

Sermon Scripture References

Psalm 139:4; Exodus 3:11; Luke 1:34; Matthew 10:16; Isaiah 55:8; Psalm 147:10-11; Heb. 4:13; Proverbs 4:23; 1 Cor. 1:27; John 1:14; Romans 8:14-15

Sermon Description

The Bible describes the heart as the inner-most part of the self. The heart is not

only a physical organ but the inward part of us that desires, loves, carries burdens, and longs for an eternal satisfaction. Who then, can really know our heart? In our passage this week, we discover a

powerful reality; we can only see the external, but the Lord sees the heart. The living, active God who sees the hearts of people sees everything a person’s heart contains; the good, the bad, and the ugly.

However, the surprise 1 Samuel 16 shares is when God sees the human heart, filled with all its burdens, assumptions, and faults, he moves toward them in grace by sharing his heart for Israel. Contained in the story of a shepherd-boy’s anointing is the pursuit of a God whose heart is after his people that would come to be fully realized in Christ; the Son of David, the King of Kings.

“The Lord Sees the Heart” 1 Samuel 16:1-13

**Big Idea:** Humans are unable to see past the physical, visible nature of life. But God sees past the visible to the heart, and shares his heart for us by seeking after and lifting up the lowly.

**Sermon Outline**

* + - The Lord Relieves Our Burdens
    - Secret Burdens Promote Reluctant Action
    - The Lord Gives Discernment and Prudence
    - The Lord Rebukes Our Assumptions
    - The Lord Sees the Heart
    - The Lord Seeks the Lowly

Sermon Outline

Discussion Primer

What secret burden are you carrying today? How might it be promoting reluctant action? What follower of Christ might you share your burden with and trust is God’s gift to help you bear it?

Intersection: How does the text intersect with our lives?

* When you hear a reference to the “heart” what do you think of? How would you describe the heart? How does the Bible describe the heart?
* What role does God’s gifts of discernment and prudence play in our practices of confession and self-disclosure?
* What is the danger of assuming God will act in a certain way? Is there a distinction between what God can do and what God will do? What impact does this have on the shape of your faith?
* What assumptions has the Lord rebuked in your life? What truths has He replaced them with in your faith?

Read ***1 Samuel 16:1-13*** and explore together what the passages reveal about:

1) The character and purposes of God? 4) Our identity in Christ?

2) The fallen human condition? 5) Our obedience to Christ?

3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? 6) Our relationship to others

Replicable Questions

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study.

Is there . . .

• a command to obey? • a beauty to behold? • a mission to fulfill?

• a promise to claim? • a truth to believe? • an example to follow?

• a sin to repent of? • a service to render? • a person to tell?

Application: “So, what now?”

Missional Community Study & Discussion Guide

Week of May 16, 2021

Leader Tips