

**Text: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

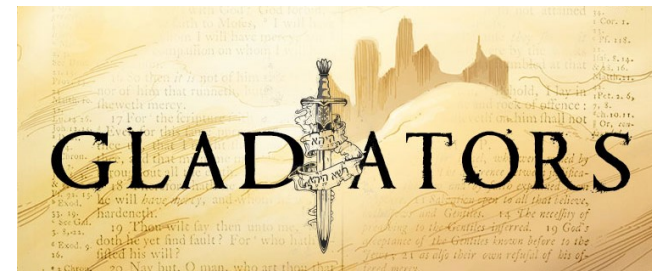
### **The Plain Truth**

**The size of your \_\_\_\_\_ matters more than the size of your \_\_\_\_\_.**

Here are three methods to check the health of your heart:

- 1) Discovering your ultimate \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Discovering if you have the heart of a \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) Discovering if you have the heart of a \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_.

**July 2 & 3, 2016**



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# Gladiators

Personal Study • Week of July 3

God's ways are not our ways. Often the Lord chooses the most unlikely candidate to accomplish His will and purpose.

For example, when the Lord told Samuel (prophet, priest, and last judge of Israel) to go to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem and anoint the new king of Israel, Samuel took one look at Jesse's oldest son, Eliab, and thought, "Surely this is the Lord's anointed!" But God said, "Don't judge by his appearance or height... The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." Then Jesse presented his second son, then his third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh. But Samuel says, "The LORD has not chosen any of these. Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats."

## Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Outward appearance can be deceiving. Saul, the man Samuel anointed as Israel's first king, "stood head and shoulder's above anyone else" (see 1 Samuel 10:23). But although Saul looked the part, his heart was not in the right place. The Bible says: "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who can really know how bad it is? But I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives" (Jeremiah 17:9-10a).

1. What does Proverbs 4:23 say about caring for our heart – the attention we give our innermost thoughts and honoring Christ in the secret place?

According to the following Scriptures, name some ways we can condition our hearts (mind, soul, secret motivation, innermost thoughts) to put Christ first.

Matthew 5:8 and 1 John 1:8-10

Matthew 6:19-21

Philippians 4:8-9

Hebrews 4:12-13

The apostle Paul reminds us that "God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do'" (Acts 13:22). Obedience is key when it comes to pleasing God because it shows we really do trust the Lord.

2. Read **1 Samuel 17:32-51**. David has no fear. His courage comes from the One who has had his back all along. He tells the Philistine: "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies (v45). What will you tell the giant(s) facing you today?"

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