

# FIVE FORKS BRETHREN IN CHRIST CHURCH

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**SERMON:** *David*

**SERIES:** *1 Samuel*

**SCRIPTURES:** *1 Samuel 16*

**SPEAKER:** *Shaun Kipe*

**DATE:** *2024 - 5 - 26*

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*\*Credit to Eugene Peterson Commentary; Bible Project (Tim Mackie);*

Well good morning and welcome to Five Forks Church. It is good to worship with you today. Everybody here in the room and also to those of you tuning in on the live stream.

We're taking 6 Sundays to study the book of **1 Samuel (Series Graphic)** in your Bible. Looking at some of the major characters and events in the book and trying to discover how they relate to our lives today. And we're down to the last two Sundays. This week and next week. So far, our study began with a mother...**Hannah**, followed by a priest **Samuel**, then the legendary **ark of the covenant** and last week we finally met the first King of Israel, **King Saul**. This confusing, conflicted character. He starts off as God's chosen first King of Israel and he starts off so well. Obedience and humility. But his story ends in disobedience and ruin and failure. He really is a tragic figure. And so God rejects him as King.

And at this point we are about half way through the book of 1 Samuel. Saul's demise happens in chapter 15 and chapter 16 begins the transition in the story, this chapter is a pivotal moment in Israel's story... away from Saul and to the next King of Israel, the second King of Israel. Someone you have probably heard of before...

## **I. King David**

King David's story begins in 1 Samuel 16 and actually continues the whole way through the first few chapters of 1 Kings. And so we're going to take a look at a couple of stories involving King David. This week and next week. And actually in July, Dad is gonna bring us back to King David and specifically talk about the "humility of King David."

King David really is the central King in the history of Israel's time of being led by Kings. He is the key figure. Saul gets a few chapters. Solomon gets a few. But most of the Kings get just a few verses. David gets like a book and a half. And so that's why you tend to hear more sermons, lessons, teaching on David then on any of the other Kings of Israel.

Now before we read the beginning of David's story...I have another game for us. Today, I want to see how well you see. A few weeks ago with Samuel it was how well do you hear and listen. Today it's **how well do you see?**

So I'm gonna show you an image, an optical illusion and I just want you to tell me what you see?

#### **4 Optical Illusions:**

1. Colors
2. Shaded bar
3. Straight lines
4. What do you see?

It's interesting, isn't it...we're all looking at the same image, but we all see something different. I was reading about, sometimes, psychologists or counselors will do this have people look at images and talk about what they see, because **what you see, says a lot about you.**

Where you fix your eyes says a lot about what's really important to you. Children learn this from a very young age, don't they? When kids are little they often use the phrase... "Mommy watch this. Daddy watch this." What are they really saying...when you look at me I know you care.

The same principle happens to be true, in many ways, of our spiritual lives. What we see and how we learn to see and what we choose to see says a lot about what's important to us.

In fact, one of the phrases that you find, repeated throughout the Gospels in relation to Jesus is...

**And Jesus saw...**

**In John 5 – Jesus saw a lame man...**

**In Matthew 9 – Jesus saw a tax collector...**

**In John 6 - Jesus saw hungry crowds...**

**In John 9 - Jesus saw a blind man...**

**In John 19 – Jesus saw a distressed mother...**

Jesus had trained his eyes to see a certain way.

Today as we dive into David's story we're going to learn about the importance of seeing well.

It turns out that there is a key repeated theme that shows up time and again in the telling of David's story, especially here in chapter 16 but even throughout 1 Samuel, though we don't always notice it in our English translations, it is related to "what people see".

For example, the Hebrew word for **see**, is the word “**raah**” and appears 6 times in 1 Samuel 16 alone. So let’s take a look (hahaha...no pun intended) at this story and just try to notice as we do how the theme of seeing shows up.

**1 Samuel 16 - The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”**

Pause for a moment here, just as an example of what I’m talking about...the phrase “I have chosen” here, is the first instance of the literal Hebrew word “raah”. Literally this phrase could be translated, “***I have seen among his sons, the one, to be king.***”

**<sup>2</sup> But Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.’**

So just to follow the context of the story. Samuel is a little freaked out here. He believes that Saul will hear about his trip to Bethlehem and about the anointing of one of Jesse’s sons and he will know what is happening. That he is losing his grasp on the Kingship. And he will not be happy. He will go on a killing rampage. And it’s kind of interesting then what God seems to suggest...

**The LORD said, ‘Take a heifer with you and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.” <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.’**

**<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD said.**

It’s almost like God suggests to Samuel to plan a “counter deception”...a ruse... (Tim Mackie), to trick Saul. Say you’ve come to sacrifice, with a big sacrificial meal and allow the anointing to seem secondary, kind of get lost in the “sacrificial celebration.

