

All In

Anointing,

is either with oil--or with the Spirit

- Ordinary. Anointing the body or head with oil was a common practice with the Jews, as with other Oriental nations. Anointing the head with oil seems also to have been a mark of respect sometimes paid by a host to his guests.
- Official. It was a rite of inauguration into each of the three typical offices of the Jewish commonwealth. a. **Prophets** were occasionally anointed to their office, and were called messiahs, or anointed b. **Priests** were all anointed to their offices, Anointing was the principal and divinely appointed ceremony in the inauguration of the Jewish **Kings**. **King David** was thrice anointed: by Samuel, by elders of Judah and by the Northern Tribes of Israel.
- In the Old Testament a Deliverer is promised under the title of **Messiah**, or **Anointed**, and the nature of his anointing is described to be with the Holy Spirit. Jesus of Nazareth is shown to be the **Messiah**, or **Christ** or **Anointed**, of the Old Testament, and the historical fact of his being anointed with the Holy Ghost is asserted and recorded. Christ was anointed as **prophet, priest and king**.
- Anointing with the Holy Spirit is conferred also upon Christ followers. Anointing expresses the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit upon Christians who are prophets, priests and kings unto God

The Anointing of Jesus

- In **Luke 7** a woman who is a renowned sinner anointed Jesus' feet in the home of Simon, the Pharisee who rejected this anointing (representing the Law and prophets)
- In **John 12** Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, repeats this similar anointing of Jesus' feet: rejected by Judas from tribe of Judah
- In **Matthew 26 & Mark 14** a woman anoints Jesus' head in the home of Simon the Leper: rejected by the disciples from the Northern Tribes of Israel
- Jesus was also anointed by the Holy Spirit at the time of his baptism
- Jesus' head was anointed signifying him as **prophet, priest and king**. His feet were anointed signifying the symbolizing being glorified in death.

John 12:1-11

"Why was this perfume not sold for 300 denarii and the money given to the poor?" It's not a bad question. Denarii are worth one day's pay for a laborer. We are looking at \$20-30,000 poured on Jesus. In each anointing the anointing oil was nard from a flask stored in an alabaster box, a standard size and packaging for the day. This is the best reason why the details are so similar from each account.

Why such an extravagant gesture?

- For the obvious symbolic reasons stated above
- Wasn't this overboard, excessive, lavish and overkill, a year's salary, perhaps the entire life's savings of this family? (No!) Is Jesus telling us to forget helping the poor? (No!) There is something about this event that Jesus is encouraging us all to do.
- The action permeated every part of the house and beyond. It may have cost her entire savings. We don't know if Mary was rich or poor. Regardless, it was an extravagant gift.
- To Judas, to everyone really, this action appears a total waste of hard-earned money.

- **You get out of life what you put into it.**
- People say, "I'm not getting much out of church." My question, "What are you putting into it?"
- The attitude and effort you exude toward anything greatly determines its value and enjoyment to you: Mondays, winter, work, church, marriage, etc.

All in

- Wagering one's entire stake in poker is a high risk/high reward move
- With Jesus, going all in is a low risk/high reward move!
- Mary went all in. Did she go overboard in honoring Jesus? The story is not about money or its use. The story is about gratitude and recognizing what Jesus has done in our lives.
- Did Mary overdo it? Whatever your opinion, that is not our problem! Our problem is underdoing it! We play much too small. We risk or give little and get little in return. We take Jesus for granted. We are so casual about being part of the Kingdom of Heaven. We take for granted eternal life, forgiveness, righteousness and our adoption into God's family.
- We give up so little. Our lack of response to Jesus' forgiveness, love, acceptance, healing, provision, etc. fills the house also.
- Extravagance towards Jesus is not a requirement, but sure is a reflection of our attitude towards him.
- Apostle Paul left his much more comfortable life to be persecuted and killed as a missionary of Jesus—All in!
- Peter walked on water—All in! **John 21:3-7**, "Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find [some]." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" **Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on [his] outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.**"—All in!

Take the plunge! It is time for you to go all in!

- Teaching children—All in
- Serving at Life Center Food Pantry—All in
- Start a Disciple Group—All in
- Prison Ministry—All in
- Commit to Tithing and to Weekly Church Attendance—All in
- Pay \$200 for a pie to help send youth on a mission trip—All in
- Give \$2000 to send on teenager on a mission trip—All in
- Going to India with Michelle and me—All in
- Start of Prayer Ministry—All in
- Take charge of Care Team Ministry (cooking, cleaning, etc.)—All in
- Organize Hospital Visitation Ministry or Nursing Home Ministry—All in
- Share you faith with a co-worker—All in
- Serve our Shine Girls or Royal Rangers for boys—All in
- **Now is the time to open the alabaster box, break the neck of our bottle of nard and pour it out on Jesus. It is time to fill the house with the fragrance of our love, devotion and gratitude for the One who has loved us so selflessly and lavishly! It is time to go "all in!"**