Because He establishes His sovereignty over every situation. He doesn't have to tell me anything about tomorrow. He says, 'First walk today I will tell you what to do when tomorrow comes. Because this is about Me, this is not about the people. I have anointed you unto Me, not unto the people.' So you should be humble enough. If you are a servant of God and somebody comes and tells you, you say, 'I don't know.' Don't immediately say, 'Wait! I will fast and pray.' Why? 'It's not about me, it's about Him. I don't know, He hasn't told me anything. If He tells me, I will tell you. I don't know.' Because this is His kingdom, this is His people, this is Israel. And He has picked Jesus. He has picked David to rule over Israel, not Saul. Then Eliab comes

1 Samuel 16:6

⁶So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab... (consecration involved, washing of clothes, bathing, outward purification... Everybody is looking fresh and smelling good. And they are all coming one by one, the eldest one comes) and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!"

Even when you are prophet Samuel, when you have lived so long under Saul's reign, you will start looking at things with soulish eyes. That is why there has to be a separation from the world. It doesn't matter how anointed you are. You may be the greatest prophet so far, but stay away from the world. Otherwise, if you live under Saul, you will start looking through Saul's eyes. Your anointing is not going to help you there. Your separation will. He looked at Eliab, first thing that comes into his mind is that he looks like Saul. Truly the Lord's anointed is standing over here. It says when you make choices, try to see what are the familiar images that comes, because even Samuel got it wrong. So how much more any one of us. Where do you and I get our significance from? The literature we talk about, the signified, signifier and all that. Where do you get significance from? Let me ask you a simple question. Who do you want to impress? If you are not very sure about that question, let me ask you another one. Who impresses you? What impresses God? It's in *1 Samuel 15:22*

1 Samuel 15:22

²²So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,

What impresses God? Obey His voice. As simple as that. What impresses God is not sacrifice or offerings. What impresses God is, 'Am I obedient to God's voice?' Now let me ask you this question. What does Scripture say about Scripture? 'All Scripture is God breathed.' meaning, all Scripture is the voice of God. Unless you breathe, you don't have a voice. All Scripture is the voice of God. If it is so, Scripture says, 'In the obeying of the voice of the Lord, God has great delight. The Lord has great delight in obeying the voice of the Lord.'

So God says, 'When I say I don't look at the outward appearance, I look into the heart. What I look at is your obedience. That's what I look at. I'm not looking at your sacrifice. First I look at obedience, then I look at your sacrifice. First I look at obedience, then I look at your offerings.' Two men standing there, two sons born of the same womb, same parents. One is Cain, one is Abel. Both have brought offerings and God is looking at them and looking at their obedience first. In the garden of Eden, before Jesus sent Adam and Eve out, He had offered an offering to the Father for the sins of Adam and Eve and covered with animal coverings and sent out. So that was the nature of offering that should be. And He looked at these two

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young men as to see who was obedient to that revelation. One was. Abel was. Then He looked at his offering. He looked at the other one, his offering looked fantastic, but there was no obedience in his offering. God is saying, 'I don't look at offerings first. I don't look at the sacrifice first. I look at obedience first.' How obedient are you to the voice of God? Abel and Cain knew very well how their parents had come out of the garden. What God had to do before He sent them out. They knew it was blood that was offered. And two people are standing there, one with blood and the other fantastic, probably with fruits and vegetables everything, filled with the red apples like in the stores. Everything looks good. But this man is holding flesh with blood dripping, looks terrible but God said, 'In his heart there is obedience, because he is obedient to the voice of the Lord.' God looks at us. It doesn't matter what people say. So when you and I say, 'God knows my heart.' What do we mean? Do we actually mean that when God looks at my heart He knows I'm obedient to His voice? He knows this is the cry of my heart, 'Lord make me more obedient, I don't want people seeing anything about my life. I want You to approve of my life that I am more and more obedient to your voice each day. The reason I study the Word is to know more of You. To clearly hear Your voice so that I can be more obedient.' So God says, 'Are you known as an obedient man?' Are you known as an obedient man sitting here? Are you known as obedient men? *Ephesians 5:25*. When you are so busy with sacrifices and offerings

Ephesians 5:25-26

²⁵ ***Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her,*** ²⁶ ***that He might sanctify and cleanse her***

Listen husbands and all the married ones. In your love, do you try to appease or do you try to sanctify? Do you really love?

