

Sunday, June 16, 2024

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13

***What matters is not your outer appearance ... but your inner disposition.
Cultivate inner beauty, the gentle, gracious kind that God delights in.
—1 Peter 3:3-4, MSG***

Often, people who meet me for the first time will remark, “Well, you don’t *look* like a preacher!”

I usually counter with, “So, what’s a preacher *supposed* to look like?” I suspect that many people think that preachers are supposed to look like undertakers or accountants. But, that brings up the question of what undertakers and accountants are supposed to look like. For me, the answer is that accountants and undertakers are supposed to wear dark suits, have slick, greasy hair, and pocket protectors stuffed with Bic ballpoint pens. A stereotype for sure!

A couple of generations ago, preachers were definitely men, as were most doctors and lawyers. On television, comedy shows often had scenes where the patient was waiting for his doctor, confused when a woman showed up saying she was Dr. So-and-So. “Well, you don’t look like a doctor!” No, she didn’t, because doctors 50 years ago were overwhelmingly men. Thankfully, that’s all changed now.

In today’s Bible reading, the prophet Samuel is having trouble identifying Israel’s next king, the man God wants to move Israel forward. As he looked upon the sons of Jesse, he saw a number of lads who looked like future kings. But God said, “No, the future king is a shepherd. He’s out in the meadow tending sheep and playing his lyre.”

When Samuel saw this kid, I am sure he thought, “You don’t *look* like a king!”

But God told Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart” (v. 7)

David would become a man whom the Bible describes as a man after God’s own heart.

We humans tend to look at outward appearances and make rash judgments. God looks inside. And when God looks at us, what does God see? Do we look like someone who believes and trusts in God? Do we look like a person who sees others as God sees them?

We often go to a lot of trouble to ensure that our outward appearance looks just so. But let’s not forget to take care of our inner appearance, because it is our inner self that determines who we really are.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, you have made me in your image. May I bear the image faithfully. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Happy Father’s Day!
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** John 11-13
Monday: Amos 7-9
Tuesday: 2 Kings 15-17
Wednesday: Hosea 1-4
Thursday: Hosea 5-7
Friday: Hosea 8-10
Saturday: Psalms 61-63

Verse to Remember

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

—John 13:35



1. NOSECOUNT					2. DIPLOMACY				
O		S		M	H		R		T
	P		O			R		W	
		O					U		

3. SOMEPLACE					4. BILINGUAL				
R		B		E	U		L		O
	C		R			D		E	
		U					U		

5. HEARTFELT					6. SIDETRACK				
U		N		C	A		M		R
	X		O			A		N	
		O					A		

7. TEAMMATES					8. SALVATION				
C		R		S	N		T		L
	G		N			D		P	
		U					A		

9. FRAGMENTS					10. SCRAMBLED				
O		G		V	U		T		R
	A		O			U		V	
		E					O		

WORDS WITHIN WORDS

In this puzzle to the left, you will reveal words within words like Russian nesting dolls. Place the letters of each word in the nine empty squares, one letter per square, to spell a 7-letter, a 5-letter and a 3-letter word. Each letter of the 9-letter word will be used only once.

ADD A LETTER

Add one letter to the beginning of each of the words below to form a new word. Then unscramble the letters you added to form the two words that answer the clue.

- __host __vied __ova __lucky
 __arson __airbrush __ascot __river
 __spire __pinioned

CLUE: Description of an angry kangaroo:

Words within Words:

- consume, spoon, too;
 - charity, prow, mud;
 - problem, scare, cue;
 - bullion, adieu, lug;
 - furnace, extol, hot;
 - earnmark, saint, cad;
 - actress, agent, mum;
 - install, adopt, van;
 - forgave, mason, get;
 - mustard, curve, lab.
- Add a Letter:** g host, ivied, nova, plucky, parson, hairbrush, mascot, driver, aspire, opinioned.
 HOPPING MAD

