

# The Aroma of Christ

In Matthew 26, we read that just before the Passover, Mary anointed Jesus' head with pure nard. It is a rich and overwhelming fragrance that fills the whole room. It is also expensive, costing about 300 denarii or more than a year's salary. It is also known to have healing and embalming properties. The act of anointing one's head with oil means being chosen and blessed by God for ministry. Aaron, Saul and David were anointed in this manner. To anoint Jesus with extravagantly expensive oil amplifies that meaning. The act announces Jesus as The Chosen One; The Blessed One. He did not merely smell like a king, His fragrance superseded all kings. He is The King.

Yet on Good Friday, we see a stark contrast. We see Jesus gasping for air on the cross, bleeding from 39 lashes, lesions on his head and nails on his hands and feet. The stench of blood punctuates the atmosphere; a juxtaposition with the odour of pure nard. Jesus now smelled of death.

This is the aroma of Christ. Royalty and humility. Healing and suffering. Life and Death. It is a costly aroma to God and those who follow Him.

A peculiar symptom of covid19 is the loss of the sense of smell. However, there is a smell that no one can miss. And that is the aroma of Christ. In this covid19 trial, we are called to bring an aroma of healing no matter our circumstance. God has called us for this special season to bring a fragrance that draws people to Christ.

*But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? 2 Corinthians 2:14-16*

**Heavenly Father, we cannot stand before Your Holiness and live. Yet Your infinite grace and sacrifice gives us direct access to Your throne and You adopted us as Sons and Daughters. Give us the grace to be the aroma of Christ. And let our prayer be sweet incense to You. In Jesus's name I pray, Amen.**



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