Ephesians 5:28

²⁸ ***So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.***

As they love their own bodies? Yes, before the mirror, they'll be clean shaven. You want to shampoo, conditioner. How do you love your body? Are you specific about sanctifying your spouse through the Word? Do you love your wife that way, as Christ loved, in the process, giving yourself?

Colossians 3:19

¹⁹ ***Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.***

Do not be...? Bitter. Don't be bitter towards them. *1 Peter 3:7*...

1 Peter 3:7

⁷ ***Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding,*** don't be bitter. Dwell with them with understanding. ***giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel***

Love, understanding and honor. God says, 'I'm not looking at how well you worship at Church. I'm not looking at the amount you put into the offering bag. I'm not looking at how many meetings you attend through a week. I'm first looking if you are obedient to the voice of God.' This is the voice of God. It's written in four places. Or are you obedient as a woman? Go back to *Ephesians 5:22*. Women, only look at what concerns women. Men, only look at what concerns men and forget the other part. *Ephesians 5:22*...

Ephesians 5:22

²² ***Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.***

Honestly think. If God were to look at a woman's heart and say, 'You know what? What I see is submission.' When He looks at a man and says, 'What I see is love, understanding and honor and this zeal to sanctify your spouse so that she will share along with you because she is a joint heir along with you.'

Ephesians 5:24

²² ***Therefore, just as the Church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.***

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Young ones, yet to be married. Start off straight away well, in everything.

Colossians 3:18

¹⁸ ***Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.***

1 Peter 3:1

¹ ***Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,***

‘No, my husband doesn’t obey the voice of God.’ God says, ‘What about you? What about you?’

1 Peter 3:5

⁵ ***For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,***

God is simply telling a new generation, ‘How many times do I have to tell you to submit to your husband? How many times do I have to tell you to love your wives? Your sacrifices, your offerings, meaning nothing if there is no obedience.’

Titus 2:5

⁵ ***to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God may not be blasphemed.***

We’ve got seven verses. Let’s go to *Ephesians 6:1*. Now, the children. When God looks into your heart, does He see an obedient child?

Ephesians 6:1

¹ ***Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.***

If a child, what is right? ‘Obey your parents.’

Colossians 3:20

²⁰ ***Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.***

We have men. We have women. We have children. The voice of the Lord. Maybe you’re an older man in the Lord. If you’ve been in the Lord for a longer period, then God says...

Titus 2:2

² ***that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;***

God says, ‘That’s what I’m looking at. Before I look at your offerings. I’m looking at this.’ ‘As an older man, I want to be an elder in the Church.’ God says, ‘Good. It’s good to be an elder. Are you sober?’ ‘Oh, I get drunk occasionally, once in a while.’ Or do you lose it more often? Are you reverent? Are you temperate? Are you sound in faith, in love, in patience?’ Or maybe you’re an older woman in faith? Next verse...

Titus 2:3-5

³ ***the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior,***

Think about this. It doesn’t matter what people say. Would God be able to say that your behavior is reverent? This is what God says: man looks at the outside but God looks at the heart. So what do we mean that God looks at the heart. What is God looking for?

not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things — ⁴ that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the

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Word of God may not be blasphemed.

If you're an older woman, God says, 'What do you show or teach the younger woman?' As an older man, what do I teach the younger men? To be temperate? To be sober? To be patient? As an older woman, do you show the young woman, 'You can look at me, how I submit and I love my husband. Learn from it.' Or ask this question: 'If am an older woman, what is the younger ones see in my life, the way I deal with my husband?' This is heart religion. This is not outward appearance. This has got nothing to do with outward appearance. This is what God looks at.