It may seem awkward to us, but it seems like a literary technique being used by the writer of 1 Samuel. We don't have time to get into all of the details but Saul, in many of his stories, has been a self-deceived character. Often thinking or acting he's carrying out God's will, but underneath he's selfish, arrogant, disobedient. He's been deceiving, and now he is going to be the one deceived.

**<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.”**

**<sup>7</sup> 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.”**

**<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” <sup>9</sup> Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup> Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.”**

**<sup>11</sup> So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”**

**“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”**

**<sup>12</sup> So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.**

**Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”**

**13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David.**

So, over and over again, in the story we, the readers are to notice the illusions to, the emphasis on this theme of “what do you see?” Ok, three lessons, then that we learn about “seeing well” from David’s story.

First,

**A. Humans don’t always see what God sees.**

One of the key verses in the story is verse 7...in describing Eliab, the oldest of Jesse’s sons, God says...

**7 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,”**

One of the things we need to notice in the story is that Samuel and God look at the same person...but they see two very different things when they look at him.

The story is intentionally showing us that we often see/value differently than God does.

One of my favorite stories about this concept, and if you’re familiar with the story don’t spoil the punchline for your neighbor, but one my favorite stories is a story I read a few years ago, about a man who wandered into a small antique shop in San Francisco one day **(PIC OF ANTIQUES)**. The store was cluttered with knickknacks and junk, but on the floor he spotted what looked like an ancient Chinese vase. He picked it up and discovered that it was a priceless relic from the Ming dynasty worth

a fortune. And it looked like the owner had no idea how valuable it was because the vase was sitting on the floor, filled with milk, with a cat drinking from it.

All of a sudden the man realized that he had the opportunity to make the deal of a lifetime. So he went up to the owner and said, *"That's a beautiful cat you have there. I'd love to have her. How much would you sell her for?"*

The owner said, *"Oh no, that cat's not for sale. She keeps the place free from mice."* The man said, *"Oh, but I really love to have that cat. Would you take a hundred dollars for her?"*

The owner laughed and said, *"She's really not worth a hundred dollars, but if you want her that badly, she's yours."* So he gave the owner a hundred bucks.

But then he added, *"I'm also going to need something to feed her from as well. What if I throw in another ten bucks for that saucer she's drinking from?"*

The owner said, *"Oh, I could never do that. That saucer is actually an ancient Chinese vase from the Ming dynasty. It's my prized possession and worth a fortune. Funny thing, though, ever since I've put it on the floor, I've sold seventeen cats!"*

It takes a trained eye to notice or to see something that others often neglect or overlook. God sees the ancient Chinese vase, Samuel sees the cat's dish.

To be more specific, Samuel's vision, what matters to him, like many in our world, is driven by **external appearances and qualities.**

If you don't believe me on this one, it's fascinating you can google and read all kinds of studies that have been done on this...from babies to students in school (elementary age through high) and then on into benefits in places of work...there are all kinds of results that seem to suggest that "the better looking" get treated better by

society and even within their own families. That we live in a world that sees and values by external appearance first and primarily.

We see this principle at play in the stories of the ancient Kings of Israel. If you go back to King Saul, when he was selected as King, we actually read this description: **1 Samuel 9 - There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish...  
2 Kish had a son named Saul, as handsome a young man as could be found anywhere in Israel, and he was a head taller than anyone else.**

Emphasis on external appearance.

This is what stood out to Samuel as well. Look at **verse 6**...when Samuel saw Eliab. He thought, “ahh yes, this looks like a King. He has the physical appearance to do the job.” And even when David finally shows up...what are we told first about his appearance?

**He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.**

It’s almost like the writer of 1 Samuel, couldn’t help himself, had to make sure that we know David was also a handsome guy, making him worthy to be King.

So much about our world, our lives...the value we see in others is driven by external appearances. What do you look like? What have you accomplished? What have you earned? We humans don’t see the way God sees. We have to train ourselves to see how God sees.

And it begs the question. If what we see, and focus on/value is different from what God sees and values...

## **B. What does God see?**

First,



## 1. God sees “your heart.”

**7 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.”**

God looks at the heart...not literally a physical condition of a person’s heart, right...but the idea here is that God looks at **a person’s character**.

**The text clearly and simply distinguishes the external, physical look of persons from their interior self, characterized as their heart. (Brazos)**

Jesus emphasizes this concept in one of his most startling critiques of the leaders in Israel. It’s called the “woes section”...listen to Jesus emphasis.

**Matthew 23 - <sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.**

You understand what Jesus is saying. He used cups and dishes as a metaphor. You clean the outside, but inside it’s still dirty. He then switches to the metaphor of tombs.

**<sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. <sup>28</sup> In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.**

Jesus says, what matters is the condition of your heart. What God looks at, what is most important to him, is your character. Have you thought about this, in our world where is the emphasis of our lives...so much is on building up our external appearances...and often very little concern for character formation.

