

Salt and Daylight – Trust

08/16/26

It's amazing how we judge things. We judge people by their appearance. By the cloths they wear to how they talk. When we become salt and daylight to the world around us, we should discover that Jesus helps us to see people differently. A follower of Jesus will and should start to look at a person's heart instead of their appearance. We can be fooled by appearance. When I worked at Weis Markets, I would interview people for positions within the store. When I first started interviewing, I judged by appearance until I found out that didn't always work. I had a young man come into an interview wearing very thick glasses, but he was dressed in a suit. During the interview, I found out many places would not interview him or if they did, it was a quick interview because of the thick glasses he wore. Those thick glasses showed that he had an eye sight problem. In fact, during the interview I had with him, the glasses were not good enough. He had a huge magnifying glass that he used as well. I was a veteran on interviews at this time and I hired him because he presented himself very well. He became one of my best employees I ever hired. Being good salt and daylight to the world doesn't mean we try to "look good" to be salt and light. That doesn't work. It is a heart issue. We have to make sure we take care of the heart issue instead of focusing so much on the outward appearance. We're going to look at two people in the Old Testament that show us what it really means to be salt and daylight in the right way today.

First, let's turn to 1 Samuel 9: 1-2. Before we read this Scripture, we need to know that Israel had been complaining to Samuel that they wanted a human ruler like the nations around them. God had been leading them and using judges to help to keep the nation on track. God had supplied all their needs, but the people of Israel got tired of having God supply their needs. They wanted a human king and God let them have their way, even after warning them what it would be like to

have a king – the king would take their sons for war, take their crops for taxes, and all the other things we get to enjoy today from our own government – you get taxed to death. Even at death, you get taxed. So, God allows Israel to have a human king. So, we read this in 1 Samuel 9: 1-2, “**9** Now there was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, son of a Benjaminite, a ^[a]valiant mighty man. **2** He had a son whose name was Saul, a young and handsome *man*, and there was not a more handsome man than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people. (NASB – www.biblegateway.com). So, the writer here gives us the description of what Samuel and Israel sees in this young man that God has chosen for Israel to be their king. It appears the writer here is impressed with Saul. He is the Rock Hudson of his day. He’s tall and handsome. In fact, the writer makes a bold statement by saying Saul was the must handsome man in Israel. If Saul would go for a job interview today, he would be hired right on the spot. He looked good and came from a good family. He would make good salt and light for Israel as king or would he?

Saul might have looked good, but he had major character issues and God knew this. I believe God chose Saul to make a point to Israel about having a human king. A good looking and tall king doesn’t always make a good king. You see, King Saul had a trust issue. He didn’t trust Samuel or God and he would rely on his own judgment. We see an example of this in 1 Samuel 13: 8-14. King Saul is king and he and his army is ready to do battle against their enemy, the Philistines. Samuel tells Saul to wait, but Saul’s army is getting nervous because of the size of the enemy’s army. So, Saul goes ahead and does the burnt offerings instead of waiting for Samuel who would do the burned offerings. Here is what Scripture says about this event, “**8** Now he waited for seven days, until the appointed time that Samuel *had set*, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him. **9** So Saul said, “Bring me the burnt offering and the peace offerings.” And he offered the burnt offering. **10** But as soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him *and* to ^[a]greet him. **11** But Samuel said, “What have you done?” And Saul said, “Since I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come

at the appointed ^[b]time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash, ¹² I ^[c]thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not ^[d]asked the favor of the LORD.' So I worked up the courage and offered the burnt offering." ¹³ But Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly! You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, for the LORD would now have established your kingdom ^[e]over Israel forever. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought for Himself a man ^[f]after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you." (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)

Saul didn't fully trust God or Samuel. He relied on himself at times instead of waiting. God tells Saul in verse 14 that He wants someone who is after His own heart. In other words, God wanted someone to have faith in Him which means to believe and trust in God. Saul didn't have this. He may have looked good, but his heart was not good. He didn't trust God. Saul was not good salt and light to Israel. Saul didn't have a good knowledge of God. So, God tells Saul his kingdom will not endure and God had chosen a new king who would have the heart for God – have a knowledge of God.

God chooses another king and let's see who He picks in 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-13, "**16: 1** Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long are you going to mourn for ^[a]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, because I have chosen a king for Myself among his sons."

