

THE MEASURE OF A HEART

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Text: 1 Samuel 16:4-7

Often we determine who is able to do a work for God—and who is not able—by what we see. We also look at ourselves in the same light. Too often because of what we are not, (talented, gifted, educated, popular, etc) we disqualify ourselves for a work for God.

Consider two important truths.

I. THE EYES OF HUMANITY SEE ONLY THE SUPERFICIAL (v. 6).

A. We are limited by our superficial vision (v. 6a).

“When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought...”

Our first mistake is to think that we can always figure out God’s plan.

B. We are swayed by our superficial vision (v. 7a).

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height...”

C. We are misled by our superficial vision (v. 6b).

“Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD.”

II. THE EYES OF THE LORD PENETRATE THE HEART.

A. The Lord does not consider human presentation (v. 7a).

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him...”

B. The Lord does not judge by our criteria (v. 7b).

“The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance...”

C. The Lord is only influenced by the contents of the heart (v. 7c).

“...But the LORD looks at the heart.”

CONCLUSION

The measure of a heart is found only by looking inward.