

P232

GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM

SERIES: Psalm 23

TITLE: Thou anointest my head with oil

SONGS: THE ALABASTER BOX

You are my all in all

INTRO: King David was well aware of the gracious and lavish treatment he received from His Heavenly Father. In the first part of verse 5 of Psalm 23, he described how bountifully God set the table for him, and how comfortable and secure he felt, even with his enemies looking on. He continues the verse with “Thou anointest my head with oil – my cup runneth over”. This shows how the Lord honored him by anointing him with oil and continually filling his cup to overflowing. Today on Grace Notes, Barbara Sandbek will discuss the custom of anointing with oil and relate it to our anointing as Believers. So stay tuned, you’re sure to learn something new.

What would you think, if you were invited to someone’s house for dinner and when you arrived, the host greeted you with a kiss, gave you a robe to wear, washed your feet, and then poured oil on your head - and maybe even your feet, beard(if you had one) and clothes? You’d probably be taken back a bit – maybe even annoyed. But in Biblical times, this was customary treatment for an honored guest. In addition, the host would give his guest a glass of choice wine and fill it till it ran over. All this was done to show love and respect for the guest and to imply that while they were there, they would have an abundance of everything.

As Christ’s guests at his table here on earth, we, too, are promised a life of abundance. Jesus, our gracious host said in John 10:10b...

I have come that they might have life and have it to the full.

The ‘they’ he referred to are his sheep – those who believe in Him as Savior. We’re united with Christ, and given the promise of eternal life through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 says...

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

The Holy Spirit is symbolized by oil. Anointing the head with oil refreshes the physical senses because oil is smooth to the touch, bright to the sight, and fragrant to the smell. The Holy Spirit’s anointing first awakens, then continually

refreshes our spiritual senses. It touches our lives and smoothes out our rough edges. It illumines us to spiritual truths, and it imparts in us the fragrance of eternal life. Now, that's abundant life!

In writing the phrase, "Thou anointest my head with oil ", King David may also have thought of how he used oil for medicinal purposes, when he was a shepherd. At the end of each day, shepherds would examine their sheep individually for cuts and scrapes, and briers and flies in their ears. I imagine that the flies and briers may have made it difficult for them to hear their shepherd's commands. The shepherd anointed their affected bodies with oil. This soothed and healed them.

When I was a kid, I loved to play outdoors and climb trees. Sometimes I'd get so caught up in what I was doing, I didn't hear my mom call or even pay attention to the cuts I'd received. Often it would be dark before I came home. But mom always checked me over when I got inside, looking for ticks and caked blood. I wasn't aware of what could happen if my wounds weren't treated, but she was. It was a comfort to see how she cared.

Our Heavenly Father cares. He knows exactly what we need when we need it. Oh, how we need the healing oil of the Spirit to repair our heart, which is wounded by sin every day, and renew our impaired spiritual hearing, so we can follow our Shepherd's bidding.

***** WRITER: Dennis Jernigan
*** YOU ARE MY ALL IN ALL ** LENGTH: 2:50

*You are my strength when I am weak
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all*

*Seeking You as a precious jewel
Lord to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all*

*Taking my sin my cross my shame
Rising again I bless your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down you pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all*

Anointing oil was also used in ancient Israel to consecrate both persons and things for sacred purposes. Temple articles, such as altars and vessels, were anointed, as were priests and kings. The anointing was the essential characteristic of the ruler, not the crowning. Rulers were called 'messiahs' or 'anointed ones'. In the Old Testament, the term "Anointed One" probably originally meant "king."

The Lord's anointed kings were responsible for keeping the nation peaceful and prospering. In addition, they were to govern the people in such a way as to cause them to love and fear God. They were also intercessors with God in behalf of the nation, and builders and maintainers of the temple - God's earthly palace. Perhaps that's why God declared them priests as well as kings.

In the New Testament, "Anointed One" was translated into the Greek word "Christo" or '*Christ*'.

Jesus Christ fulfills all the responsibilities of the Great High Priest and Eternal King. He is the Prince of Peace, the sole mediator between God and man, and the head of His church, or body of Believers, which is now the temple of God.

Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit at his baptism. This baptism marked Him as The Anointed One, the Messiah, the Savior of the world. John the Baptist spoke these words about Him in John 1:34...

"I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

The oil used most often in Biblical times was olive oil. To make the oil, the olives were sometimes beaten (Lev 24:2), sometimes trodden (Mic 6:15), but were generally crushed in a mill.

This makes me think of all that Jesus went through to give us the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 53:5 says...He was crushed for our iniquities.

Isaiah 50:6a says...He offered His back to those who beat Him.

We were dead in our trespasses and sin - and Isaiah 53:12 says Jesus poured out His life unto death to save us. After all Jesus has done for us, shouldn't we treat Him as the guest of our heart, like Mary did? She showed her devotion to Him by anointing his head and feet with costly ointment and wiping his feet with her hair. What can you do to show Him the love and respect He is due?

***** WRITER: Janice Sjostran

*** THE ALABASTER BOX *** LENGTH: 5:20

*The room grew still
As she made her way to Jesus
She stumbled through the tears
That make her blind
She felt such pain
Some spoke in anger
Heard folks whisper
There's no place here for her kind
Still on she came
Through the shame that flushed her face
Until at last she knelt before his feet
And though she spoke no words
Everything she said was heard
As she poured her love for the master
From her box of Alabaster
And I've come to pour
My praise on Him like oil
From Mary's Alabaster Box
Don't be angry if I wash His feet with my tears
And I dry them with my hair
You weren't there the night He found me
You did not feel what I felt
When He wrapped His loving arms around me
And you don't know the cost
Of the oil in my Alabaster box
I can't forget the way life used to be
I was a prisoner to the sin that had me bound
And I spent my days
Poured my life without measure
Into a little treasure box
I thought I found
Until the day when Jesus came to me
And healed my soul with the wonder of His touch
So now I'm giving back to Him
All the praise He's worthy of
I've been forgiven and that's why
I love Him so much*

*And I've come to pour
My praise on Him like oil
From Mary's Alabaster Box
Don't be angry if I wash His feet with my tears
And I dry them with my hair
You weren't there the night He found me
You did not feel what I felt
When He wrapped His loving arms around me
And you don't know the cost
Of the oil in my Alabaster box*

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Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!