



THE COSTLY ANNOINTING?

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We want to take our scripture text today from **John 12:1-8**, **“Then Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always”**. In our scripture text, we see that it was just six days before the Passover. Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the dead, which was a foreshadow of what Christ would do following this particular Passover. He would authenticate and demonstrate that He truly was the resurrection and the life after the third day of His death. The bible tells us that Mary took a pound of ointment of spikenard, which was very costly, to anoint Jesus, the Lord’s Christ. The Greek word for pound is *litra*, which in the Latin is *libra* which would be about 12 ounces in standard measurements. This costly ointment was in an alabaster box which was a mineral stone from lime used to make vases and some small bottles. Breaking this box or vase was the means for which this

costly ointment with a such sweet aroma would be able to fill the entire house where Jesus was being anointed. In today’s economy the dollar value of this ointment would be worth about \$10-\$12,000! The anointing is very costly, if I must say so. We know that Jesus Christ was anointed with the Holy Ghost and with power, for we read in **Acts 10:38**, **“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him”**. This aroma from the spikenard that filled the house typified the anointing of the Holy Ghost. When He, the Holy Ghost pervades and permeates a room where there is an assembly of believers, everyone can sense the difference. The bible tells us that this spikenard was costly, which meant extremely expensive. For anyone who wants to possess the anointing of the Holy Ghost it’s going to cost them much. Throughout the entirety of my ministry, people have always talked and addressed the power in which I minister concerning the Word of God. Let me quickly remind you it is not the man, it is the power of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is the one who makes a difference in any circumstance or situation. When this aroma and odor filled the house everyone in close proximity immediately recognized there was a difference. Sinner or saint, people always recognize the authority and the anointing that the Holy Ghost brings. Too many ministries operate today with absolutely no anointing whatsoever. These ministries and ministers are nothing more than paid motivational speakers who try to get

the people in an upbeat mindset or tempo. When the people leave these so-called services they leave empty and they fill far worse than they did before they got there. They leave feeling the same old way and they carry back with them the same old problems. The office of the Holy Ghost is to edify the child of God and to strengthen them in their pilgrimage. The Holy Ghost also brings conviction to any service where sin is manifest. Consecration and dedication to the Lord Jesus Christ is what makes the anointing rich in a person’s life. No man can buy the anointing. However, just like Judas Iscariot, he saw an opportunity to make money from the anointing of the Holy Ghost. All throughout the New Testament, during times of great manifestation of the Holy Ghost, men sought to purchase the anointing of God. We read in **Acts 8:15-23**, **“Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: (the Holy Ghost) only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be**

forgiven thee". As usual, carnal people never understand the spiritual things of God. We read in **1st Corinthians 2:14**, "**But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned**". Simon demonstrated carnality in its greatest form. Even after this alabaster box was broken, Judas Iscariot questioned: why was not this ointment sold for 300 pence, and given to the poor? Again, we see a demonstration of the carnally minded. While I'm on the subject of carnality, let me share with you **Romans 8:5-8**, "**For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God**". The very fact that Jesus Christ was betrayed demonstrates the fulfillment of this passage here in Romans 8 in the life of Judas Iscariot. Judas betrayed and sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Judas also had enmity or hostilities toward God in that he sold Christ for money and profit. Thus, he is the personification of one who was carnally minded, which ultimately brought about his own death or suicide: to be carnally minded is death. Jesus said in **Mark 8:36-37**, "**For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**" Regretfully, these two scripture verses demonstrate Judas Iscariot and his ultimate demise. You cannot put a price on the anointing of the Holy Ghost. We read in **Isaiah 10:27**, "**And the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing**". The psalmist declared in **Psalms 92:10**, I

shall be anointed with fresh oil". The Holy Ghost always brings a fresh anointing when He comes to minister to the people of God. Never underestimate the anointing of the Holy Ghost: the anointing makes all the difference in the world. Even Christ declared in **Luke 4:18**, "**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised**". Jesus never performed one miracle until after he came from the wilderness, freshly anointed with the Holy Ghost. I do want to point out one thing though, the anointing that Jesus Christ possessed was without measure, for we read in **John 3:34**, "**For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him**". In plain English, the natural man or even the spiritual man is completely unable to measure the anointing that Jesus Christ possessed within His life; His anointing was without measure, or could not be measured. Mortal men are anointed by the same Holy Ghost and power, and this costly anointing comes through prayer, fasting, and seeking the face of God. Let me be emphatic here, nothing happens without the anointing! If there is no anointing, then we are as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal; we are worthless. The anointing enables ministers to preach with authority and with conviction. Look closely at the words of Paul the apostle found here in **1st Corinthians 2:4-5**, "**And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God**". Paul's preaching

was not one of psychology, or better yet sychology, but his preaching was in demonstration of the Holy Ghost. And the reason he wanted his preaching to be under the anointing of the Holy Ghost was so that people's faith would not stand in the wisdom or persuasiveness of man's verbiage, but rather in the power of God. The anointing truly makes a difference. After the breaking of the alabaster box, the whole house where Jesus was, was perfumed. The Holy Ghost influenced the atmosphere so as to execute and supply every need that may have been demanded. When the anointing of the Holy Ghost is manifested you too will recognize the difference. As I previously stated, whether one is a sinner, or a saint of God, they recognize the difference that the manifestation of the Holy Ghost makes in the atmosphere. I trust that you will seek the Lord Jesus Christ for a richer and more powerful anointing upon your personal life. Remember the anointing is costly, so be willing to pay the price for this blessing. May you daily abide in the Word of God, and may the Word of God abide in you. Until next month, we covet your prayers earnestly, and we want you to know we are always very thankful and grateful for your love gift to The Voice of Evangelism. O, that we all may know the riches of Christ through the power of the Holy Ghost. Until next month, I trust you will always remain faithful to Christ, and that we will always bring to you an uncompromising message from the Word of God.

Serving With You All,

Pastor David W. Lankford