That's what God is looking at. He says, 'Samuel, you're still under the Saul-ish influence. Saul still has a lot of influence.' God says that all our sacrifices, offerings, mean nothing if it is mixed with disobedience. Though Samuel is impressed by Eliab, God is not. We'll see later, God was right and Samuel was wrong. Eliab is shallow, vain, conceited, proud and jealous. How do you know it? *1 Samuel 17:28*. He is a coward too.

1 Samuel 17:28

²⁸ ***Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."***

That's why He said, 'That man is not my anointed. I know his heart and one day you will see him, when he opens his mouth and speaks. He's jealous of his younger brother and he's accusing him of coming to see the battle.' When the prophet was in his house, David was looking after sheep. He never went anywhere to watch a spectacle. He's proud, he's arrogant, he's insolent but he's accusing his brother of all those things. He says, 'You know what? Eliab will not pass the test.' Why? *1 Samuel 16:7*. God does not see the way the world sees...

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷ ***But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."***

You know what? In the eyes of the entire world, David would've never made the grade. He wouldn't have measured up because he didn't even measure up in his own father's house, in his own father's eyes, not even in his mother's eyes, not in the eyes of seven of his brothers or two of his sisters. Nobody told Dad, 'You know what? David isn't here.' Nobody told dad, "You know what, David isn't here." And if they reminded dad that David isn't here he said, "Doesn't matter, that bachcha (child), he will never go anywhere. Leave him alone." That's what he thought about David. Meaning David would have never measured up to the world's expectation. So Jesse called Abinadab. God said "Nope." Shammah. God said "No."

1 Samuel 16:10

¹⁰ ***Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."*** These are in the eyes of the father, the smartest one, the next smartest, the next smartest, so on. Now all the smart ones are over, in the eyes of the flesh. And then:

1 Samuel 16:11

¹¹ ***And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?"*** (Meaning, is this all you have got? And what did the father say?) ***Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep."***

Are you trusted? When David is found by God, he is found at a place of trust. Where is he? Everybody knew where David was. The father knew where David was. The father knew what he was doing. Would your father be able to tell, if you are missing, "I know where he is, and I know what he is doing"? "I know where she is and I know what she is doing." Jesse knew where David was and Jesse knew what David was doing. He said, "He is keeping the sheep." He didn't say "David is keeping the sheep but he has a habit of running away with his friends. He may be there, he may not be there, let me see." When the day of anointing comes, when the day of elevation comes in your life, will you be found in a position of trust? Whatever it is, a small, little thing-might be the smallest thing in the Church or home; will you be found in a place of trust? Because when it was time to lift David up, they all knew where he was. He was keeping sheep. Because man promotes talent, God promotes character. *Proverbs 18:16*

Proverbs 18:16

¹⁶A man's gift makes room for him, And brings him before great men.

If you are talented, of course talent will take you before great men. Will it keep you there? Where has the gifts that have been bestowed upon flesh taken them? It has taken them before crowds, before important people; it has taken you before great men-the gifts, the talents, whatever you want to call it. Even in your own companies, if you are really good, you go to the CEO or the VP and your name is mentioned, and it is all on the screens. Where has it taken you? Before the great men. It is just a gift. Joseph's gift brought him before Pharaoh, but the character of God, worked in Joseph kept him next to Pharaoh for the rest of his life. Daniel's gift brought him before many kings, but Daniel's character, his heart, kept him beside every king. Somebody said "Greatness is not doing one great thing in a big way; it is doing little things in great ways." That is keeping sheep.

In his father's house, when the prophet has come to the town and everybody is there in your father's house, dressed up, consecrated, where are you? Keeping sheep. They all had prepared. That is what sanctified means, ready. Problem? Oil is still in the horn, not even a drop has come out. What's the point of being around the prophet and have a great sacrifice and a great meeting, when not even a drop of anointing has fallen upon you? What can you say? "I was there that day when Samuel came to Bethlehem." What did he bring with him? "Oh he brought a heifer and a horn full of oil." What did he do with the heifer? "He offered it as a sacrifice." And the horn of oil? Did he pour it over you? "No, he didn't." So you just attended. Did the oil come on your head? No, it didn't come. On whose head did it go? Oh! Somebody who wasn't there at the meeting. Can you describe a little more? I will tell you.

