

Gospel of Mark

Lesson 59 “The Anointed for Purpose”

I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on “The Gospel of Mark” this morning.

A. Review - This series comes from **Galatians 2:20**. It's now Christ living in us so in order for us to understand how He lives in us, it's helpful to study how He lived on earth.

B. Today, before we get into the text today, I want to ask a question. What is the vision of Grace Life Church.

1. **Our Vision is to Saturate the Triad with Jesus.** That's the future we're believing God for—that everywhere you turn in this region, people are filled to overflowing with Jesus and that pours out on the rest of the state.

2. But how do we saturate an entire region with Jesus? **That's where our Mission Statement comes in.**

a. **REACH THE LOST**—Saturation goes beyond reaching the reached. It begins when somebody who doesn't know Jesus meets Him.

b. **MAKE DISCIPLES**—This is the Great Commission; not the Great Suggestion. We're called to make devoted followers of Jesus. God doesn't want people saved and stuck. He wants us conformed to His image.

c. **RAISE LEADERS**— We'll never saturate a region if everything depends on a handful of people. **The key to saturation is replication that leads to multiplication.** Ex: Grace Life School of Ministry and why I had Pastor Megan preach a few months back.

d. **PLANT CHURCHES**—because eventually multiplication has to leave this building and reach communities we could never reach from one location. Ex: When you plant a tree in a forest, it increases the hydration level of the ecosystem. The same holds true when a new church is planted.

3. **So what's the mission? How do we see the Triad saturated with Jesus. Reach the Lost. Make Disciples. Raise Leaders. Plant Churches.**

C. But that brings us to an important question: How are ordinary people like us supposed to accomplish something that big? The anointing of the Holy Spirit.

1. Today ,we're going to look at Jesus being anointed at Bethany for what He was about to do: Go to the cross! Later He anointed His disciples for their purpose.

2. Jesus was anointed for His purpose, and He has anointed us with power for ours.

II. Anointed for Purpose

A. Mark 14:1-9

1. *Verses 1-2* Passover celebrated Israel's deliverance from Egypt. In that story from *Exodus 12*, the Jews killed a lamb and applied its blood to the doorposts. The blood

of a lamb had protected them from judgment.

- a. Interestingly, in God's prophetic timeline, as Jerusalem prepares to celebrate the Passover lamb, the true Passover Lamb is preparing to give His life.
 - b. The religious leaders think they're figuring out how to take Jesus out, but the truth is, He came to lay His life down. He knew what was coming as it was all part of His plan.
2. **Verse 3** Mary is the sister of Martha who sat at His feet and heard His word broke an alabaster flask of costly oil (Spikenard). Sitting at His feet and hearing His word prepares us for destiny.
- a. The spikenard was worth 300 denarii (a year's wages for a laborer). **Mary poured out all she had and then wiped His feet with her hair (a sign of humility and surrender). She gave everything including her dignity.**
 - b. Interestingly, spikenard was used for burial preparation. God anointed Jesus for His assignment.
 - b. In the Bible, God anointed people for two reasons:
 - i. **To set them apart for a specific purpose.**
 - ii. **To empower them to fulfill that purpose.**
 - iii. **1 Samuel 16:13** Oil isn't magic. It doesn't empower anyone; the Holy Spirit does. The oil is symbolic of what God is doing in a person's life.
 - iv. **Isaiah 10:27** It's the anointing that breaks the yoke, not our striving.
3. **Verses 4-5 Matthew 26:8** says disciples (plural) we indignant and **John 12:4-6** gives more insight on the ringleader. It was Judas Iscariot - **the betrayer!**
- a. The same one who would betray Jesus (the one of infinite worth) criticized Mary's action. Judas's focus was what He could get from Jesus, while Mary's focus was how much she could give Him. All of this is a value proposition. What is Jesus worth?
 - b. Salvation is a free gift, but being a disciple costs something that's why Jesus told people to count the cost. But is He worth it?
4. **Verse 6** What the disciples called waste; Jesus called worship. Some may wonder why people worship so passionately. That's because waste sees what's being poured out. **Worship sees Who it's being poured out on. Worship is never waste!**
5. **Verse 7-9** There's nothing wrong with giving to the poor. It can be a powerful act of worship, but there are moments when God puts an opportunity in front of us and **Mary recognized the moment.** That's why Jesus commended her: "She has done what she could and anointed His body for burial.
- a. As Mary poured all she had on Jesus in the moment, it became a prophetic picture of what Jesus would soon pour out on all who believe—**the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is the anointing—the power to do what we could never do on our own and take the message of Jesus to the nations.**
 - b. **Luke 24:49 NASB clothed with power (the anointing)** The disciples then prayed in the upper room for 10 days until the Holy Spirit was poured out and then Peter got up and boldly preached the gospel to the crowd who heard the sound of a rushing mighty wind and 3,000 were saved.

c. It takes the anointing of God to be a godly mom and dad, be a great employee who brings the wisdom of God to a boardroom, or to be a student who stands up for truth in the midst of compromise.

III. Conclusion - As our worship team comes I want to close with this....Jesus was anointed for His purpose, **and we must be anointed by Him for ours.**

He's called us to saturate the Triad with Jesus by reaching the lost, making disciples, raising leaders and planting churches and we cannot accomplish a supernatural mission in our own strength. As we worship, **let's respond like Mary, not Judas. Judas was focused on what he could get and left empty. Mary poured out what she had including her dignity and Jesus poured out His anointing on her and others who believed 50 days later.**

Our prayer team is going to be available. If you need to receive Jesus, come. If you need prayer, come. And if you're hungry for **the anointing—or a fresh anointing of power from the Holy Spirit—come.**

A. Pray