

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

² But Samuel said, “How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me.”

The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

⁴ Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

⁵ Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ 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 man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.” ⁹ Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.” ¹¹ So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered, “but he is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

¹² So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; he is the one.”

¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the

LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.
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Theme: Chosen by God

1. David as King
2. Jesus as Christ
3. You as God’s child.

What makes you, you? What makes you unique and different than anybody else? There are many different ways you can answer that question. But you probably wouldn’t start with how you look—how tall you are, your weight, what your voice sounds like, and so on. That’s not what really makes you, you. But when other people think about you, that is exactly what they think of—especially if they don’t know you that well.

As the Lord said to Samuel in verse six, **Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart.** They aren’t so much of a rebuke as they are a statement of fact. We don’t know what is in someone’s heart; we can’t read their faith. We have no idea what they are feeling or thinking either. We might learn some things about someone by talking to him or watching him interact with others. But when it comes down to it, we are only looking at outward appearances. The Lord, however, looks at the heart. For us the heart is the seat of feelings and emotions—“I love you with all my heart.” But not so for the Jews. For them, the seat of feelings and emotions is the bowels. What they meant by heart is a bit more encompassing than how we use the term today. The heart encompasses everything that is you—the inner you. It is both your mind and your emotions. It is your feelings and thoughts. It is your will your drive. The heart is what makes you, you. That is what the Lord is concerned about.

He once chose Saul as the first king of Israel. The people were happy to have him. He good looking and tall—a head taller than everyone else. He was humble and strived to treat others correctly. He got off to a good start, but eventually things changed. There were a number of things that led to Saul’s downfall, but the last straw is recorded in chapter 15.

God told Saul to attack and completely destroy the Amalekites. He wasn't to take any plunder or allow any of God's enemies to live. Saul did go and defeat the Amalekites but he allowed their king to live and his men took the best animals, which Saul said were to offer sacrifices to the Lord, a great thing—on the outside. But it doesn't really matter why he kept those animals, God told him to completely destroy everything and so Saul sinned against the Lord. God doesn't want outward obedience or sacrifices, he wants obedience of the heart and that is what Saul lacked.

So God rejected him as king. Samuel mourned for Saul and the Lord regretted that he ever made Saul king. Saul did claim to repent; but the rest of his life indicates what was truly in his heart. Eventually, he died in battle as an unbeliever.

In the meantime God chose another king. So he sent Samuel to Bethlehem to the family of Jesse. There God would tell Samuel whom he chose. So Jesse trotted his sons in front of Samuel: Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah—from oldest to youngest. But the Lord didn't pick any of them. Neither did God choose the next four sons. When Samuel first saw the oldest son, Eliab, he thought that he would be the one God chose. But God said to him, **Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**

2. There was only one son left—the oldest, who was out in the fields watching over the sheep. When he was called and Samuel saw him the Lord said, **Rise and anoint him; he is the one.** So Samuel did anoint him, pouring oil on his head and when he did the Holy Spirit came upon David with power. David was the one—the chosen one of God. Despite being the youngest, whom on the outside no one would have chosen, especially over his brothers, God chose David to serve him as the next king over his people. The Lord doesn't care about what David was on the outside—he cared about who David was on the inside, his mind, his intellect, his will, his emotions. And David was the one God chose.

The Lord cares about the heart—the inner you. Your thoughts, attitudes, emotions—your will and drive. So examine your inner self—what kind of person are you? Are you more concerned about how you look in the eyes of others rather than where your heart is?

What kind of Christian are you? Do you just go through the motions? Do you come to worship because it's expected of you, you give an offering so people don't look down upon you, do you volunteer simply because no one else will and you feel guilty about it? How do you act around your friends or others at work, do you try find a good balance between being a good Christian and not looking too religious, as if following God's Word too much is a bad thing? What about your private life—do you figure, “what's the point of trying to avoid sin; I'll just keep on repenting and everything will be fine!”

Sadly, we are often more concerned about outward appearances. We may think that if we do a decent enough job obeying God outwardly then everything is just fine. But the Lord isn't fooled by outward appearances. We are forced to admit that we haven't always loved or served him with our whole heart. And the truth is your heart is divided. You were born into sin and in you dwells and Old Man who wants nothing to do with God and rejects his Word. Against him fights your new man, created in you by the Holy Spirit. He loves God and strives to obey God's Word. Each and every day there is a constant battle between the two that takes place in your heart.