Verse 11. Meeting is going on. Imagine it is not David; somebody else comes to the meeting. Samuel is there. Sacrifice is probably taking place. Jesse's household is there, his sons are all there, the elders of Bethlehem are all there, but nobody is doing anything. And, plenty of chairs are there, benches are there; nobody is even sitting.

¹¹***....And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."***

The Lord says "You will not sit down till David comes. You were all sitting down while he was faithful. Now you will stand up till the faithful one comes. He is My boy. When you sent him out, as an unrecognized man, he will come back as My king. Stand there, all of you. Not even you Samuel will sit down." We don't know how many hours it took for a servant to go to the wilderness, get David and come back. Everybody stood until he came. We will not sit down, because when he is coming back, he is not coming back as David, he is coming back as the next king of Israel. One day his brothers will serve in his army. He is coming back as David, the King. Nobody had noticed David, but God had.

Did he come back running from the wilderness? We don't know. Maybe this is the time he heard that there is a prophet who has come. The servant went and said "David, David, dad is calling you back." David said "Why?" "Prophet has come." David must have been excited. Because here is a man after God's own heart, he hears the old prophet has come, he must have been excited. Did he bathe? We don't know. Did he change? We don't know. Was he smelling of sheep? Probably. For God, it didn't matter. He was not dressed for the occasion. He had B.O, (Body Odour) he had no deo (deodorant). The brothers all had no B.O and plenty of deo. But God said "The one who has no deo and plenty of B.O. is the next CEO." Sometimes we run after stuff.

2 Chronicles 16:9

⁹For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars."

That's the question. We want to say "Yes, God loves my heart." God says "Is your heart loyal towards Me? Is your heart loyal? If it comes to the test of loyalty, will you be able to risk everything for My voice? Will you be obedient to My voice? That's how I count loyalty. Anyone who is loyal to Me, I want to show Myself strong on their behalf. That day, My eyes were ranging back and forth all over Israel, and I saw a (probably 14 year old or 13 year old) young shepherd boy. His heart was stayed on Me, loyal to Me, and I turned up, and showed Myself strong on his behalf." He still looks at hearts. He always looks at hearts. He's a cardiologist. *Psalm 62:6.* David's Psalm.

Are you mourning for Saul?

Psalm 62:6-8

⁶ He only is my rock and my Salvation;

We'll all say "He's my rock!" oh we like singing that song. But what did David say? "He only is my rock. I have no other rock beside Him. When it comes to trust, my trust is absolutely on You, God." I'm not trusting on my job, I'm not trusting on my résumé, I'm not trusting on my age, my strength, my clout, my nothing. You alone are my rock.

⁶ He only is my rock and my Salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. ⁷In God is my Salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God. ⁸ Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.

God says, "Do you have a heart of trust? I'm looking at your heart, and I know who really trusts Me." Do we really believe when we hear "Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without your Father in heaven knowing and are you not worth more than a sparrow?" He says "Do you really trust Me? Do you have a heart of trust?" Or "He knows the number of hairs on our head." We like that best. He says "Yea, that's true. What has it done to your heart? Does your heart still trust Me? If I can number your hair and number your days and number your steps and I can do it all, how come you don't trust Me with your days? Do you really trust Me? I'm looking into your heart. Do you really trust Me? What has meditation of all this actually done to you? Has your trust level gone up or it's still the same?" God is asking, has my heart changed? Has my dependence upon Him increased, irrespective of supply? Do we truly trust in Him? *Psalm 119:11.*

Psalm 119:11

¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

He says "When I look into your heart, I want to see the level of your obedience." Now we will say "Yeah, yeah, David, we know what you did." Which is true, we know what he did. The question is, have you ever thought of Psalm 51 as opening the private prayer closet of a man and listening to his prayer. *Psalm 51* is the cry of David in his prayer closet before God. You know what God did? He opened it, and allowed the whole world to listen to this man. "Heart of obedience. He messed up big time. But you want to know him, listen to him. All of eternity listen to him, a man after My own heart." Which man would cry out like that, broken before God? God says, a heart of obedience he has. He says "I don't look at outward appearance. I look at his heart, and he's got a heart of obedience." Is that, God says, our cry? It's not about how many times you fall; it's how many times you cry saying "Lord, help me to be more obedient. God says "I know your heart." Don't whitewash, like Saul did, before God. God says, what about us?

