

Discerning God's Will

1 Samuel 16.1-13

An obsession with 'image'
substance matters more than style
9.2; 13.14; 15.23,28; 16.7

1. Don't be bogged down by the past, v1

- **a God of new beginnings!**
his plans cannot be thwarted
Ps 2.1-6; 33.11,20-22
forget the past – look ahead!
Is 43.18-19; Phil 3.13-15
- **be on your way! I am sending you**

2. Don't expect to be shown
the whole picture, vs 2-4

- **Samuel was fearful v2**
"I'll show you what to do" v3
- **God guides as we step out in faith**
we see enough to take the next step

3. Don't judge by appearances, vs 4-13

- *consecration before sacrifice v5*
- *the Lord sees our hearts v7*
- *God loves to surprise us vs10-12
in the choices he makes*

4. A heart for God, 13.14

- *our deepest longing is for God himself Ps 27.4; 73.25; Phil 1.21; 3.8*
- *our greatest ambition is
for God's greater glory
17.26,36,45; Rom 1.4-5;
1 Chron 17.1ff; 29.1*
- *our daily concern is to discover
and do God's will
Acts 13.22; Ps 5.8; 25.4-5; 27.11*
- *our constant need is for God's
mercy and forgiveness
1 John 1.8; Ps 32.5-6; Ps 51*
- *our abiding delight is to sing
God's praises Ps 63.2-7*