



God Sees the Inside


But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart.” ~ 1 Samuel 16:7

Discover the Context

1 Samuel 16:1-13

 Why do you think your leaders picked you to work at camp this summer? How does it make you feel knowing that God sees the inside? Why do you think God chose you to be at this camp this summer?

 Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18. One of the key phrases is *being transformed*. In your own words what does this mean? What are we being transformed into? Where does it come from? How does this apply to today’s devotion?

 Think of one camper or staff member that you have misjudged this summer. Why did you just look on the outside? What outward symbols or actions are you quickest to judge—like piercings, tattoos, drinking, etc.? Why? In what ways do you need to adjust your attitude?

Victoria did not impress me in her phone interview. She asked me to hold and took a very long call from a friend. Yet, I sensed that God wanted her to counsel at camp. She showed up a little late for the first day of orientation. I saw her looking over her sunglasses perched down on the end of her nose. Then she spied a dead bug on the pavement, “What is that?” she grunted to hide her panic.

“Oh, that’s a longhorn beetle. They’re really cool: We have a lot of them here,” I replied in my excited naturalist voice. She was clearly looking to duck back into her car and forget about this whole camp deal. I was also having my doubts. I wanted to judge her by her outward appearance as a slacking powder puff and see her off.

But she stayed.

Not only did she turn out to be one our most amazing counselors that summer, but she also grew into the confident woman of God he made her to be. I couldn’t see how God would use her, but God had a plan.

Maybe you were feeling like Victoria at the beginning of the summer—awkward, out of place, lacking in giftedness, and freaked out. Maybe you’re even wondering why you stuck around.

You know, you’re in good company. A little shepherd boy named David had the same experience. His family did not consider him worthy, and Samuel almost missed picking him. But God sees the inside, and God had chosen David to become a man after his own heart. God had a plan.

Better than being picked to serve on staff this summer is that you’ve been created by God. He sees all the good and all the bad, and his plan was for Jesus, the descendant of David, to be sent to redeem you and make you his child.

Knowing this about yourself gives you the ability and faith to view others through God’s eyes. 