

“God Looks at the Heart” by Brother Richard Lam at the Wednesday night prayer meeting on Oct. 12, 2016.

1 Samuel 16:7

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.”

God looks at the heart, not at the outward appearance of man. This is contrary to the way our society looks at appearances. Look at the television, the billboards, the magazine covers, and even on online media like Facebook - for the most part, the most handsome and beautiful faces and shapely bodies are advertised as the "norm" and everyone who doesn't conform to this level of "beauty" needs help. Cosmetic surgery costs consumers billions of dollars per year in societies that are image conscious. In Korea, parents gave their graduating children gift certificates for cosmetic surgery so they can look “beautiful” – this is for both sexes. Korean boys and girls strive to look like their idols acting in Korean dramas! Do you remember the story of a Chinese man who sued his separated spouse? She had numerous cosmetic surgeries before marriage and their children are physically “ugly” according to him. Other than the cosmetic surgery industry, the personal diet companies are making untold billions as we try the latest fad diet to lose weight to look like some model or superstar. I’m not talking about dieting due to health concerns. What it comes down to is that we are brainwashed by the media on how we should look like.

Aren't you glad that God look past our outward appearance and look at the heart? In 1 Samuel 16:7, Samuel made the mistake of considering the physical appearance of Jesse’s sons as the attribute for anointment as king of Israel. It’s interesting that Jesse completely left his youngest son David out of the family gathering. Jesse thought so little of David that he didn’t even feel David was worth considering. But God looks at the heart. God knew that David had a heart for God. When David the young shepherd boy was summoned to meet Samuel, the Lord said he was the one. He was anointed before his brothers for the Lord liked what He saw in David, a boy with a loving and caring heart.

I have to admit that I myself all too often get caught up in judging others by their appearance, forgetting that the outward appearance has little to do with the person’s ability or the treasure hidden in the heart. We need to be like the Lord that sees beauty beyond the veil of flesh, the beauty hidden in the heart of people. So, let's start by not judging others by appearance but rather looking at the way God sees them. We need to understanding that we are all the handiwork of the Creator, made to glorify Him.

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~ 1 Samuel 16:7
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