

BIBLE BRIEFING

“Well-Oiled Body”

Second Kings 9:1-6

2 Kings 9:1 And Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets, and said to him, "Get yourself ready, take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth Gilead.

2 Kings 9:2 Now when you arrive at that place, look there for Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, and go in and make him rise up from among his associates, and take him to an inner room.

2 Kings 9:3 Then take the flask of oil, and pour *it* on his head, and say, 'Thus says the LORD: "I have anointed you king over Israel." ' Then open the door and flee, and do not delay."

2 Kings 9:4 So the young man, the servant of the prophet, went to Ramoth Gilead.

2 Kings 9:5 And when he arrived, there *were* the captains of the army sitting; and he said, "I have a message for you, Commander." Jehu said, "For which *one* of us?" And he said, "For you, Commander."

2 Kings 9:6 Then he arose and went into the house. And he poured the oil on his head, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I have anointed you king over the people of the LORD, over Israel.

Introduction

We are not all that familiar with the custom of anointing with oil. Perhaps you've called for the Elders of the church to come and pray for you when you were sick. If so, you might have had a dab of oil put on your forehead, in obedience to the Scripture in James 5:14, "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."

In Bible times oil was not dabbed on; it was poured over you, running down upon you. Listen to this reference to anointing in Psalm 133:2,

Psalms 133:2 *It is* like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.

You were anointed with oil poured over you and running down upon you to symbolize and illustrate a spiritual truth. The oil was like the Holy Spirit Who God poured-out upon you to anoint you for service. It

was a visible representation of the invisible presence of the Holy Spirit upon your life.

We are to think of ourselves as anointed by God for service. Second Corinthians 1:21-22 says,

2 Corinthians 1:21 (NIV) Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us,
2 Corinthians 1:22 (NIV) set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

We should also think of ourselves as being sent with the anointing to touch and anoint others through our service. We are to be like the son of the prophet in our verses.

It will help us make the application if we expand our understanding of the value and purposes of anointing with oil in the Bible.

We've already seen that oil was used to anoint kings. Not just here, with Jehu. The prophet Samuel anointed Saul king with oil, and later David. Of David it was said,

1 Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

Oil was used to anoint prophets. Elijah was told to anoint Elisha to succeed him as prophet.

1 Kings 19:16 ...And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

I quoted from the psalms where we saw that priests were anointed.

Kings and prophets and priests were anointed with oil as they were put in places of *headship*. Oil was used to anoint for other purposes as well:

1. Guests were anointed with oil for *hospitality*.
2. The sick and injured were anointed with oil for *healing*.
3. Priests and temple articles were anointed with oil for *holiness*.

4. Dead bodies were anointed with oil to *hold* decay.

These uses of oil illustrate how *you* have been entrusted with God's Holy Spirit for spiritual purposes. They are illustrations of how you can anoint others as you minister to them in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let's look at each of them in greater detail.

You are entrusted with the Holy Spirit for headship. Headship refers to a position or office of authority. As a Christian, you are in a position of authority wherever you are! When you share Christ from the Scriptures, you speak with authority. That's why Paul told Titus in Titus 2:15,

[Titus 2:15](#) Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Think of it: You declare to people that their sins can be forgiven and they can have eternal life. You say it with an absolute authority because it is true.

The authority we're speaking of doesn't mean you can be belligerent, rude, or over-bearing. It is speaking God's truth in love with the authority of the Word and anointed by the Holy Spirit.

But it doesn't mean we should be shy or apologetic, either. We sometimes hesitate because we can't fully explain certain things. We are not really called upon to explain as much as to declare. We are to command men everywhere to repent. A command is not an explanation!

Take your headship seriously, then with humility declare God's Word.

You are entrusted with the Holy Spirit for hospitality. Guests were anointed with oil as they came into your house. It indicated that they were welcome and would be provided for out of your abundance.

The Christian life is an abundant life. We ought to portray it as such. When people come to church - to our "house" of worship - they ought to get the idea that God welcomes them and that they will be provided for out of His abundant spiritual resources.

One very practical way to exercise hospitality is to introduce yourself to someone you don't know. Find at least one person each time we meet and say "Hello."

Hospitality doesn't require a big house. You don't need to be wealthy. We're not talking so much about inviting people over to entertain, wine and dine them. We're talking about showing them spiritual hospitality.

You are entrusted with the Holy Spirit for healing. Oil was applied to wounds to help heal the physical hurts people had. The good Samaritan used oil mingled with wine to dress the wounds of the man who had been attacked by robbers (Mark 6:13 & Luke 10:34).

People still have hurts. Some are physical; many are emotional. We are entrusted with the Holy Spirit to help heal the hurts people have. Our ministering to them ought to be gentle and refreshing. The illustration is oil, not iodine!

We are to weep with those who weep. It doesn't mean we leave them weeping; or that we don't exhort them to press on. It means we show compassion, knowing that the human condition is a fragile one.

The way we minister to hurts is through the Word of God. We're not interested in hypnotism, or the healing of memories. We don't dabble with pop psychology, or psychotherapy of any kind. We are interested in letting the Word do its work deep in the heart – dividing between the soul and the spirit.

You are entrusted with the Holy Spirit for holiness. Anointing with oil set apart temple articles as holy to the Lord.

You and I are a kingdom of priests; you and I are the instruments God uses to minister to others. The New Testament calls us apart from the world to the pursuit of holiness, saying in Hebrews 12:14,

[Hebrews 12:14](#) Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

I don't use or remember very many quotes. I do use and remember one from Francis Schaeffer. He said something like this: "Show me what the world is doing and I will tell you what the Church will be doing in about seven years."

Dr. Schaeffer recognized that there is a tendency for us in the Church to be influenced by the trends and values in the world. We're still better than the world, but deteriorating.

Holiness is not just being a little better than our unbelieving neighbors. It is remaining separate from the influence and values of the world to serve God with purity.

We must check ourselves. Am I doing things that I would not have done seven years ago? If so, is it because I have matured – or deteriorated?

This segue's into the next point. You are entrusted with the Holy Spirit for holding decay. Dead bodies were anointed with oil to preserve them and to hold-back and restrain their decay. Jesus mentioned it with regard to His own burial (Matthew 26:12; Luke 23:56).

One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit in the world today is to hold-back and restrain the decay of this present evil world. In Second Thessalonians 2:6 & 7 the Holy Spirit is said to be restraining the full revelation of evil on planet earth. The very presence of the Holy Spirit within the Church is holding back judgment.

But it also says that He will be taken away. How will the Holy Spirit be taken away? He will be taken away when Jesus Raptures His church!

Prophecy must occupy our thoughts about the world around us. We know what is going to happen and it helps us to gain perspective on what is happening.

More than that, prophecy reminds us that there is an urgency about things that most people ignore. If it really might be today that Jesus

returns for His Church... then we are on the very brink of the Great Tribulation. There is no time to waste!

We ought to be occupying till He comes - busying ourselves serving Him.

Conclusion

The prophet in Second Kings was entrusted with God's anointing oil. When called upon to pour it, he was *expedient* and *obedient*.

1. He was expedient, acting with speed and efficiency.
2. He was obedient, as you read that he carried out his instruction to the letter.

You have been entrusted with God's Spirit:

Are you expedient? Do you give your very best to God? Your best time? Your best talents? Your best treasure?

Are you obedient? Are you willing to go anywhere God sends you, say only what God instructs you, and leave as soon as God dismisses you?

Be able to answer "Yes" to all of the above!