



Being with Jesus:

A Devotional From the Book of Mark

Week 5
The Mighty Widow

Day 3

Scripture

“When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.’

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.” — 1 Samuel 16:6-7

“For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” — 2 Chronicles 16:9

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for not judging as men judge. Thank You for giving me a new clean heart. Help me to be a person who is dedicated to you. Strengthen me to do Your work. Amen.

Reflection

In the story above, God has sent Samuel to find the next king of Israel. He knew where to go, but didn’t know exactly who he was looking for. Jesse was a man with a number of sons, and God told Samuel that it would be one of them. So, Samuel asked Jesse to bring all his sons so Samuel could find the right one.

When Samuel saw Eliab, he thought he had found the new king. He looked perfect on the outside: strong, tall, good looking. But God said, “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.” One by one the other brothers were brought in front of Samuel; but like in Cinderella, the shoe didn’t fit. Finally, Samuel asks if there’s anyone else, and Jesse says his youngest son is out in the field. They bring David in, and God tells Samuel that he’s the one.

People often look at outward appearances, but God sees right down deep into the heart. God is not impressed by height, strength, or good looks. He wants a heart that is dedicated to Him. If you feel like you fall short in some way physically, mentally, socially, economically, or whatever other way, remember that God looks at the heart. His eyes are looking to and fro throughout the earth in search of people who are dedicated to Him, so that He can strengthen them to do His work.

Questions

When have you been tempted to judge by an outward appearance?

Do you ever feel like you lack some external quality that limits your value to God?

How does it make you feel to know that God looks at the heart?