

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

September 21, 2025

First Baptist Church of Thayer

1 Samuel 16:1-13

God's Sight is to Be Sought

STRUCTURE

Introduction: We are obsessed with appearances—but God sees the heart.

Samuel's Grief: Reflects our longing for a better kingdom and king.

Man's Limited View: We are deceived by appearances and instinct.

God's Unlimited View: He sees the heart, and His sight is trustworthy.

Faith Rewarded: Obedience leads to spiritual sight and God's provision.

Jesus the Greater David: Unexpected, overlooked, but the true King.

Conclusion & Call: Have you seen Jesus? Are you walking by the Spirit?

INTRODUCTION

- I. Last year, there were over one million cosmetic plastic surgeries performed in the United States.
 - A. 446 billion dollars were spent on cosmetic products.
 1. 510 billion dollars were spent on clothing items.
 - a) We live in a world obsessed with appearance.
 - B. *"How do I look? Are you sure this matches? Does my hair look weird? Am I getting fat?"*
 1. All these are questions Julie hears me ask her daily!
- II. Why is that?
 - A. As humans, we are in a battle against time, longing for eternal things, longing for beauty and ever aware of our lack of it.
 1. We are ever aware of the effects of time, and we scratch and claw to hold onto youth.

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- a) Usually, that looks like battling for our appearance, be that in cosmetics, physical fitness, working productivity, and energy.
 - (1) The world measures and values people based upon their ability to look and appear as productive and beautiful members of society, and when those standards aren't met, the value level decreases and decreases.
 - (2) This mindset, this battle for appearance, is exhausting.
- 2. It drains our mental capacity, ruins our understanding of self, and distorts the way that we view others.
 - a) Thankfully, God, the God who created us and defines our meaning and value and is the ultimate judge, thankfully He doesn't have the same eyes that we have.
- III. In our story today, we will see the anointing of the famous king David, and within this passage, we will see something greater, something that shows us the character and nature of God.
 - A. God's sight is unlimited.
 - 1. He not only sees beyond the facade of appearance, beyond the masks and fronts that we put up to our hearts, but He also sees beyond.
 - a) God sees the good, God sees the wise choice, God sees the best plan for Him to be glorified and us to be satisfied, and it is only through the gift of His eyes that we see His beauty and His way.
 - (1) His ways are higher, His plan is better, and if we are to live lives satisfied and joyful, it will be through living according to His sight, or more specifically, keeping Him at the forefront of our sight.
 - (a) The primary point of our text is this: *God provides His anointed king after shifting Samuel's eyes, eyes that look to the heart.*

BODY

- I. We begin our time by looking at the call of Samuel, found in chapter 16 verses one through four.

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- A. In verse one, we read, “[I] The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”
1. Where is it that we find Samuel, the prophet who has been the absolute spiritual leader of Israel for most of his life?
 - a) Verse one says that we find Samuel in grief, in mourning, over the rejection of Saul.
 - (1) This echoes what we saw last week in chapter 15, where verse 35 says, “And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul.”
 - b) Samuel was Saul’s mentor, Saul’s spiritual guide and counselor, and quite honestly, Samuel was probably Saul’s friend.
 - (1) Samuel had been with Saul since he was just a tall, handsome nobody.
 - (a) If you’ll remember back, Saul’s main character traits that qualified him to be king were his strength, his height, and his looks.
 - c) Saul simply looked the part, and because that is what the people wanted and longed for, God allowed and led Samuel to anoint Saul king.
 2. But, as we saw last week, Saul was a bad king because of his disobedience.
 - a) Because of this, God rejected Saul as king.
 - (1) But, God did not deliver this message personally, He delivered this message of rejection through the prophet Samuel.
 - (a) Not all messages are easy, and this message grieved Samuel’s heart.
 - (b) The anointed king was rejected, and Israel was faced with following a poor leader.
 - b) Not only that, but the issue of Saul’s sin still had to be dealt with, and Samuel was the tool to accomplish that dealing.
 - (1) The evil king Agag, whom Saul spared, approached Samuel, and Samuel hacked him to pieces.
 - (a) This was a dark time in the life of Samuel.