You may recall that we started the year off, back in January, with a series called **practicing virtue**. Why? Why practice virtue? Because virtue is about the condition of your heart? It's about the kind of person you are. Are you trustworthy, honest, humble, gentle?

We see this theme echoed through Scripture. What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit? The fruits of the Holy Spirit are not about the size of your bank account or what travel team your kid plays on or

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are about the character of your heart...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Dallas Willard says, "**The most important thing in your life is not what you do** (and we might add, it's not what you earn, it's not what other people think of you; **it's who you become. That's what you will take into eternity.**"

David story forces us to consider in our own lives, **What kind of person are you becoming?** God sees your heart.

And then second, what else does God see?

## **2. God sees the unlikely.**

Knowing Jesse has multiple sons, Samuel starts with oldest, because that's the position of "standing and status in the ancient societal order".

**<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.”**

Samuel is assuming that if God is picking one of Jesse’s sons it will probably be the oldest or one of the older boys. First born was a big deal in ancient society. First born often got a double portion of the father’s inheritance among the children.

**<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” <sup>9</sup> Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup> Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.”**

**<sup>11</sup> So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”**

Even Jesse the father is assuming that if God is choosing someone to be King, it will be one of the older boys. He doesn’t even bring David to the selection show. He is the runt.

**“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”**

This phrase...the youngest...doesn’t just mean younger in age...it means more like “inconsequential” (Keller), not as important or as impressive.

**<sup>12</sup> So he sent for him and had him brought in....Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”**

David is the least in his family. The runt, the smallest, the weakest, the most unlikely, the one culture would not have selected. The way of God’s Kingdom often doesn’t look like the way of the world’s Kingdoms. Jesus says, in his kingdom the

first are last and the last are first. Master's wash feet. And whoever wants to be the greatest will be your servant.

What's fascinating is that by historical standards King Omri is one of Israel's most powerful kings and yet Omri's story in Scripture is given a grand total of 8 verses, while the story of David goes on for chapters.

He is chosen as the youngest in his family. He is a failure as a leader. He is a failure as a husband, he sleeps with another man's wife and then kills that man. He is a failure as a father. And yet, he is the only person in Scripture described as a man after God's own heart.

David's story is ultimately a story about God seeing and using stepping into the lives of the most unlikely of people.

Philip Yancey writes... **“Abraham pimped for his wife, Jacob cheated his brother, Moses murdered, David murdered and committed adultery both – yet all of these ended up on God's list of favorites.”**

Or hero's of the faith.

The Apostle Paul talks about this same concept, when he is writing to the church in Corinth.

**1 Corinthians 1:28-29 - Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him.**

In other words, God sees the unlikely, God uses the unlikely...the second born, the youngest, the weak, the lowly in order to carry out the purposes of his Kingdom. God chooses people we wouldn't expect for the work of his Kingdom.

Finally, as is often the case when it comes to "seeing well", the best teacher is Jesus.

### **C. Look at Jesus**

It's interesting how the theme of seeing and physical stature and appearance that plays out in the stories of the first two Kings of Israel. I had shared with you last week, that even the concept of Kingship for Israel being good or bad was somewhat controversial. That in asking for a King, Israel was rejecting God as King. And that in the midst of that Jesus accommodated himself, by entering humanity and becoming the true King of Israel. There are many comparisons in Scripture between Jesus and David. In fact, many Biblical scholars would point out how Jesus was the second David. Interestingly, the prophet Isaiah wrote about the appearance of Jesus in one of the most profound and significant passages of the Hebrew Scriptures, several hundred years before Jesus lived. A passage describing the Messiah who is to come...This is from **Isaiah 53**.

**He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. <sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

We don't know what Jesus looked like. Often he is depicted with long dark hair, wearing a white robe, pleasant features...many of the depictions I remembering seeing from when I was a kid also had him with white skin and blue eyes. But, I'm just not sure that's very accurate. Isaiah tells us it was his physical beauty that attracted people to him.

What is it that we should see or notice or value? It's that the true King comes to us and takes his rightful place not because of beauty or outward appearances, not because of power and status...but he comes in **self-giving love**.

Image 1: How many different colors are present in this image? 3. Pink, green, white.

