

1. One of my favorite people in the bible is king David from the Old Testament.
2. Part of the reason he is my favorite, is because he is the only person in the bible who is called a man after God's own heart.
3. Another reason why he is one of my favorites, is because he didn't have an easy life.
4. He wasn't called a man after God's own heart because his life was a walk in the park. He was called a man after God's own heart in spite of the fact that at every turn in his life he faced extreme difficult.
5. Part of that is seen in how he was selected and anointed king.
6. Samuel the prophet comes to the house of Jesse, David's father, because God has told him that the next king is one of Jesse's sons.
7. So, each of Jesse's sons pass in front of Samuel, except David the youngest.
8. **1 Samuel 16:11-12** 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." **12** So he sent for him and had him brought in.
9. So, this is what David's own father thought of him. All of Jesse's sons are passing in front of Samuel, which was a huge deal considering how famous Samuel was.
10. Jesse is showing off his sons to Samuel. But David was such an afterthought that Jesse didn't have him pass in front of Samuel.
11. It was almost like David didn't exist. When David's own father looked at him, he didn't see anything special.
12. Evidently, he never thought to himself, David is going to do great things. David was just there as one of eight sons who blended in with the rest.
13. There is another instance where Jesse sends David to the war front, and David's oldest brother insults him and essentially calls him worthless.
14. In the minds of those around him, David was just an ordinary person, who would live an ordinary life, and do ordinary things.
15. But what everyone missed is that God had chosen David to be a great king. To do great things, and to go down in history as an extremely famous person.

16. And I think that brings us to a good point.
17. **Sometimes we misjudge people.** Sometimes we look at them and don't see anything spectacular. But the reality is what we think of them is not who they are or who they will become.
18. What matters is what God thinks of them. God sees greatness in people we sometimes overlook.
19. Even the great prophet Samuel misjudged who would be the next king.
20. **1 Samuel 16:6-7** When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." **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."
21. Eliab was the oldest brother. When his father Jesse passed away one day, Eliab would be the patriarch of the family. He would inherit twice as much as each of the brothers.
22. As the oldest brother, he may have carried himself with confidence. Maybe he was tall and strong. We don't know for sure how he looked, what we do know is that Samuel took one look at him and was impressed and said to himself, this has to be the next king.
23. But the Holy Spirit said something to Samuel that uncovered a flaw that we have when it comes to judging people.
24. The Lord doesn't look at the same things we as people look at.
25. Our evaluation of people is often only skin deep. We look at the outward appearance, and then make a decision based on what we see.
26. But God looks a whole lot deeper than just the outward appearance. **God looks at the heart** of a person.
27. God is able to see what is at the center and root of a person and perfectly determine if they are worthy or not.
28. And even as great a man as Samuel was. Even with how close Samuel was to the lord, he was not immune to making the mistake of judging by outward appearances.
29. I tend to think we should give Samuel the benefit of the doubt. After all, to this point Israel had only ever had one king. He was the current king named Saul.

30. And Saul's appearance was one in which he stood out in a crowd.

31. **1 Samuel 9:1-2** There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bekorath, the son of Aphiah of Benjamin. **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.

32. So, the first thing we see about Saul was that arguably, he was the best-looking man in all the nation of Israel.

33. Then on top of that, Saul was a head taller than everyone else around him.

34. More than likely he was somewhere in the neighborhood of six feet, eight inches tall. That's seven inches taller than me.

35. **1 Samuel 9:17** When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD said to him, "This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people."

36. So, when Samuel caught sight of Saul, not only did he say in his heart, this is the man. But the Lord also confirmed what he was feeling by telling Samuel Saul was the man.

37. So, Samuel's first experience of identifying the king was one in which he saw the best-looking man in Israel who was head and shoulders taller than everyone else.

38. So, when Samuel arrived at the house of Jesse and he laid eyes on Eliab, probably the strongest and the tallest, he thought for sure, this is the one.

39. But Samuel needed to be reminded that though man sees the outward appearance, God sees the heart.

40. As it turned out David, the youngest, the runt of the brothers, had the heart that God was looking for, even though on the outside he looked nothing like Saul.

41. Where I'm about to go next may seem awkward for you to hear. But I really believe the Lord wants me to share this with you.

42. I don't know who your next pastor will be. I have no idea where they will come from. How old they will be. How tall they will be. What color hair they will have. I know none of those things.

43. But what I do know is that I have already been praying for them, that God would prepare them to be ready to make the transition to come lead this great church.

44. But we know that you as a church family have a part to play in this process.
45. Everyone will be praying, and looking, and listening, and evaluating in their mind whether or not this is the one.
46. But as you seek the Lord for your next pastor, I want to ask you to do something.
47. Remember that you are not looking for a replacement for me. You are looking for the next man or woman God has in mind to be your leader.
48. Don't search for someone who looks like me or acts like me or leads like me.
49. Don't be on the lookout for someone who is as tall as me, or who preaches like me, or who is the same age as me.
50. Look for the person God has already got picked out.
51. And when they have been selected and they have been installed as pastor, I want to ask you to do something for me.
52. In fact, the absolute most wonderful thing you can do for me is to focus all your attention on the future and not the past.
53. Love your new pastor deeply.
54. Pray for them daily.
55. Stand beside them and believe the best about them.
56. Follow them. Stand with them believing God to do miracles not only in BFA, but in Batesville.
57. Don't judge them. Don't compare them to me. Do your best to never say, well pastor Jeff did it this way.
58. If you love me, and I know you do, then the best way for you to show your love to me is to shower your new pastor with love and acceptance, and appreciation.
59. If you will do that, it will be one of the greatest gifts I have ever received.
60. We love you. We are going to miss you. We will continue to pray for you and the future of BFA.
61. Pray.
62. Someone to give directions.