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Grieving for a Better Kingdom

- I. Samuel's grief can be compared to every kind of grief that you and I experience today.
 - A. We grieve the loss of loved ones, we grieve because of painful circumstances, we grieve over a nation in division, we grieve over our sins, and the list goes on.
 1. Our hearts, many times, hurt terribly, are burdened with fears and anxieties, and are longing for healing.
 - a) I compare Samuel's grief to ours because the ultimate root is the exact same: we are longing, whether we know it or not, for an eternal kingdom in which pain doesn't exist.
 - (1) We are grieving for that kingdom, and ultimately, we are grieving for a good king.
 - (a) All the hopes that Israel, and Samuel, had placed into Saul were crushed upon his rejection.
 - (b) He was not the one they longed for, but was another example of bad leadership.
 - b) He was a letdown.
 - (1) Our grief today, though it is different and takes place in a different context, is still the same: we long for a better kingdom, and we long for a better king, so much so that we grieve ourselves for it.
 - (a) When we lose someone we love dearly, we long for a day to see them again, and we long for a day in which we won't experience loss.
 - (b) When we sin, we long for the strength to overcome it, we long to avoid the consequences of sin, and we long for a time in which we won't be tempted in these ways.
 - (c) When we see a nation divided, when sin is running rampant and hate is seeming to win every battle, we long for a day in which all men are united on truth.
 - i) But, as Samuel felt, and as we feel now, that day is not yet here.
 - (1) We grieve.

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- II. It is in the midst of this darkness that God speaks to Samuel and says, *“Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”*
 - A. God essentially says to Samuel, “Though you are in pain, and rightfully so, now is no time to quit. There is still work to be done, for I have provided myself another king.”
 - 1. After such failure the first time, Samuel probably wants nothing to do with this task.
 - a) But this time, the situation is different.
 - (1) When the first king was chosen, it was the nation of Israel who instigated the request.
 - (a) 1 Samuel 8:5 says, “Appoint for US a king to judge us like all the nations.”
 - i) “ The desire of the people is that the king should be for them, for their purposes, and for their interests.
 - ii) Yet now, in 1 Samuel 16, God says, “I have found a king for myself.”
 - (2) This king, the unknown anointed, is for God.
 - (a) Those two words, “for God”, change everything.
 - i) Those words shift us from sin to righteousness.
 - ii) “For God” shifts us from dull monotony to a life of meaning.
 - iii) “For God” shifts us from vanity and brokenness and meaninglessness to purpose and eternity and peace.
 - (1) This king, this new anointed man, is for God, and thus, this story has hope.
 - B. Samuel, though, still has his fears and hesitations, because Saul is still the king.
 - 1. God has rejected him, yes, but he is still reigning over the nation, and still very powerful.
 - a) Saul commands the army, and Saul lives very close to Samuel.
 - (1) As a matter of fact, in order to get to Bethlehem, where Jesse and the anointed king are, Samuel would have to pass through Saul’s home city, Gibeah.
 - (a) There was Ramah, Samuel’s hometown, in the north, about four miles south, in the middle was Gibeah, Saul’s hometown, and then roughly six miles south of that was Bethlehem.

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- i) The mission God calls Samuel to is one of danger, because if the true reason for his going to Bethlehem is revealed, Saul would no doubt kill him.
 - (1) So, God tells him to take an ox to sacrifice, make this town a part of Samuel's circuit of judging, and no one will think otherwise.
 - (2) God is NOT commanding Samuel to lie, but commands Samuel not to reveal the entirety of His plan just yet.

III. So, in response to God's command, Samuel obediently goes.

A. And before we move into our next point, man's limited view verses God's unlimited view, I want to point something out.

1. Samuel doesn't have any idea who the person is that he's supposed to anoint.

a) God hasn't given him a specific name, God hasn't shown Samuel a picture, God didn't give Samuel a social security number, God just gives Samuel a family and a place.

(1) With such limited information, is it wise for Samuel to risk his life?

(a) What if he gets to Bethlehem and God doesn't speak again?

