Sermon: **Man looks at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart** (1 Samuel 16.7)

Naked Attraction – viewed for research purposes! Judging a potential new house after 5 seconds. TEXT.

Samuel & Jesse’s sons – Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, et al; David – handsome, healthy (is this an outside judgement??).

WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) – might be true of some computer programmes, but is it true for most of life? TEXT.

We understand how we make these ‘instant’ judgements and that to limited extent it works; for something of the heart will often intrude into the outside.

There are two dangers though; sometimes the heart is hard to spot; sometimes we get it wrong.
The Undateables – programme about folk who on the outside don’t look right.

What makes this programme worth watching is that it evokes empathy and challenges stereotypes.

Seeing only the outside can apply to not just meeting people and house searching, but also encountering ideas or ways of doing things.

Churches are often accused of being conservative when facing the novel. Leeds Organ Case (1827)
How many at first opposed the building of Lindisfarne?

This is not to say that all new ideas are good – various heretics got it wrong.

It is easy to judge an idea based on our own assumptions, not on its own merits. This is what Samuel did.

TEXT. How can we too look at the heart more?

[1] Use love as a lens – involves empathy and wanting the best for that person, idea, etc.

[2] Take time to assess – pros and cons.

[3] Pray – laying the issue before God.

Whether we are dealing with some understanding of God that at first sight seems strange, or way of being church that is immediately uncomfortable, or the manner of a welcome to a person new through our doors. TEXT. Since God looks in the right place, we can trust God to guide us.