



LIVING LOGOS  
MINISTRIES

# The Living Logos

Teaching Newsletter

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## He Anoints My Head ~ Pastor Trey Dickerson

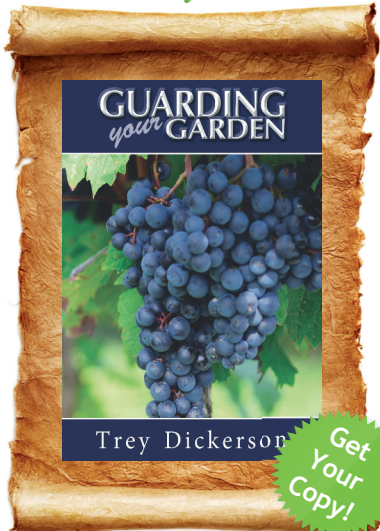
We have been systematically breaking down the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm for some time now, and this month, I want us to cover another statement that David made in Psalm 23:5 when He said, “He anoints my head with oil.” Mind you, the context of this phrase in Psalm 23:5-6 is of a gracious host honoring his or her guests, and the original Hebrew language paints this same picture in this phrase.

You see, this word “anoints” is not the common word used for the anointing of a king or a priest. It is for this reason that the Hebrew word David used here is only translated “anoints” this one time in the original King James version. And the reason why it is not translated this way any other time is because this word literally describes “to make fat, to thrive or to prosper.” In fact, it is used to describe prosperity four times in the Book of Proverbs (Compare Proverbs 11:25, 13:4, 15:30 & 28:25). Interesting, huh? Therefore, based on this choice of words by David, we can clearly see that this describes an anointing all right, but not an anointing for regal or priestly duties. Rather, he was referring to the anointing of a guest at some prestigious banquet with oils and

perfumes as a way of honoring and blessing them. Yes, the allusion is to the custom of anointing the head on festive occasions, as an indication of prosperity and honor. Therefore, it is indicative of the divine favor, of prosperity, and of joy. So, this oil that our most gracious and honorable Host (the Lord of Hosts, that is) anoints our head with is poured out in such a “full, thriving and prosperous” manner. In other words, He pours oil on our head *so abundantly*—thus the expression indicates an *abundance of oil*. Do you see how this correlates with what we discussed last month and what David said immediately following this phrase—our cup



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### A WORD FROM SHANNON

I once heard a friend say she went before the Lord and asked Him why, as believers, we have such a hard time believing God loves us. She said she was expecting an answer from Him that was sweet and “touchy feely” or an understanding from Him how we’ve been so wounded by life. He told her the reason Christians have such

a difficult time believing God loves them is the sin of unbelief. WOW!!

Think about it! Jesus chose to give up everything so that we could be reconciled back to the Father! If that’s not the ultimate act of love, there will never be one!

Choose today to simply believe how much God truly loves you! It will always be true whether you choose to believe it or not!

*(“He Anoints My Head” continued)*

*running over?* Both phrases, therefore, describe “abundance.” They echo each other in describing the Lord pouring *more than enough*. Essentially, what David was saying was, “He pours out an abundance of oil on my head, and He pours out an abundance of wine in my cup!”

Now as I studied this out originally, I was drawn to our one, very solid biblical example of how this occurs: It reminds me of Mary’s anointing Jesus found in Matthew 26, Mark 14, & John 12. So, for the sake of time, I would like for us to focus in on Mark’s account of this event: Now in Mark 14:3, we are told that this woman (whom we know from John’s account was Mary) came with an “alabaster flask.” In short, “alabaster” was a stone commonly found in Israel. It was a hard stone resembling white marble. So, the container Mary used to carry the perfumed oil was made of a white, marble-like substance. Ointment, oils and perfumes used to be put in vessels made of alabaster, which kept them pure and unspoiled. The boxes were often sealed with wax, to prevent the perfume from escaping. And we are told in John 12:3 that when Mary broke open her alabaster box, “*the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*” Alabaster was a strong enough substance to keep the oil or perfume completely contained until the time of its use.

Mark goes on to describe this alabaster flask as containing “a very costly oil of spikenard.” Now “spikenard” was a plant that only grew in the Himalayan mountains of India and Nepal. Therefore, Mary’s fragrant oil of spikenard was a rare, imported product in Israel. Now, how expensive was this spikenard contained in the alabaster flask? Well, we don’t have to speculate because in John 12:5, Judas evaluated that it could have been sold for “*three hundred denarii.*” Now, in their day, one denarius was the wage for one day’s labor. So, if Judas’ estimate of the value of Mary’s spikenard is correct, then it would have been worth close to someone’s annual salary, equivalent to several tens of thousands of dollars today. In fact, other sources tell us that “spikenard’s” great cost stemmed from the fact that it had to be transported over 6,000 miles to reach Palestine, and depending on quality, it sold for as much as 400 denarii per pound (or \$750 an ounce in modern purchasing equivalent). That made this that Mary used to anoint Jesus’ body even more valuable than gold! But there was a “breaking” of that box or flask that had to occur to get out what was precious on the inside—for we learn that “this was a long-necked vessel for storing or holding ointment or perfume, and when the neck was broken off, the contents were used...”

Now this event teaches us several lessons: One is this: I believe that not only is Mary an example to us of how we ought to strive to honor the Lord, but I also see this “alabaster flask” as symbolic

of us too. Yes, I see this “alabaster flask” as symbolic of our temples (that is, our bodies) as “alabaster” was also one of the stones used to decorate Solomon’s glorious Temple (see First Chronicles 29:2). As the Apostle Peter said in First Peter 2:5, we are living stones, being built up as a spiritual house. Praise God! And if this “alabaster flask” is a type of our bodies, oh, what a measure of treasure is contained within us! As Second Corinthians 2:14-16 states that we are to be diffusing the fragrance of the knowledge of God in every place we go as the Lord’s “earthen vessels” (Second Corinthians 4:7). Yes, there is a treasure within these “alabaster boxes” (i.e. earthen vessels) and it is meant to be released to honor and glorify the Lord with! Amen!

However, the key to releasing the sweet-smelling aroma and blessing the Lord with it is found in being “broken”—that is, learning to lose our own dignity and pride and get “outside the box” where God can be God to us. You see, one reason why this treasure stays within our vessels is because we like to stay in control. We don’t want to lose face in front of people. We keep our dignity and pride and, in so doing, we keep that anointing oil on the inside of us.

Church, we have to make that decision whether we are going to please God or please man. We can’t do both. So, start letting that “spikenard” out of your “alabaster box” today: Do it by laying down your pride and worshipping the Lord with reckless abandon! Don’t let that fragrant oil and perfume stay all “bottled up” inside of you, but begin to worship Him like Mary did! This lets that treasure that’s inside of us affect the atmosphere around us! Amen!

Victoriously,



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