(b) Would it then be up to Samuel to choose the next king of Israel?

i) These questions were most likely running through the prophet's mind, but what do we see him do?

(1) "*Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem.*"

B. Church, there are many times that God will call His people to take steps of faith, steps that don't seem to make sense, steps that are cloudy and unknown, and God says, "Trust me."

1. No, it might not literally be the audible voice of God, but it might be a circumstance that God directly speaks to in His Bible.

a) For instance, God calls us to lovingly, yet directly, confront a brother or sister that has sinned against you.

(1) This scares us, because confrontation scares us, but we know that the Bible speaks directly to this.

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- (a) This is God saying, “You need to deal with this bitterness before it gets the best of you.”
 - i) So, in that moment, we know God is calling us to this obedience, but there is no certainty as to how the other person will respond.
 - ii) What if they become angry?
 - iii) What if they lie about me?
 - iv) What if after what if after what if.
- 2. Let’s use a different scenario.
 - a) You’ve been feeling led to plug you and your family into the life of this church, and you know that God is calling you deeper.
 - (1) But, your worry is that you won’t be rested enough for work, or you won’t have enough time for your family, or you won’t be able to get the things done around the house that you need to get done.
 - (a) You fear you just won’t have the time to do all the things that are stressing you out in your life if you begin to plug into the body of Christ as God is calling you to.
 - i) Not only that, but you wonder, “Will it even be worth it? Will I actually get anything out of it?”
 - (1) Ultimately, it comes down to this question: *do I trust that when God calls me to obedience, He will take care of the rest?*
 - (a) Let me ask you this question directly to you, church.
 - (2) Do you trust that when God calls you to obedience, even hard obedience, that He will take care of the results?
 - (a) The fear that Samuel felt was natural, yet he obeyed.
 - i) The fear you and I feel when faced with difficult obedience is natural, yet do we trust God enough to obey?
 - (1) Plug whatever real life example in that you’re facing today.

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(2) The call is still clear: wait on the Lord.

(a) Thankfully, Samuel trusted and waited on the Lord.

Man's Limited View, God's Unlimited View

I. We see the fruits of Samuel's obedience in verses four through ten.

A. We read in verse 4, “[4] *Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” [5] And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.*”

1. All the pieces are coming together just as God had planned, the obedience is falling into place, and all the elements are gathering together.

a) When the family of Jesse has gathered together, Samuel is now ready to do the task that God has commanded him, to anoint the next king of Israel.

b) So, we continue reading in verse 6, “[6] *When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is before him.” [7] But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”*

II. In these verses we see the limited view of man.

A. When Samuel sees Eliab, the oldest and strongest of Jesse's sons, he thinks, “No doubt that is who I'm supposed to anoint.”

1. For Samuel, Eliab seemed so right. On the outside, he had all that you could dream of for a king, yet God rejected him.

a) Samuel's instinct would have no doubt led to another Saul situation, where a man is placed in a position he ought not be in due to outward appearances.

(1) Surely Samuel would have learned his lesson after the disaster he was grieving over, but he obviously hasn't.

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- (a) He is still looking on the stature of a man as the determining factor for anointing, and it is due to his natural instincts.
 - i) But, if you and I are honest, we operate like this daily.
- 2. We see the Eliabs in front of us and think, “Yes! That’s what I need! That’s exactly what I’ve been looking for!”
 - a) All the while, we are never considering what God has for us.
 - (1) The Eliabs are so tempting, and they seem so right.
 - (a) But, as Proverbs 14:12 says, “*There is a way that seems right to man, but in the end it leads to death.*”
 - i) There are things in our lives that seem to be so correct, so perfect, so right, but are actually deceiving us into a death trap.
 - b) Let me give you an example.
- B. Two Sundays ago, I was out of town in Colorado for five days, and didn’t have any service.
 - 1. From Sunday to Thursday, I was pretty much unplugged, but when I came out of the mountains last Thursday and looked at the news, I was shocked.
 - a) All I saw were posts and stories of the assassination of Charlie Kirk.
 - (1) In that moment, when I finally saw all that had taken place, I was angered, and rightfully so.
 - (a) What took place was evil, was horrific, and then when I saw that there was a school shooting as well, I was sickened.
 - i) Now, in that moment, it was absolutely right to be angry over those sins.
 - (1) We, as Christians, are called to hate sin, and I’m sure you were feeling that same feeling when you found out.
 - (2) But, my immediate response after that anger was a longing for vengeance, a longing for revenge, a longing to lash out and hate a large group of people.

