

God Sees the Heart

1 Samuel 16:1-7

Study Guide

1 Samuel 16:1-7 (NLT) 1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, “You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king.” 2 But Samuel asked, “How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” “Take a heifer with you,” the LORD replied, “and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the LORD.

3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me.” 4 So Samuel did as the LORD instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. “What’s wrong?” they asked. “Do you come in peace?” 5 “Yes,” Samuel replied. “I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.

6 When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the LORD’s anointed!” 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

- Read James 2:1-4 and discuss, in context, the importance of what it means to have the proper motives when we attend worship.

“God sees our MOTIVES. What others cannot see or know, God sees and knows.”

- Motives are the underlying reason for any action. Ponder and discuss some negative motives that can lead us to sinful behavior. (Read Proverbs 16:2)
- Read Matthew 6:1-4. Ponder and discuss giving with the proper motive. Why should we not call attention to ourselves?
- Read Matthew 6:5-13. Meditate and/or Discuss all that Jesus said about praying with the proper motive. What are some ways that we can pray selfishly and un-selfishly?
- Read James 3:1 and Philippians 1:15-18 and discuss the importance of preaching and teaching with the proper motives.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:4-6 and 1 Corinthians 4:5 are great passages about motives. Talk about what pure motives look like and according the 1 Corinthians 4, what is the most important reason for behaving with pure motives?**

Eight questions to ask ourselves to help evaluate our own motives:

1. If no one ever knows what I am doing (giving, serving, sacrificing), would I still do it?
2. If there was no visible payoff for doing this, would I still do it?
3. Would I joyfully take a lesser position if God asked me to?
4. Am I doing this for the praise of others or how it makes me feel?
5. If I had to suffer for continuing what God has called me to do, would I continue?
6. If others misunderstand or criticize my actions, will I stop?
7. If those whom I am serving never show gratitude or repay me in any way, will I still do it?
8. Do I judge my success or failure based upon my faithfulness to what God has asked me to do, or how I compare it with others?