

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³⁴Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. ³⁵Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

David Anointed as King

16 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."⁴Samuel 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?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD."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 does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.**" ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is

the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Mark 4:26-34^{New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)}

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

The Use of Parables

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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“God Does Not See As Mortals See”

I Samuel 15:34-16:14; Mark 4:26-34

Kerra Becker English

Saul was not the best of Kings,

You see, he'd made a mess of things.

What was Samuel to do?

He grieved awhile. God said, “You through?”

Now who will take this holy throne?

Samuel can't go on alone.

It's time that we should make a plan,

With a mighty son from Jesse's clan.

Eliab is tall and strong,

But God said, “Son, just move along.”

Abinadab, Is he the one?

Nor is he the chosen son.

Let Shammah pass and seven others,

Not one king in all these brothers.

Is this all in Jesse's heap?

No, there's one that's tending sheep.

Send and bring him, we won't sit

Until we see if this son's fit.

David, handsome, small and ruddy

Maybe God just thought it funny.

Pour the oil, and call the Spirit,
The brothers gasp, they just won't hear it.
The oldest, strongest, or the best
Should be the one that passed the test.
But God does not see as mortals see,
The youngest son, the King will be.

Bigger, faster, better, more,
Is how our world likes to keep score.
With lots of power, style and cash
These towers fall with a mighty crash.
Mary, God's favored lowly servant,
Welcomes Christ with prayers so fervent:
"Bring down the powerful from their thrones.
Lift up the lowly, bless their homes!"

And he teaches:

Happy are the poor and sad,
The meek, the hungry, "Rejoice, be glad!"
God offers us this great reversal.
But is God fair through this disbursement?
God humbles those who must be grand,
And lifts those up who need a hand.
But God does not see as mortals see.
The smallest seed becomes a mighty tree.

And if there ever was a doubt,
To where we'd be in the sorting out,
God plants the seed, God grows the grain,
God sends forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
Come harvest time, our fate is cast.
On what side shall we fall at last?
We fear God's wrath; we want God's grace,
We praise our maker, and plead our case.
God's judgment's fair; God's mercy wins.
Long forgotten are our sins.
God does not see as mere mortals see.
At harvest time we shall be free.

That's why Jesus came to save,
To die to death, and open graves.
Not to fill up empty pews,
Instead he brought amazing news:
That God is love, and love abounds.
That life is joy. The lost are found.
The blind shall see, the lame shall walk,
It isn't just prophetic talk.
It's true what Jesus came to say,
"Eternal life begins today!"
God does not see as mere mortals see.
The heart reveals immortality.

God does not see as mortals see.

What a blessing for you and me! Amen.