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- (b) I was longing to begin blasting people on Facebook for things they were saying, I was longing to start demonizing a group of people, and I was longing to get revenge.
- b) I'm sure you were feeling this same way.
 - (1) But, the trickiest part of all of those longings was, they seemed to be right.
 - (a) Not only that, they seemed to be strong.
 - (b) To respond in a hateful way, I thought in the moment, was to be strong.
- 2. To add onto it, there were other "Christians" on social media advocating for that type of "bold" behavior.
 - a) Their version of "stand up" was to "speak hatefully".
 - (1) There is a way that seems right to man, but in the end it leads to death.
- C. Now, what is the completely countercultural response that Jesus calls us to? Matthew 5:43 says, "[43] *'You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' [44] But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.'*"
 - 1. Jesus, that feels like weakness!
 - 2. Jesus, that feels like cowardice!
 - 3. Jesus, that isn't enough!
 - a) Or, consider Romans 12, where we read, "[17] *Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. [18] If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. [19] Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' [20] To the contrary, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.' [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.'*"
 - (1) It is in these types of moments where we must battle our limited view, our views and instincts that only see on the surface, that only operate on limited knowledge, and submit to the call of God.
 - (a) Christian, love.

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(b) Christian, pray for the Kirk family, and pray for the salvation of Tyler Robinson.

i) Christian, love.

D. But let's ask ourselves this question: why do our feelings so often deceive us and why do our instincts so often lean toward the Eliabs?

1. It is because our view is limited.

a) We can only see what is in front of us, based on the wisdom and experiences that we have, and more often than not, that wisdom and that experience is far too little to make the right decision.

(1) Your feelings are short sighted.

(2) Your instincts are short sighted.

(3) You are short sighted.

(a) Yet, God's view isn't.

i) We read again in verse 7, "[7] *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."*

2. God doesn't see as we see.

a) We're limited. He isn't.

b) His view is unlimited, looking all the way to the heart.

(1) Nothing stops the eyes of God.

(a) It is totally and completely unlimited.

i) This unlimited view has three main applications for us this morning.

III. First, the eyes of God see beyond your masks and your facades and your fronts.

A. The eyes of God see beyond the showy displays of righteousness that you take part in, the eyes of God see beyond all the outward displays of goodness that you try and get other people to see, and the eyes of God see beyond your reputations.

1. God sees your heart.

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- a) Your heart, the Bible describes, is the core of who you are.
 - (1) From the heart flows thoughts, desires, words, and actions.
 - (2) Your heart is the core.
 - b) Your heart holds your darkest desires, your darkest sins, your darkest secrets, things that nobody on the planet know.
 - (1) But God sees it all.
 - (a) He sees your heart when somebody makes a comment about your child.
 - (b) He sees your heart when you see a man or a woman you find attractive.
 - (c) He sees your heart when your husband or wife doesn't live up to your expectations.
 - (d) God sees right to your heart when you're thinking about another person in this church and their past sins.
 - i) God sees your heart, and what He sees, oftentimes, isn't pretty.
- IV. Secondly, for God to have unlimited sight means that appearances don't matter a single bit in salvation.
- A. Your beauty, your strength, your reputation, your works, and your goodness don't matter a single bit in salvation.
 - 1. God looks right past those things, and what He always sees within a person is that they aren't good enough.
 - a) This is why the New Testament hammers works-based righteousness and hammers the thought that you can work your way to heaven, because God looks right past those things.
 - (1) God looks to the heart to measure a man, and the heart of man is, as Jeremiah 17:9 says, "desperately wicked."
 - (a) Jeremiah 17:9-10 say, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? I, the Lord, search the heart and test the mind.*"

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- (b) Obviously, you would go with the expert.
- 2. So church, when you are making decisions in your life, why in the world do you trust anything else other than God and His word?
 - a) Why trust anything else?
 - (1) There is nothing else in all of creation that has His knowledge, His sight, and His good purposes.
 - (a) So what are you to do?
 - i) You are to walk by faith, not by sight.
 - (1) You are to walk by faith in God and His word, not by your sight and your instincts, trusting that waiting on the Lord will be rewarded.