Psalm 89:20-21

²⁰ I have found My servant David; With My holy oil I have anointed him, ²¹With whom My hand shall be established; Also My arm shall strengthen him.

Incredible two verses. "I have found My?" God says "When I look into your heart, do I see a servant? Do I see a servant?" David modeled on Christ, before Christ came. God says "When I look into your heart, do I see a servant? Or do I see a master?" Servant hood in simple terms is humility in practice. It doesn't matter if you don't get the credit. It doesn't matter if you are never noticed. It doesn't matter if your opinion is never valued, or you are not acknowledged. When you are a servant, none of these things matter. God says "I have found My servant David." God doesn't say "I found My David; I anointed him with holy oil, and then he became a servant." He said, no, you got it wrong James. 'I found my servant David'. When I found he had a serving heart, I anointed him with oil. 'With whom My hand shall be established.' My hand is established through the hands of servants. Also, My hand shall strengthen him because he is a servant to serve more. It is God's opinion about David. Now you need to look at all these things and say, why did God this is the 'man after my own heart'. What is so special about this man? He didn't go to college, he has no degrees, reputation, no name. Even his father forgot him, when he was not there. And what does Scripture say? Samuel anointed him with oil and then he (David) decided to stay back at Bethlehem and decided next week I am going to Jerusalem. No. What did he do? Went back and looked after the sheep. Scripture says, he went back and looked after the sheep. A man after God's own heart. A God who looks at hearts.

Psalm 78:70-72

Are you mourning for Saul?

⁷⁰ ***He also chose David His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds; ⁷¹ From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. ⁷² So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.*** From what? ***He also chose David His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds;***

How did he find him in the sheepfolds? From following the ewes that had young. If there was one sheep that was pregnant and about to deliver, David followed it wherever it went. You ain't going to deliver and get attacked by some animals. You are not going to lose your young, I am going to follow you, wherever you go, because I know your life is in danger. We know about the lion and the bear, we don't know this. The vulnerable ones, the weak ones, in his sheepfold, the ones that were most open to danger, he followed them as they went and saw to that they were safe. He says, I watched you and noticed the integrity with which you did your work and I picked you from there and put you in charge of the kingdom and you were a man of integrity as you ran my kingdom. *Verse 72,*

⁷² ***So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.***

Did you change the message, did you change the message? Every body of you have a ministry committed into your hands, all of you minister. Almost everybody. Did you change the message? Did you know we cannot change this message? Because we don't have copyright over it. But God is asking. Anointing is God's part, character is mine. Anointing is God's part, but character, you will see is mine. If I am right, if you read the book of Genesis, Abraham has around 14 chapters devoted to him. I didn't do a complete count, but I think this is right. Abraham has 14 chapters devoted to him. Joseph has 13 chapters devoted to him, Jacob has eleven chapters devoted to him. Moses has 40 chapters in the Bible devoted to him. David has 66 chapters devoted to him. How many books are there in the Bible? 66 books. How many chapters devoted to David? 66. 'A man', God says, 'after My own heart.' 'A nobody', and nobody noticed him, but God did. That's the key, when nobody noticed him, David was faithful. What did God say? Don't look at his outward appearance. *1 Samuel 16:7,*

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷ ***But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him..."***

The Lord still says to his servants, 'Don't look at his or her outward appearance'. He tells everyone, 'Don't look at the outward appearance or their physical stature or their stature in society', whatever, 'because I have refused them'.

