



WEEKLY STUDY

Week 4

Fellow Disciples,

This week we are exploring the moment when Jesus was anointed by his friend Mary. She poured expensive perfume on his feet and wiped it with her hair. Anointing had several purposes in the Bible, but it was always a *setting-apart* (or *making holy*) of a person or place for a purpose. This week, consider what an anointing has meant/would mean for you. May you experience the anointing of God that changes the way you are known, changes your future, and prepares you for your God-given purpose.

Peace of Christ,

Dr. Mark Youngman

Lead Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt. You might also pray this prayer of confession that we prayed at the end of the message.

God,

May I be set apart for your good purpose in my life. I imagine the sensation of the oil running down the face of David. I exist for you, use me as you will. Today, I look for your anointing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for hope, healing, and wholeness.

Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: 1 SAMUEL 16.10-13

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?"

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

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

¹² *So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.*

Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this 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 powerfully upon David.*

- In the story leading up to David's anointing, we see a classic underdog story. God sees the heart of a man, so this scrappy little runt of the family is seen for what he truly is—a man after God's own heart. The anointing sets him apart and eventually he will become the king. But it's important for us to note (as it was most certainly for David) that the anointing does not make him perfect, just identified and set apart for God's purpose.
- *Lord God, I know that you see me and you call me from where I am. Call me to serve you with my life today.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 12.1-8

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ *But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected,⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.*

⁷ *"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."*

- This is a story for the senses! The sight of Lazarus (the one raised from the dead) reclining at the table. The sight of Mary stooped at the feet of Jesus. The feel of the oily perfume coating Jesus' feet. The smell of the fragrant perfume filling the room. It's strangely beautiful and odd at the same time. It went against the grain for Judas, but his protest paved the way for Jesus to explain the scene. It's the kind of thing you would do to prepare a body for burial. But Mary was anointing him in life just before death. This is more than a "live like you're dying" kind of moment, instead, it points to the purpose that God the Father had for Jesus. And it prepares us for the resurrection story.
- *Jesus, anointed One of God, thank you for allowing yourself to be set apart for the sake of the whole world's salvation.*

WEDNESDAY: 1 JOHN 2.20, 27

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

- Some Christian traditions conclude a baptism with anointing oil. It's a sign of setting apart the one who was baptized. A sign to God and to the world that we lift this person up as a new child in Christ as we pray that God's purpose might be fulfilled in them. The shine on the forehead of a believer says to the world, this is one of God's children. In 1 John, John writes that the anointing that we have received is from God and that it outlasts the shine of the oil—it remains in us, we remain in him.
- *Jesus, I have received so much from you. I cling to the anointing you have for me, and I claim it as real and true.*

THURSDAY: PSALM 45.7

*You love righteousness and hate wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.*

- God's anointing is not about hierarchy. It's not even about privilege. It's about calling to a distinct life for God. Have you ever met someone that seemed to be anointed with the oil of joy? They just seem to exude something different. That kind of anointing can raise the room—it's inspiring and compelling to see someone living out their purpose with such joy.
- *God, let the shine of your anointing in me inspire my companions in life to turn to you.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 4.18-19

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”*

- *Jesus claimed these ancient words for himself. He was so clear about his mission statement that he announced Jubilee (a time of reset, restoration, and rescue) was about to unfold through him. Do you have a personal mission statement? If you are a follower of Jesus, it will necessarily point back to this mission statement from Jesus.*
- *Jesus, may I live my life today with boldness to proclaim that my purpose is tied to yours.*

SATURDAY: LEVITICUS 8.10-12

Then Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and everything in it, and so consecrated them. ¹¹ He sprinkled some of the oil on the altar seven times, anointing the altar and all its utensils and the basin with its stand, to consecrate them. ¹² He poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him to consecrate him.

- This is an example of items or possessions being set aside for God's purpose. By anointing the tabernacle and everything in it, Moses was signifying that this mobile place and set of items were dedicated to God's purpose. It's why they were tied to the very presence of God. So then, the same would be true of Moses' brother Aaron. He was set aside as someone that would enter into the presence of God.
- *Thank you God for inviting me into your presence. Make me holy and wholly yours.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

In this week's message Pastor Jacob said,

"You have an anointing as a believer in Jesus, it is the seal of the Holy Spirit in you. You have oil running down your brow because of the Spirit and you don't need a teacher on that. Because it's real and what the anointing teaches you to do is to at all costs, remain in Jesus.

God sends Jesus the Anointed One who gives the Holy Spirit, that anoints us for a new identity, a new future, and a new purpose. That's your anointing."

- Have you had an experience of anointing? What was the context or reason for the anointing?
- Are you stuck and at a point where you are searching for a new identity, and new future, and to fully live into God's purpose for you? Share this with someone else.