⁶ When they entered, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is *standing* before Him." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for ^[a]God does not *see* as man sees, since man looks at ^[b]the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass before Samuel. But he said, "The LORD has not chosen this one, either." ⁹ Next Jesse had ^[c]Shammah pass by. And he said, "The LORD has not chosen this one, either." ¹⁰ So Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹ Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these

all the boys?" And he said, "The youngest is still left, but behold, he is tending the sheep." So Samuel said to Jesse, "Send *word* and bring him; for we will not take our places at the table until he comes here." ¹² So he sent *word* and brought him in. Now he was ^[d]reddish, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." ¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel set out and went to Ramah. (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)"

God picks a king that is not even good enough for the father to bring into the brother lineup to be chosen by Samuel to be king. The youngest brother is left behind. King Saul is big and handsome in appearance and Samuel thinks again that makes a good king. God tells Samuel in verse 7 that He picks people differently than mere humans do. The Lord looks at the heart, so David is anointed to be the next king. Now, David has a fine appearance, but he is not as big or as handsome, but he has the heart. Does this mean David trusts God? Well, let's move to the Goliath story. If you remember, Goliath is a giant in the Philistine army and he wants Israel to have someone come fight him and he makes fun of them. David is sent to bring food to his brothers who were with Saul and his army, who were afraid of this giant. David sees Goliath and gets upset by what the giant is saying to Israel. Saul, who was the tallest in Israel should have gone out to fight Goliath, but he goes not. He is scared, which means he thinks God will not help him. David, on the other hand is different. We read this in 1 Samuel 17: 32-37, "³² And David said to Saul, 'May no one's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!'" ³³ But Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight him; for you are *only* a youth, while he has been a warrior since his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went out after it and ^[a]attacked it, and rescued *the sheep* from its mouth; and when it rose up against me, I grabbed *it* by its mane and struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has ^[b]killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ And David said, "The LORD who saved me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear, He will save me from the hand of this Philistine." So Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you." (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)" David wants to go out and fight Goliath. He doesn't like what this giant is saying about Israel and God. King Saul is scared to death, yet this shepherd boy has no problem in wanting to go out and fight for God and

Israel. Why is he so bold? In verses 36 and 37, David tells Saul that he has killed lion and bear that have tried to kill his sheep. Since God had saved him from the lions and bears, God would save him from this giant. David had trust in God. David becomes good salt and light to the Israel army as well as to the Philistine army. David had good knowledge of God because he remembered all that God had done in helping him to be shepherd of sheep. How can you trust God if you don't know Him? We can read in the Psalms how David had good knowledge of God and David trusted God. David makes this strong statement in Psalm 9: 9-10, "9 [a]The LORD will also be a stronghold for the oppressed, A stronghold in times of trouble; 10 And [b]those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, LORD, have not abandoned those who seek You. (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)"

Those who know Him will put their trust in Him and they will know that God will not abandon those who seek Him. To be salt and daylight to those around us, we need to trust our Lord – the Trinity. Do we? David did and he taught that to his son Solomon as well. His son states this in Proverbs 3: 5-6 in a famous piece of Scripture, "5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)"

Solomon doesn't say trust God sometimes or trust Him part time. Solomon tells us to trust God with all our heart. We trust Him in all things even when we don't understand what God is doing. King Saul wasn't sure why Samuel hadn't come yet for the burned offerings, so he did it himself because he didn't trust God that He would provide. Abraham wasn't sure why God was making him sacrifice Isaac on an altar, but Abraham knew God promised him generations of decedents. He trusted God when he put his own son on the altar and God provided a ram instead. Abraham had faith in his God. Some may say that trust is just for the Old Testament. Jesus tells us this in John 14: 1, "Don't be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me. (NLT)" Jesus isn't looking for another pretty face. He is looking for disciples who have a heart for Him and that requires us to trust Him with all our heart. For us to trust Him, we need knowledge of Him. I can't say this enough – study the word of God and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you. When you pray to Jesus for this to happen, He will do it. He will help you to trust Him more and more. I had to work on my parents shed and I know my short comings. I prayed

first and while I had some small issues, it actually went better than expected. I may not trust myself, but I'm learning I can trust the Lord in all things even with things I don't understand. Do you trust the Lord?

NLT Life Application Study Bible. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc: Wheaton, 1996