

# **Matrix Moments**

**Christian Poetry, Media & Sermons**

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# **Matrix Moments**

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“It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances”

“I have yet to meet a man as fond of high moral conduct as he is of outward appearances”

“Every silver lining has a cloud.”

“Fashion is the science of appearances, and it inspires one with the desire to seem rather than to be.” Edwin Hubbel Chapin

Originally in keynote form. Can make available in ppt form also. email [warren@matrixmoments.com](mailto:warren@matrixmoments.com)



I have a allergy... genetic.. not sure... not the raging one like my wife has (if stung by a bee in neck, 10 minutes to live) but more mild.... there all the same  
I knew I had it when a school I was working at presented as fun present a goofball tie as an award for the guy with the sarcastic way of “most fashion sense  
My teenagers are constantly saying, you’re not going out looking like that.... I thought that was the role of the father to the daughter in a mini skirt!

but say I was Demi Moore... acclaimed to have one of the hottest bodies in the world for the 40’s what was with m head being painted on the body of a 26 year old recently! All those hundreds of thousands of dollars she has spent on looking good, she is deemed the best and still she gets photoshopped! Virtually no picture goes on the front page of a magazine these days without some appearance lies.

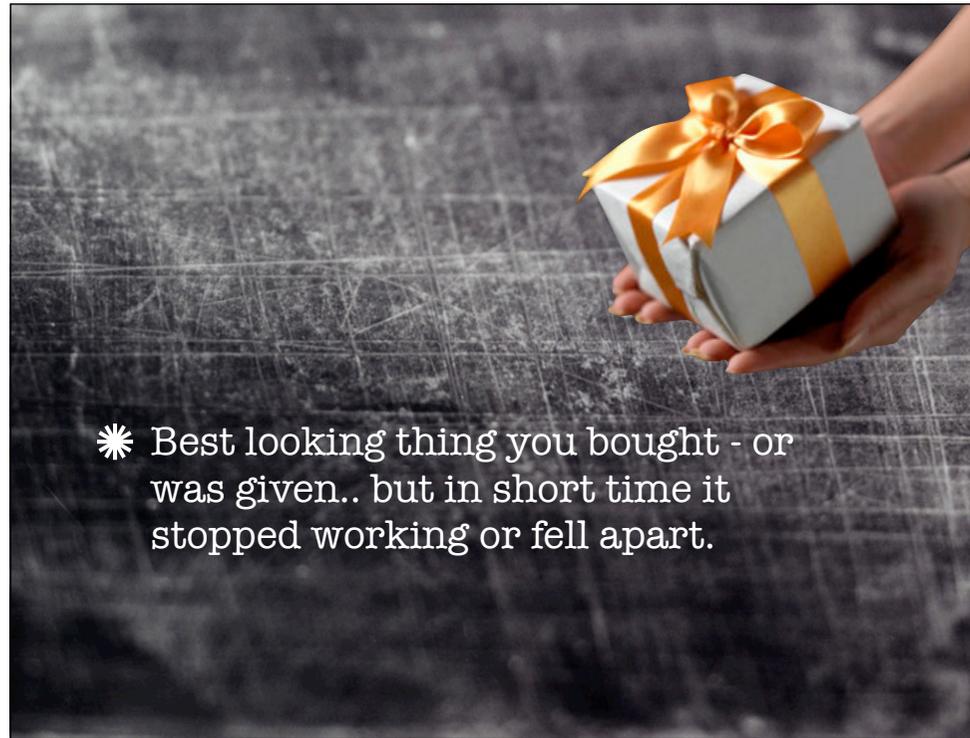
# Skin Deep

Christian Life in the  
shallow end!





Know some parents a bit concerned about the girl their son John was dating. "Son..." Jim... dad... to John aside one day when he realized they had been "officially going out" ... kept an eye on their facebook page and noticed the relationship byline had changed... Do you think she is the sort of girl that is going to be really good for you. You know in the long run. "Dad," the John replied, "If you're talking about Heidi, I'm sorry but she's the best girl I can get with the car I have."