1 Samuel 16:7

⁷ ***"...For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."***

Incredible search I did at the last minute before getting out of house, I was fascinated. *Luke 19:1-4,*

Luke 19:1-2

¹ ***Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. ² Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.***

Put together means, he was a traitor. His reputation in the Jewish society, he was a traitor and he's fleecing the people.

Luke 19:3-4

³ ***And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and saw him, and said to him, 'Zacchaeus,***

God doesn't look at the outward appearance'. He didn't look at the stature. He didn't look at the reputation he had in the society, He looked straight into his heart. What did He say?

Luke 19:5-6

⁵ ***And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "'Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house'. ⁶ So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.***

In the entire four Gospels, the only place it is written that somebody received him joyfully is about Zacchaeus. You know why? Because he had no name, no reputation, no stature. Come into my house Lord? How could You come into my house? He had no name, no reputation and no stature. He made haste and received Him joyfully. You know how God looks beyond all outward appearance and He knew in this entire crowd that is waiting to see Me, there is one man, who truly will receive Me. God doesn't still look at our outward appearance, He doesn't look at our resumes, He doesn't look at how we are dressed, He doesn't look at any of those things. First looks into our heart and sees, I am looking at a heart that obeys or a heart that will obey. I know this one will obey; I know that one will obey. When I tell them come down, they will make haste and they will receive Me joyfully. Obedience is no longer an issue over there. All I have to do is stretch out My hand and next thing you will see is Zacchaeus saying, 'Lord from whomever I have stolen, I will give them four times over and now I say, half my wealth I will sell it, give it to them and give it to the poor. Jesus says you know what, 'Salvation has come into this house today'. What does 'Salvation has come' mean? Obedience to the voice of God. That's what Salvation means. This man is obedient. Salvation has come into this house. That's what it is all about. That's what God is doing in Bethlehem that day. That's why he is telling Samuel, 'Samuel, Samuel, stop mourning over Saul'. How long will you mourn over Saul? You cannot work obedience in that man. He may be smart, he may be tall, he may be handsome, he may have a reputation but obedience? No way. Obedience, no way.

1 Corinthians 1:26-27

²⁶ **For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty (according to the flesh), not many noble (according to the flesh, that is Saul), are called. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;**

That day a small little boy, who came running from the wilderness, smelling of sheep, put to shame, all the wise, the mighty and the noble, including the prophet. And He still does. Still the same God, He doesn't change. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever. That gives us hope. All those who are not noble, not mighty, not eloquent, not rich, not powerful, not after any intelligence, not wise, none of these things, you have hope, and your hope will only become real when God looks into our hearts and says, I see an obedient heart. Shall we pray?

Closing Prayer:

Father this evening, we thank You Father, that You are no respecter of persons, no respecter of persons. Even today, Your ways haven't changed, You are still looking. Your eyes range forth to and fro throughout the entire earth to look for a heart that has stayed on You, who is loyal to You, obedient to Your voice, who will receive correction. Who will be found in the closet, barring his soul, her soul to you. A man, a woman, a child after Your heart. Many, many are called, very few are chosen. Because You still do not look at the outer appearance. You are still not pleased with sacrifices and offerings. You delight in obedience, You delight in those who hear Your voice and obey Your voice. The Word is still going forth and You are looking for a set of people who will obey Your voice to the uttermost. Dear Father, You continue speaking to us, continue working in us, for all that we seek is to obey Your voice. That's when we truly delight in You. That's when we delight, as David said, to do Your will. As Jesus said, 'I delight to do Your will'. Even if it means going to the cross, I delight to do Your will. Do not look at our stature. You tell us, come down. I pray Father, everyone who hears that voice, will make haste and receive You joyfully into their lives. If Zacchaeus hadn't been there on a sycamore tree that day, You would have passed through Jericho. But You stopped, You fellowshiped and You dined. And you pronounced a blessing, only because, one man of little stature and no reputation, had climbed up a tree to see You. May we Lord, like David and Zacchaeus, in all the failings at that appointed time, we will be found faithful, so that the horn of oil doesn't not pass our head. We praise You Lord, we worship You God. May Your presence tarry with each one of us, for in Jesus precious name we pray, Amen and Amen.