Faith Rewarded

- I. Samuel realizes this to be true, and so, when God corrects His view of the prospective candidates for anointing, he begins to look with that in mind.
 - A. Verses 8–10 say, “[8] Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” [9] Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” [10] And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.”
 - 1. Samuel, after seeing all of these candidates, begins to get a little worried.
 - a) None of them were the Lord’s anointed.
 - (1) He has waited and waited, he has been obedient, and when it seems like the obedience is going to be rewarded, all the sons pass by and none of them are God’s chosen king.
 - (a) Verse 11 says, “[11] Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.” [12] And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the

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LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." [15] Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers."

- II. God finally reveals His chosen king, and it is the youngest and least likely person of the entire family.
 - A. David is probably around 10 - 12 years old at this time, and he is a handsome kid, but by no means the likely candidate for king.
 - 1. He was not necessarily strong, had no reputation of greatness, he was just an eleven year old shepherd with a lot of brothers.
 - a) No one would have looked at David and said, "This is who I want to lead me."
 - (1) Even his own father didn't bother mentioning him to Samuel and left him in the fields to watch the sheep.
 - (a) Totally unlikely, yet revealed to be the anointed king.
 - i) It is the unlikely, the unexpected, and the outlandish that we need to rest in for the duration of the morning.
- III. God is a God who often uses the unlikely to accomplish great things for His glory.
 - A. In Judges, he uses a disabled man to take down a king, he uses a woman to lead an army, and uses a coward to defeat Israel's enemies.
 - 1. In Ruth, God gifts a Gentile woman with an incredible inheritance.
 - a) Ruth, this Gentile woman, not even from the nation of Israel, a widow, is married to Boaz and from her lineage will come Jesse, who is the father of David.
 - (1) Here, in 1 Samuel, God anoints and chooses a young boy to lead his people, and this small, weak boy would go on to defeat a giant.
 - (a) The town from which David is from has no significance whatsoever, no wealth, just a small village.
 - i) Yet from this town the chosen king of Israel comes.
 - (1) And it is from this same town, from this same unexpected family, that king of creation comes into human form.
- IV. Just as David was unexpected, unlikely, and unattractive to be king, Jesus was all the more unlikely.

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- A. Jesus comes from the line of the unlikely David, a family lineage that includes a prostitute and a Gentile.
 - 1. Jesus has no human characteristic that should make us view Him as significant.
 - a) Isaiah 53:2-3 says, “[2] *For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. [3] He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*”
 - (1) Man did not view Jesus in any significant way, just as David was viewed as the totally unlikely candidate for kingship.
 - (a) Actually, because Jesus is so human, so normal in appearance, we rejected Him as king.
 - i) Surely the real Messiah, surely the real savior would come on a white horse, with power and strength and might and grandeur.
 - ii) But Jesus came humbly. Jesus came lowly.
 - (1) And what did we do? We killed Him for it.
 - b) Because Jesus didn't meet the standard that we had set for the appearance of the Messiah, because He didn't seem the part because of our blindness and limited sight, we nailed Him to a cross
 - (1) . Once again, the problem is our sight.
- V. Just as we wouldn't choose Jesus, neither would Samuel choose David unless God gifted Him with spiritual sight.
 - A. It was only when Samuel was allowed to see as God sees that the anointed king was revealed to him.
 - 1. Samuel, who decided to obediently walk in faith, though He had not seen David, though he didn't even know David's name, was finally able to see the anointed because of His obedient faith in God.

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- a) He didn't walk by sight, but walked by faith, trusting that in the right time, at the right moment, the king that he was grieving for would be revealed to him, the one who could lead Israel to be the kingdom he so desperately longed for.