\* Best looking thing you bought - or was given.. but in short time it stopped working or fell apart.

What we say and do has as much to do with how we want to appear as out looks do.  
How do you size people up?

# 1 Samuel 16:1-18

Samuel Anoints David

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me."

The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

Have you ever made the same mistake more than once... ref to self .

You sometimes wonder if God spoke to you audibly then you would be set up right for life for hearing his voice... unfortunately Samuel annointed Saul in the first place and he flopped and God reminds Samuel that he still has a plan.

Samuel gets a bit worried about Sauls reaction.. death is a powerful motivator.

# 1 Samuel 16:1-18

4 Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

The old saying, "Once bitten, twice shy." But you would be wrong. Samuel gets to where God sent him – Bethlehem and the house of Jesse – and immediately, he is wowed by outward appearances. In walks Jesse's son Eliab, and Samuel is blown away and immediately thinks, "This must be the one I have been sent to anoint."

# 1 Samuel 16:1-18

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." 11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

But God puts on the breaks, saying to Samuel: "Hey, whoa there Samuel! Don't get suckered again by looks and height! You may be impressed, but I'm not. This isn't my guy." (Okay. So maybe I'm paraphrasing a bit here. But you get the point.)

Then God delivers the real punch: "The LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." (verse 7)

Well now. That had to sting just a little, don't you think. If I were Samuel, I'd be a little taken aback. Sure, God has a point there. But man! Way to put Samuel in his place.

But that's what needed to happen. Samuel was jumping ahead of himself. Coming to a conclusion about who to anoint without consulting the one who had sent him – God. He was so impressed by Eliab's appearance that all other considerations flew out the window. God had to intervene, and fast, or the situation with Saul would have been repeated.

Samuel, snapped back to his original call by this reprimand, continues to look over the sons of Jesse. One by one each one is rejected by God, leaving Samuel scratching his head. Really, he came all this way not to find the one God had sent him to find? Surely something was missing from this picture. I wonder if the whole parade thing was for Samuels benefit (explain leading through a series of choices to reinforce a call) or the family (explain acceptance)

# 1 Samuel 16:1-18

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down [a] until he arrives."

12 So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."

13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

Then comes the final son, David. He isn't so bad looking himself (something that will get him in trouble later – but that's a story for another day). And finally, God tells Samuel, "This is the one. Anoint him."

God had seen David's heart and knew that David would follow God's word. This was not a trait that could be seen from David's outside appearance. It was not something Samuel could ascertain by giving David a once-over. Only God knew.

This was an important lesson, not only for Samuel, but most especially for David. He was not coming to the throne by force or by any act on his part. He was coming to the throne because God had chosen him. David would need to be reminded of this many times throughout his reign. He was human after all. And he got a little too full of himself – thinking higher of his abilities than maybe he should have.



DO you ever remember being picked for a playground team. or not....

God is interested in the heart and mind not the body and looks, he picks people to be on his team via their heart

He wants them to live inside out.



but its not about living life where you hide all the bad stuff from people also. Jesus was really anti this. Imagine calling someone... you are dead to me..... in essence Jesus did when he was talking about the Pharisees the “big’ religious leaders of the day who were only in to religion for the power and wealth they could get out of it.

There is something strange about truth. It releases. It gives freedom. Christ said I am the truth and the truth shall set you free. He gives us the freedom to be true truthful selves.... when he says we will be changed from glory to glory it means to be closer to our true selves, the self that has the same released, loving and powerful approach to life like Jesus has.



1 Corinthians 10:32 Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God<sup>33</sup> even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

This video points out how shallow looks are, how wrong to base deep judgements on looks. However, there is some truth in the #ipside... I don't think what I do, what I look like affects other people. We have to face that many sum up who we are but what we say and do and so we need to be constantly working to allow God to deal to those parts of our life that will put others off the Kingdom when they look at our lives.

