

Becoming the Man God Sees

Theme: Identity in Christ

Key Scripture: *"For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."* — 1 Samuel 16:7 (NKJV)

Opening Story

When the prophet Samuel arrived at Jesse's house to anoint Israel's next king, everyone assumed they knew who God had chosen. Jesse presented his oldest sons—men who looked strong, capable, and impressive. One by one, Samuel examined them, certain that one of these men must be God's choice.

But God had a different perspective.

While everyone else focused on outward appearances, God was looking at something deeper. The man He had chosen wasn't standing in the house at all. David was in the fields, faithfully tending sheep while his brothers received all the attention.

David didn't look like a king.

He didn't have the title, the recognition, or the experience.

Yet God saw something in David that no one else could see.

Long before David ever sat on the throne, God saw the man he was becoming.

Many of us spend our lives worrying about how others see us. We measure ourselves by accomplishments, possessions, titles, and the opinions of people around us.

God measures something entirely different.

He sees our hearts.

And He sees the man we are becoming through His grace.

Scripture Focus

1 Samuel 16:7

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

Additional Scriptures:

- Philippians 1:6
 - Ephesians 2:10
 - Romans 8:29
 - Psalm 139:13–14
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The Lesson

Every man carries two pictures of himself.

The first picture is shaped by the world.

It is built on success, achievements, failures, income, appearance, popularity, and comparison. This picture constantly changes depending on circumstances and the opinions of others.

The second picture is shaped by God.

God sees beyond who you are today and into who He is transforming you to become.

Where others see weakness, God sees potential.

Where others see failure, God sees redemption.

Where others see an ordinary man, God sees a leader, a husband, a father, a mentor, and a servant prepared for His purposes.

David wasn't born a king.

Moses wasn't born a deliverer.

Peter wasn't born a courageous apostle.

God shaped each of them through seasons of waiting, testing, failure, and growth.

The same is true for us.

Too often, we become discouraged because we focus on how far we still have to go instead of recognizing how far God has already brought us. Spiritual growth is rarely instant. Character is developed through daily obedience, not overnight success.

God isn't simply interested in what you accomplish.

He is interested in who you become.

He is shaping your heart through every challenge, disappointment, victory, and season of waiting.

You may feel overlooked.

You may feel unqualified.

You may feel like you're still standing in the field while others receive recognition.

But remember: David was faithful in private before he was trusted in public.

The man God sees isn't defined by applause or status.

He is defined by faithfulness, humility, integrity, and a heart that seeks after God.

God sees not only who you are but who you can become when you surrender your life to Him.

Reflection Questions

1. How do you typically measure your value and success?
2. Are you more concerned with how others see you or how God sees you?
3. In what areas is God currently shaping your character?
4. What qualities do you believe God is developing in you during this season?

Today's Challenge

Take ten minutes to reflect on the person you were five years ago.

Write down three ways God has grown, strengthened, or transformed you.

Then ask yourself:

"What kind of man is God calling me to become?"

Pray specifically for God to continue shaping your heart, character, and priorities to reflect His purpose for your life.

Remember: God is not finished with you yet.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for seeing beyond my flaws, failures, and insecurities. Thank You for loving me not only as I am but also for shaping me into the man You created me to be.

Help me to stop measuring myself by the standards of this world and to find my identity in You. Give me the patience to trust Your process and the faith to believe that You are still working in my life.

Develop within me a heart of humility, integrity, courage, and obedience. Teach me to be faithful in the small things and to trust that You are preparing me for the plans You have for my future.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

This Week's Takeaway

The world sees who you are today, but God sees who you are becoming. Trust His process, remain faithful, and allow Him to shape you into the man He created you to be.