Over 1000 years after David was anointed as king, Jesus fulfilled that anointing by being anointed himself. The Bible again and again reveals Jesus as David's descendent. There are the prophecies in the Old Testament, the two genealogies in the New Testament, which both connect Jesus to David through two different lines, and there are a number of people who referred to Jesus as, “The Son of David.” Jesus is Great David's greater Son, a descendant of David, but much greater than David. Of course he didn't look the part. Isaiah prophesies about Jesus, **He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.** On the outside there was nothing special about Jesus. But again, the Lord doesn't care about the outward appearance, the Lord looks at the heart. And of course, we know what is in Jesus' heart, what made Jesus, Jesus. No sinful thoughts, no ill will, no heart that is set on evil; because Jesus is God who took on human flesh—fully God and fully man at the same time, completely devoid of sin or any sinful thought. And so he is the one God chose. From the beginning of the world he is the one God chose to be our Savior. We know Jesus as Christ. Christ is the Greek term for the Hebrew word, Messiah. And both Christ and Messiah mean the Anointed One—the one God chose and

set aside for a special service to him. As David was anointed to serve the Lord as king over his people, Jesus was chosen to serve the Lord by being the Savior for the entire world.

In Acts 10 the Apostle Peter says, God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. When exactly was Jesus anointed? At his baptism, which we are celebrating today! There as Jesus was walking up out of the Jordan the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, came and landed on Jesus. Then the Father said for all to hear, **You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.**

Jesus' baptism was the beginning of his public ministry. As the Holy Spirit was given to David, so the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus. From this point on Jesus performed miracles. Those miracles indicated his divine nature and called attention to the Word he was sharing.

Matthew's account as a bit more detail on Jesus' baptism. John the Baptist was hesitant to baptize Jesus, thinking he wasn't worth of such an honor and that Jesus should baptize him. But Jesus replied, **it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.** So why was it proper or necessary for Jesus to be baptized? We know that we are baptized for the forgiveness of sins; but Jesus wasn't a sinner. So that the Holy Spirit can work faith, which Jesus already had. And we know through baptism God saves us, which again, without being a sinner, Jesus didn't need to be saved. So then, why was it necessary for Jesus to be baptized? Here at his baptism Jesus is officially taking on that role as our substitute. And as our substitute on the cross Jesus would take all our sins upon himself—becoming guilty of everything we have done wrong—including all the times we have not obeyed the Lord with our whole heart—with our entire selves. So, in a sense, he "needed" a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins because as our substitute he became a sinner; and in the end he could make us righteous.

Paul writes in Galatians 3, **You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.** At our baptisms our sins are removed and washed away and we are covered in robes of Christ's righteousness. Through our own baptisms we are connected to Christ's work as our Savior. Baptism forgives our sins through Christ. The perfect life that he lived, is now credited to us. Our sins became his and his life is now ours!

That is why Paul can tell Titus in our second lesson, **He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.** It is through our baptisms that the Lord saves us. But our baptisms are worthless without faith. As Jesus said in Mark 16, **whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.** Baptism is not some magical potion in that everyone who is baptized will automatically be saved. No, it must be connected to faith.

That's where the Holy Spirit comes in. Peter tells the people in the temple on the day of Pentecost, **Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children.** The gift of the Holy Spirit given in baptism is nothing else but faith. He worked faith into our hearts and those he welcomes us into his family. Through baptism he has adopted us and made us his own!

When David was anointed the Holy Spirit came upon him with power. When Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit landed on him and he was anointed with power. When we were baptized the Holy Spirit came upon us and brought us to faith. And in this way, then, we were anointed. We were chosen to be his own dear children through faith in him.

You are a chosen one—one God chose to be saved through the waters of baptism. Like David who was made king, God chose you. But did you ever wonder why God chose you? Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. But when the Lord looked at your heart prior to baptism he didn't see anything good—just a poor miserable sinner. And yet God chose you. That's grace. He chose you and made you his own dear child despite what was in your heart, despite what made you, you. That is grace and love. And we are reminded of that in our baptisms.

And we were anointed into his service. David as King. Christ as prophet, priest, and king. And at our baptisms you and I were made part of the priesthood of all believers. That means that it is our duty and privilege to share the gospel and to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and by teaching everything found in Scripture. Being a priest of God means that we strive to always follow and obey his Holy Word.

At our baptisms our Old Man has been drowned, the New Man arises. But the Old Man hasn't been completely destroyed—there is still that constant battle between the two, and it will be a life-long battle. So it is important to return to your baptism on a regular basis. When you are struggling in keeping your duties as priest of God, remember your baptism. Recall the grace the Lord gave to you—he washed away your sins and covered you his righteousness, he brought you to faith and saved you. He made you his own dear child made you a new creation. This love and grace motivates you to daily drown your Old Man in service to your Savior!

What makes you, you? God has made you, you by changing your heart in giving you a new life through your baptisms. Live in that baptismal grace all the days of your life. Amen.