Paul points out that our appearance can cause others to stumble so we need to think of our appearance through the eyes of others. I sure though he's not meaning that it is important to have high fashion to avoid others but more saying to those who wear the label "Christian" yet know that inside the can is a behaviour that their mates see that is pretty opposite to the label "christian".

# Santa Claws

- \* Christmas is coming... the season of making an appearance
  - \* church
  - \* family
  - \* that I am nice



It is a weird time. So full of potential, so commercial, so full of people who experience loneliness so strongly. And in all of this is us... where do we fit. For those who know Jesus' love in their life where do we fit?

# God's Appearance



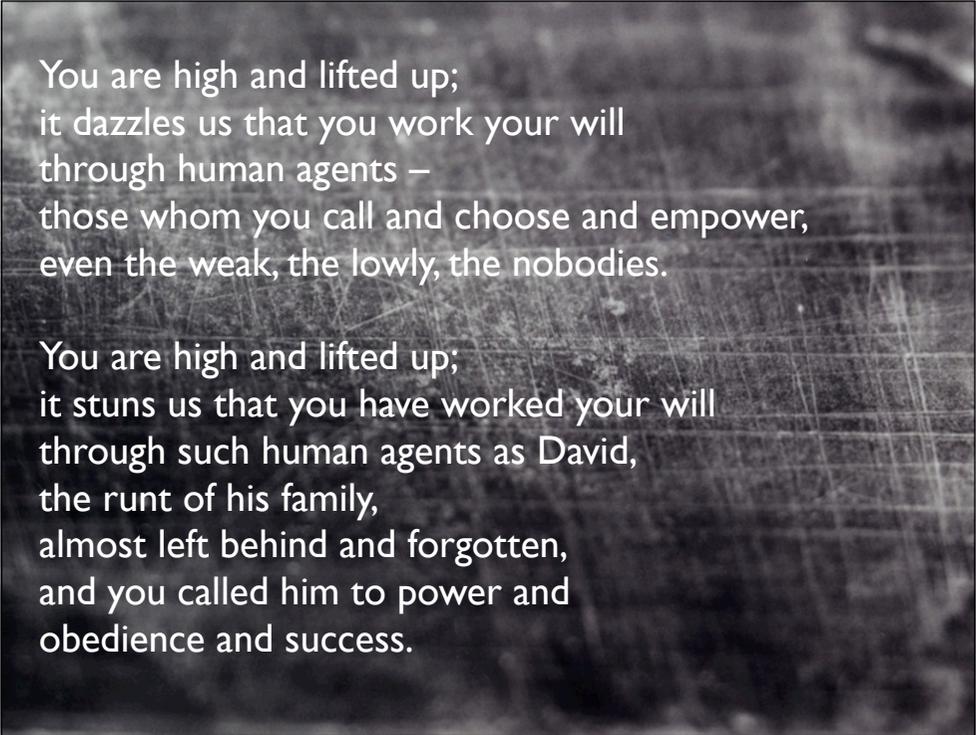
- \* How does God appear to us?
- \* Why Christ the man/God?

Mary the mother of Christ.... chosen for her faith and humble attitude.

God had choices about how Christ would be born.... to whom, to what kingdom, to what famous family line... he chose Mary, in a turmoil of questions about legitimate birth.....

