

Welcome to the thirteenth week of
25 Weeks of Advent!

The stories of Advent all give us some insight as to the point and value of Jesus' life for us.

God looks at us—and sees so much more than we can see. God sees our hearts, hears our thoughts, and knows us, better than we know ourselves! He's always been in the business of doing this—the stories of Advent so far have made this clear: arguing brothers, old, barren women, foreigners... God *must* be looking at the inside!

Today's story is no exception to God's habit of looking at people inside out: **David**. David wasn't anything special—in fact, when Jesse (his dad) was told that Samuel was coming to anoint one of his sons as king, he didn't even bother to call David in to line up with his brothers!

When Samuel ran out of suitable-looking sons, God hadn't chosen any to be king. "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."

So he sent for him and had him brought in." He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." (1 Sam. 16:11-12)

Week 13: Looking at Things Inside Out

Read: 1 Samuel 16:1—13

"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 Sam. 16:7)

What does God see when he looks at your heart?

Do your priorities, strength, attitudes, courage and contentment reflect confidence in God as a child of God?

Do you guard your heart, knowing that it is the 'wellspring of life'?
(Proverbs 4:23)

Jesus lay in a manger in Bethlehem —like David, he sat among the sheep because no room could be made for him in the inn! He was overlooked by the rest of the world—but seen by God. God had long foretold of the coming of his son—God had seen what would come! God has a habit of looking at people, and situations, inside out—he can see the goodness and the potential that gives hope and life.

*Is there someone you are overlooking, because you won't look beyond their appearance? Is there a situation in your life, that you need to look at with God's perspective? **Pray for him to open your eyes to see as He does.***



Readings for your Week

We must face our battles, trusting in God, and not giving in to fear of what we can see!

1 Samuel 17

Listen to David pray as he was convicted, and humbled! by God's blessing and raising up

2 Samuel 7:18-29

God looks beyond age, and even number! The small show his glory.

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Deuteronomy 7:1-11

Remember to add this picture to your Jesse tree!