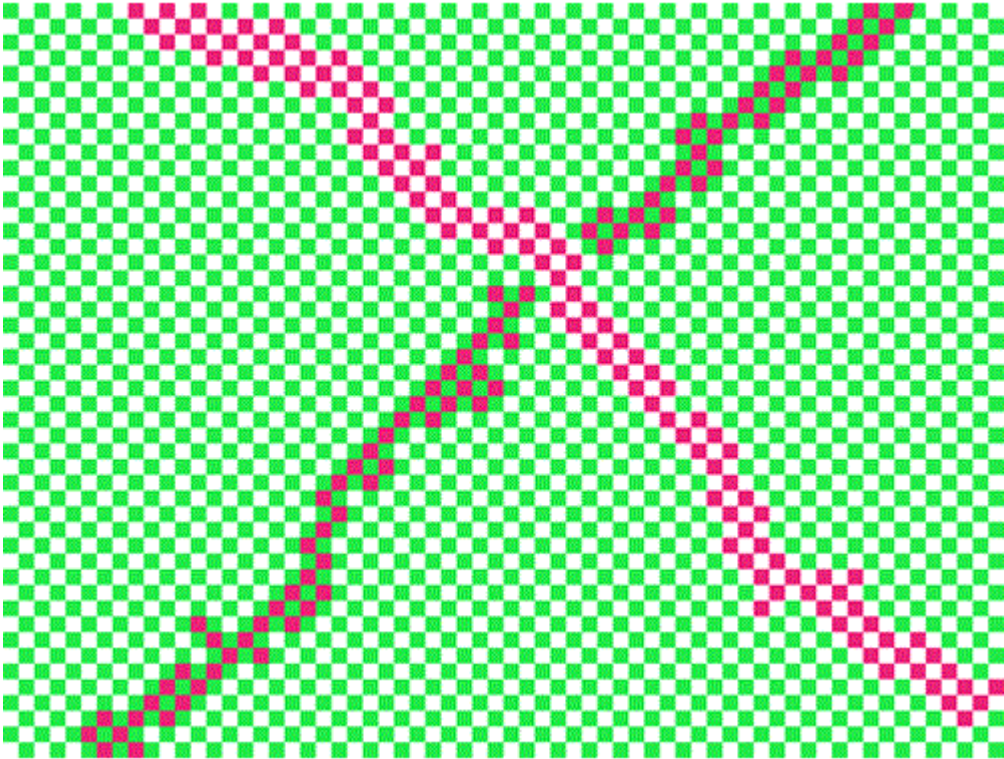


Image 2: Which side of the bar is darker? Both sides are the same shade.

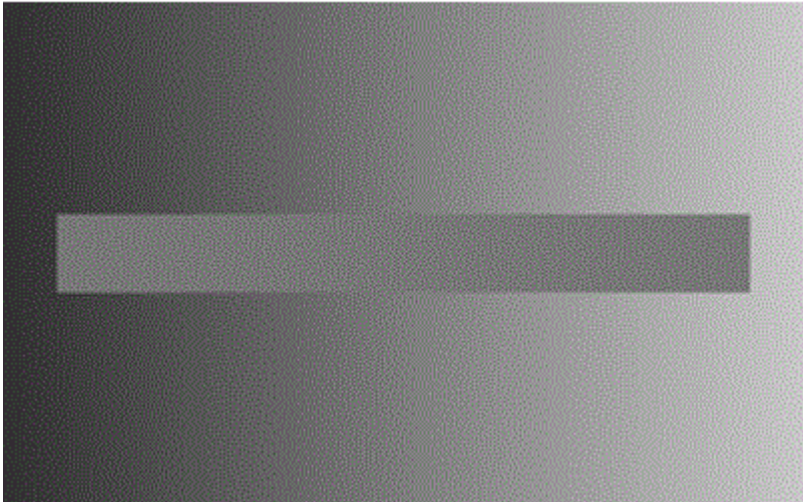


Image 3: Are the horizontal lines sloping or straight? Straight. The vertical lines being off makes the horizontal lines look sloped.

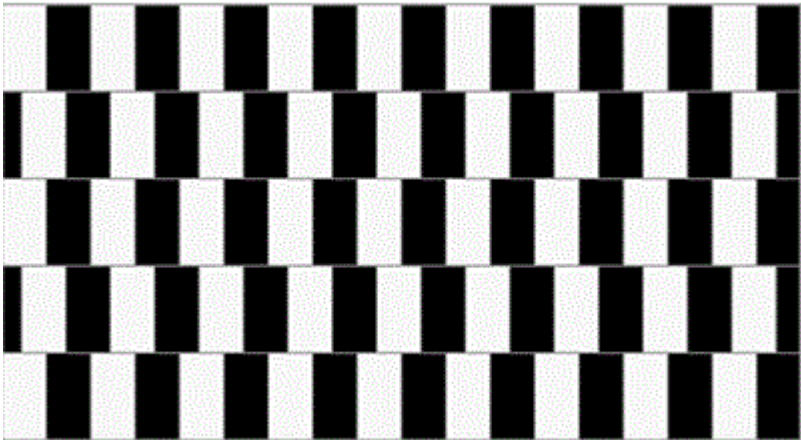


Image 4: What do you see first in the image? Tree, Gorilla, Lion...do you see the fish?