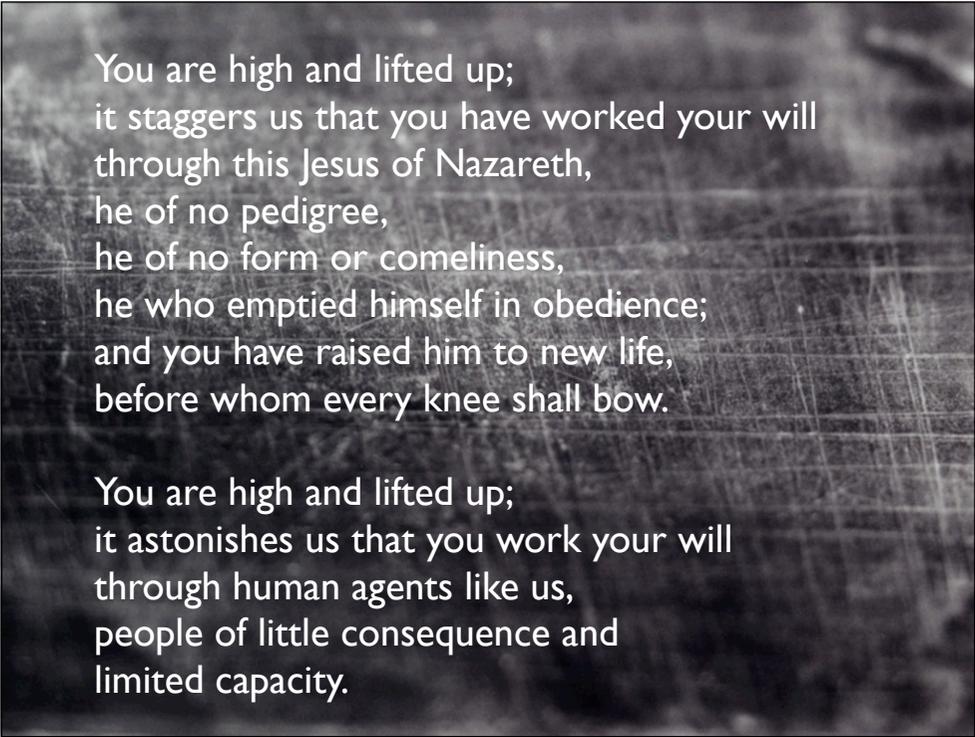
But the kings of the time knew something powerful had happened. That's why Herod had all the children under the age of two.. just to be safe.... killed because he saw his fulfillment of prophecy as a threat.

Jesus lived 30 years before he really got into it... he experienced life as us because he didn't just want to make a guest appearance. God wanted to be truly one of us, know us, experience what we feel so he could take on our sin, our weaknesses and die for them on the cross. Die for your true self on the cross.



You are high and lifted up;  
it dazzles us that you work your will  
through human agents –  
those whom you call and choose and empower,  
even the weak, the lowly, the nobodies.

You are high and lifted up;  
it stuns us that you have worked your will  
through such human agents as David,  
the runt of his family,  
almost left behind and forgotten,  
and you called him to power and  
obedience and success.



You are high and lifted up;  
it staggers us that you have worked your will  
through this Jesus of Nazareth,  
he of no pedigree,  
he of no form or comeliness,  
he who emptied himself in obedience;  
and you have raised him to new life,  
before whom every knee shall bow.

You are high and lifted up;  
it astonishes us that you work your will  
through human agents like us,  
people of little consequence and  
limited capacity.

You call us beyond ourselves;  
you send us beyond our imagination;  
you empower us beyond our capacity,  
and we become your agents in the world,  
day by day doing justice and mercy and  
compassion.

At the end of the day we still say in astonishment,  
that you are high and lifted up and majestic.  
We are your creatures,  
and we give our life back to you,  
filled with gratitude,  
eager for the rest that only you can give.

Walter Brueggemann

# Canned Life

- ✿ Let's not live by labels, outside appearances...
- ✿ Let's live love responding to love ...
- ✿ Life with a bit of diving in the deep end



## Introduction

It's not the clothes we wear, the house we live in, the cars we drive, or names and titles people give us that determine our identity or our value as a person. It's what's inside us that counts.

## Description

We often identify things by labels. But are labels the best method for identification? Youth / children will learn that labels are not always correct.

## Materials

Three similar sized canned food items but with different contents. Preferably, use two that youth or children would enjoy and another that they may not appreciate much (i.e. something like canned peaches, applesauce and dog food)

## Preparation

Carefully remove the labels from the cans and swap the labels and glue them on. Trim the labels to fit if needed.

