52 Days of Building a Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**Costly Anointing**

Day 15 – May 28, 2013

**Psalm 119:33**  “Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes, and I shall observe it to the end.”

Yesterday we looked at the consecration of the Levites and Priests when King Hezekiah reopened the temple his father closed. Consecration is a process of cleansing to show your dedication to the Lord. It shows you are set apart for the Lord.

The Temple in Jerusalem does not exist, and the Levites today, like in King Ahaz’s reign, are not able to carry out their priestly duties. So why should we study the priesthood? **We as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are Priests unto the Lord**.

**Revelation 1:5-6** “… Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood; and **He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father**. To Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

As priests, we are to dedicate our lives to the Lord. We are to be consecrated, set apart from the world. We must know that we have a holy anointing on us that is sealed by the Holy Spirit. .

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22** “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and **anointed us** is God, who also sealed us and gave *us* the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.”

Often, the Holy Spirit is referred to as the Oil of the Holy Spirit. Let’s look more closely at the oils that were used to anoint the priests and the tabernacle, and then the oils used in the incense used exclusively for the Altar of Incense.

**Please read Exodus 30: 23-38**.

**Exodus 30:30**  "You shall **anoint** Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister as priests to Me.

**The anointing oil was only to be used on the priests and Levites, those set apart for the Lord. It was not to be used by anyone else, “**it is holy, *and* it shall be holy to you.”

The **holy anointing oil** was made of thefinest and costliness of spices:

500 shekels of flowing myrrh*,*

250 shekels of fragrant cinnamon

250 shekels of fragrant cane

500 shekels of cassia five hundred

one hin of olive oil

**Myrrh** is a sticky white gum that comes out of the trunk and larger branches of a thorny tree. Its taste is extremely bitter; but its smell, though strong, is agreeable. The purest form of Myrrh is also called **stacte**, which flows out of the tree’s bark. It is considered to be the most costly oil used in the Bible.

**Cinnamon** isa powder scrapped from the bark of the canella tree. It has a strong and spicy odor.

**Fragrant Cane** is also called **Sweet Calamus,** is a two foot reed that has a knot near the root. This knot has a soft white center that emits a very pleasing scent. It is used in the richest perfumes.

**Cassia** isa shrubby plant whose leaves and seed pods are used for medicine, while the aromatic oil is extracted from its bark.

**Olive Oil** is produced when olives are crushed to extract oil. They go through several crushings. The finest oil is produced in the first crushing.

The **fragrant incense** used on the Altar of Incense was made in equal amounts of:

**Stacte** is the purest form of myrrh, which is a gummy substance that is bitter to the taste, but has a pleasant aroma.

**Onycha** isa resinpeeled off the shell of a mollusk.

**Galbanum** isa gummy resinous juice that comes out of a cane when it is broken. It has very many small shining grains that have a strong yet warm aroma.

**Frankincense** is a dry resinous substance in pieces or drops, of a pale yellowish white color, that has a bitter acrid taste. It produces a white smoke when it is burned.

**Just as these oils were costly to purchase, so is the cost of living a lifestyle under the anointing of the Lord.** In order **to prepare these oils**, and others used in the Bibles, they have to be stripped, pounded, cut, or crushed to get out the gummy resin. These resins are then dried and ground into a very fine powder. **This process of preparing the incense speaks of the trials we all go through; the crushing, stripping, pressing…** **all to prepare us a beautiful aroma to God’s nostrils.**

**2 Corinthians 4: 8-10, 17 “**We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body… For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.”

**Every believer goes through hard times of affliction when it feels like we are being crushed, stripped, or pressed.** The dry times of our various trials and testing are likened to being in the wilderness with Moses. As we are crying out to God, something marvelous is produced, a glorious prayer life that is mature and strong built on our increased trust in Almighty God! We become a beautiful fragrance of Christ to God and to those around us.

**Please read Esther 2:9-12**

Esther was chosen by God because of her quiet, gentle, and obedient spirit, which pleased both her uncle Mordecai and the eunuch Hegai. She was able to succeed in being queen because **she listened to their wise advice out of a teachable spirit**. The Lord has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us and He has sent various teachers our way to teach us the Word of God. Do we have a teachable spirit like Esther?

During the 12 months Esther was in the palace, she underwent beauty treatments; 6 months with oil of myrrh – **basking in the presence of the Holy Spirit with prayer;** and6 months of spices and perfume – **worship.**

This is what goes on in consecration! It takes time for His oil to soak into us, for us to be prepared for His presence. The more time we soak in the Oil of the Holy Spirit (His Presence), as He teaches us the Word of God; and the more time we spend in prayer and worship; the more we become consecrated to the Lord.

**Psalm 119:33-35** “Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all my heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.”

During these 52 days, **God is looking to anoint His beloved ones, who will soak in the oil of the Word of God with teachable hearts**. He desires for us to count the cost of this anointing, and realize our relationship with Him is worth whatever it costs. He paid all, He gave His life for us; will we do the same? **Will we lay down our ways and our plans to live consecrated lives according to His ways?**

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Please read and study Psalm 119:25-48.** These are our verses for this week.

**Our** **memory verse is Psalm 119:33.**