

Seen by God

A one-page devotional inspired by the humble dandelion

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT)

Dandelions are rarely admired. They are often dismissed as weeds - unwanted, inconvenient, and out of place. Yet even the dandelion has a purpose. It helps feed pollinators, loosens the soil with its roots, and quietly contributes to creation in ways many people never stop to notice.

There is a spiritual lesson in that. People are often judged the same way - by appearance, usefulness, status, or how easily they fit expectations. But God does not evaluate the way we do. When Samuel looked for Israel's next king, he expected someone strong and impressive. Instead, God chose David, the overlooked shepherd, because God sees what others miss.

Maybe you know what it feels like to be underestimated. Maybe your faithfulness feels unseen, your service feels small, or your obedience feels unnoticed. This passage reminds us that our worth is not determined by outward appearance or public recognition. We are valuable because we are made by God, known by God, and fully seen by God.

The dandelion may never receive the admiration given to a rose, but it still fulfills the purpose its Creator gave it. In the same way, your life does not need to be flashy to be fruitful. God sees beauty where others see inconvenience, and He sees worth where others see little value.

REFLECT

1. When have I measured my worth by attention, success, or the opinions of others?
2. What qualities does God value?
3. Have I dismissed something in myself that God may still want to use?
4. How has God shown me my worth apart from achievement or recognition?
5. How does it encourage me to know that God sees beyond outward appearance?
6. What quiet areas of faithfulness (such as continuing to pray, serve, love, forgive, and trust Him in small daily ways) might God be using right now, even if no one else notices?

PRAY

Lord, thank You for seeing beyond what others notice. Thank You that my worth is not based on appearance, success, or recognition, but on being known and loved by You. Help me trust that You see every hidden act of faithfulness and every quiet step of obedience. Teach me to view others with the same grace and depth that You do. In Jesus' name, amen.