## Demonstration

I brought something today I think you will enjoy – Do you like peaches? I love peaches! Is there anyone here who doesn't like peaches? What happens if I don't like peaches? Maybe I like applesauce instead. Take the applesauce label and put it onto the same can. Great! Now I can have applesauce. Anyone want some applesauce with me? What? You mean we can't just change the label? Why not? It says applesauce. Oh, well... let's have some peaches then.... anyone want some peaches. Open the can of dogfood. Oops... this is not peaches. This is dogfood.... Looks like sometimes labels can be wrong.

## Discussion

It doesn't matter what label we put on the can. It doesn't change what is inside. It's not the label that's important, but what's inside that counts.

Sometimes we think that if we wear certain clothes, live in a certain kind of house or go to school in a certain type of car that will change us into something that others like more. But it's not the things on the outside that count.

Sometimes someone might label us as stupid, as a nerd, a loser or some other name. But those names don't change our identity. We are still the same person on the inside.

I can use the can as a hammer, or a football, or as a paperweight. But that doesn't change the fact that it is a can that was created with something unique inside.

In fact, to God, everyone of us is special. Everyone of us is beautiful. He loves everyone of us! It's what's in your heart that counts.

## Closing Applications

Do you call others names, give them labels? Do you judge others by what is on the outside or do you look at who they really are?

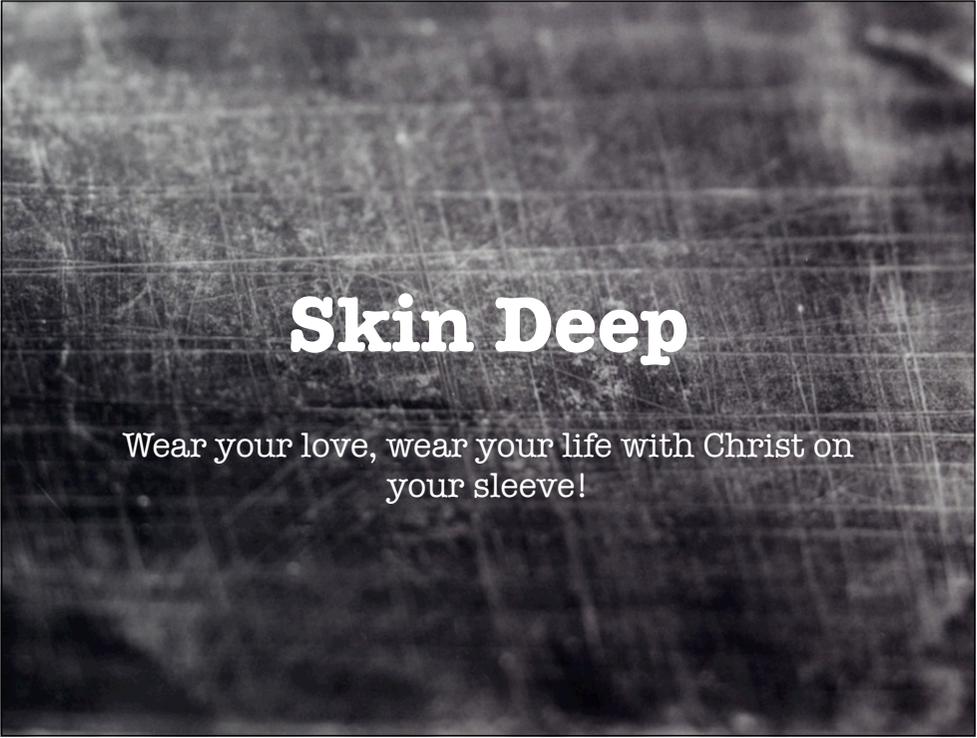
Do you try to impress others with the clothes you wear, by the things you say, with the things you own? Instead of trying to impress others with things that are on the outside, why not impress them with what you are on the inside.... by being loving, kind, caring.

A peach is a fruit, but for us as Christians, God identifies us by different fruits that we have in our heart.... these are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self control. Make a commitment to bless others this week with one of these fruits of the spirit.

## Scripture Reference

"The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Sam. 16:7)

Galatians 5:22 (Fruits of the Spirit)



# Skin Deep

Wear your love, wear your life with Christ on  
your sleeve!