

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 16:7.

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 people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Entering the coffee shop recently, I instinctively paused and held the door open for a much younger man to pass through before me. He didn't look like me, and I thought he had an entitled look as he passed through the door. I am not sure if he caught my exasperated expression with a raised eyebrow.

As he approached the counter, he waited, then turned around and offered that I go ahead of him, as I was really at the shop first. We argued for a moment, each insisting that the other go ahead. Then, I thought of just how wrong I had been!

It reminds me of one of the many great themes from the Bible, man judges by outward appearance, but God judges by the heart. Our Savior Jesus Christ taught us that God knows our hearts by His perfect example. Luke 16:15 "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, please cleanse my heart of all that is detestable in your sight. Give me a new heart so I may receive your full blessings and enjoy the peace you graciously provide each day through your Son Christ Jesus. Amen.

~ Submitted by Brian Singleton for the Twenty-Fourth Reading of Lent