CONCLUSION

- I. This is our same condition.
 - A. When God sees you, He sees you grieving for something greater, He sees you grieving for something better, He sees you grieving and hurting for something that is lasting and significant.
 1. He sees you grieving because of the effects of your sins, and He also sees the total inability you have to see beyond the disobedience and sin.
 - a) You're trapped. You're enslaved. You're heartbroken.
 - (1) It's in this moment that God calls out to you, and He says, "*Come follow me. Place your faith in Jesus who loved you and died for your sins. Place your faith in Jesus who died and then raised up to life. Repent of your sins, give those things up, and obey me.*"
 - (a) You hear that call, but you think, "How do I even know Jesus is real?"
 - (b) Where can I see the scientific evidence to prove all these claims of the Bible?
 - (c) Is it really going to be worth it?
 - (d) Can Jesus really be better than my sins?"
 - b) It is in that moment that God says, "Just step out in faith and see."
 - (1) Church, you will not be able to see the anointed king of your life, who God has given us that He might rule and reign over a good and perfect kingdom.
 - i) The eyes of God, to view things as God does, requires faith. You cannot have His eyes apart from faith.
 - (b) You will not be able to even see Him, because of your limited eyesight, unless you step out in faith and trust Him.
 - i) But when you do that, you will be granted the eyes to see the beauty of the savior.

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(1) No, right now, just like David, Jesus doesn't look like much.

(a) But step out in faith and you will see that He is a treasure worth selling your whole life for.

(c) Step out in faith, surrender your life to God and His will, and you will find beauty that nothing else in existence can compare to.

II. The reality is, the eyes of the world don't have a clue why we live the way that we live.

A. The reason for that is their eyes can't see.

1. 1 Corinthians 2 says, "[14] *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. [15] The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. [16] "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.*"

a) Church, in light of that truth, let me ask you two questions to end.

(1) One, have you seen the Lord's anointed?

(2) Have you seen Jesus, and seen Him for beautiful?

(3) If not, you won't be able to see Him unless you step out in faith and say, "God, I believe. Give me eyes to see you!"

(a) When you do that, like you must this morning, you will be saved from your sins that are causing you grief and pain and be transformed into an entirely new person, one that has a new set of eyes to see the beauty Jesus and His church.

i) When that happens, just as David was filled with the Holy Spirit in our passage in 1 Samuel, you too will be filled with God's own Spirit that gives you the ability to follow Him, to obey Him, to hear from Him.

(1) This Spirit will give you the ability to see spiritually, and to see God's way.

(a) So, the first question: have you truly seen Jesus?

III. The second question is this: If you have seen Jesus, are you walking by that Spirit?

A. Is your life marked by obedience to the Spirit that dwells within you, or are you daily pushing Him away?

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1. There is a way that seems right to man, but in the end it leads to death.
 - a) Which way are you choosing to follow?
 - (1) I'm completely fed up with Christians who claim to be Christians, who claim to have seen the beauty of Jesus granted through faith, who live totally contrary to the Spirit, and look like the only eyes they have are for whatever makes them feel a fleeting sense of happiness for a moment.
 - (a) Give that up.
 - (b) Repent from that.
 - (c) It will kill you, walk by the Spirit.
 - b) Fix your eyes on Jesus, set your eyes not the things that are above, not on the things of this world.
 - (1) Set your eyes on obedience, on the king, on the anointed, not what feels right to you, and live a life that glorifies the anointed king who has saved you!
 - (a) I want to end by praying a prayer that was written by a man named Scott Greenway.
 - i) It reads like this, *"Almighty God, you are great, and I am small. You see straight through to the heart, but my eyes are often fixed upon myself, my doubts, and my challenges. Sometimes these seem so big, and you seem so small. Forgive me. Reverse my mind. Remind me each day of your greatness, power, and supremacy. Increase my faith and my trust in you. Give me a mind equipped to discern your will for my life. Gracious God, please walk with me each day. Calm my fears and frustrations. Help me to fix my eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith."*