



THEME

Honest Attempts @ Following Jesus > **Sincerity beats Status** every time > God wants our Hearts

ANCHORED TO TRUTH

Matthew 5:1-3, Acts 5:1-11, **1 Samuel 16:6-7**, **1 Samuel 17:41-47**, Psalm 10:2-4, **Philippians 2:3-11**, **Isaiah 53:2-3**

CONVERSATION

1. Ever had a first impression of someone that was totally wrong?
2. We love to evaluate people as soon as we meet them > since we clearly don't know this person yet > what criteria are we using to evaluate them?
 - a. How often do these criteria lead us to an accurate evaluation?
 - b. What are the blindspots of these criteria?
 - c. Where do these criteria come from?
 - d. Why do we feel the need to quickly assess people > what are we trying to do?
3. You probably know the story of David & Goliath - zoom in on this part in **1 Samuel 17:41-47** >

Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. He looked David over and saw that he was **little more than a boy**, glowing with health and handsome, **and he despised him**. He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!"

David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. **All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's**, and he will give all of you into our hands."

4. We know about Goliath's advantages (stature, physical & reputation). What, if any, were David's advantages?
5. Talk about Sincerity vs. Stature > have you seen sincerity & character beat stature in real life?
6. Does our focus on Stature over Character keep us from fights we **should** be in?
 - a. Does it bring us to fights we **shouldn't** be in?
 - b. Any examples of ridiculous drama that pride & stature create?
 - c. How would our lives be different if we focused on **being good** (character) instead of **looking good** (stature)?

RESPOND:

- > Is there anything we can do to help each other work on the problem of our pride?
- > What can we do to worry less about stature & reputation > and instead focus on the sincerity of our hearts?
- > Take time to **pray for** & encourage each other >
 - Pray about being able to see with spiritual eyes - to see past the stature of people & instead see character & sincerity.

- Pray about our struggle with chasing reputation + status and the insecurity + insincerity it builds in us.
- Pray about seeing ourselves correctly. That we'd clearly see our own needs and instead of hiding them > we'd have the courage to ask for help from God & others.
- Are there any needs/struggles we can pray for each other about right now?