Date: 5/2/2015

Title: It’s What’s Inside that Counts

Theme: God is more interested in what’s on the inside than what’s on the outside.

Object: Two boxes. One pretty but empty; the other ugly but filled with good things.

Text: 1 Samuel 16:7 (NKJV) But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

This verse tells us something important about people and something very important about God.

It tells us that many people make decision about other people based on how they look.

And many people spend a lot of time trying to look really good.

People go to the gym and work out so they will look really strong, and have a nice shape.

Some people go to the tanning salon to get an artificial sun tan to make them look cool.

People go to the hair salon to get their hair done; or to then nail salon to get their nails painted.

People buy fancy designer clothes so they can look cool and everybody will like them.

Then there’s makeup and jewelry and tattoos… It’s crazy!

Everybody’s spending time and money to look a certain way so other people will see them and like them.

But the Bible says, God doesn’t care how good you look on the outside, what He cares about is what’s in your heart.

Well, let’s see what’s in the bag today.

I have two boxes: one is really a beautiful box, and the other is just a plain old ordinary box.

If I were to give you one of these boxes, which do you think most people would choose? (The pretty one.)

So let’s open it up and see what you would get in this beautiful box. [Nothing! The box is empty]

This box is like a lot of people. They spend a lot of time and money trying to look good on the outside, but inside they’re just full of hot air.

When God looks for something beautiful on the inside, He can’t find it.

Now let’s look at the plain box.

It doesn’t look like much on the outside: it’s just plain and ordinary.

But it feels heavier than the pretty box. What do you think might be in here? Let’s have a look.

Honey: Do you like honey? It’s sweet!! That’s what God wants to see when He looks at our hearts. He wants us to be sweet, kind, loving, and forgiving to other people.

Candle: What does a candle do? (It give light). That’s what God wants to see when He looks at our hearts. He wants to see our lights shining in the good things we do for Him and others.

Ruler: What kind of a line can you draw with a ruler? (Straight). That’s what God wants to see. He wants to see boys and girls that are honest, and trustworthy. They tell the straight truth, never crooked lies.

Dish detergent: What do you do with this? (clean dishes). That’s what God wants to see. He wants to see boys and girls that trust in Jesus and ask Him to forgive them and take away all their sins and make them clean.

Bible: Here is God’s book the Bible. When He looks into your heart, He wants to see that your life is built on the truth of God’s word. Do you believe in Jesus? Do you trust Him? Do you love Him?

So you can choose today.

You can be like this pretty box: beautiful on the outside but full of hot air.

Or you can be like this ordinary box: plain on the outside but full of all the good things that make you beautiful to God.

How many would like to be beautiful on the inside?