

Intro: Cruise for our 39th anniversary. One of the highlights is always the dining room! Each evening dress for dinner Waiters would come and treat us as an honored guest! Escort to table, chit chat (how was your day) hold the chairs Place your napkin in your lap, explain the menu to you, offer recommendations. In short, treat you like royalty That is the kind of treatment David is referencing in Psalm 23rd tonight. Read it with me...Focus...*Anoint my head with oil*

READ PSALM 23: Thoughts about the Anointing

Now, anointing is not a very western thing...not something we are very familiar with, but entirely appropriate in eastern *In fact it was not only a regular occurrence, it was symbolic of a number of different things...most of which I think David sees*

1. Two Ordinary Reasons For Anointing.

These are the two things that are a part of polite society in their day and age.

Nothing unusual here, it is like what happens after eating in a Mexican or Italian restaurant. Way out..mints...for breath!

- Symbolic of you extending your favor, blessing or hospitality to an honored guest!
Eastern hospitality is renown for its expression of honor toward someone. Take being host very seriously. So, it was quite common that when a special guest, guest of honor came to a party or feast, Anoint them Symbolic of your extending your favor, blessing and your hospitality to them. They are honored by expensive oil Mt 26:6 Mary Anointing Jesus: Sometimes whole body, sometimes only head or feet
- Symbolic of joy and gladness:
Psalm 104:14 *“ wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart.*
When you anointed someone, you were expressing your joy at their presence, and they in receiving it were saying, I am happy to be here with you! This is a time of rejoicing and gladness for us all. Like party favor!

So here, when David speaks about God anointing our heads with oil he is saying, God Welcomes us into his presence!

Yes He IS our shepherd, yes he does provide for us, yes he does protect us, yes he does all of the things we have talked about so far...but NEVER forget...He does that because He LOVES us! He WELCOMES us into his presence...His heart is glad!!!

We are an honored Guest in His presence...not someone who slipped into the party when no one was looking!

We are like the prodigal son that has returned home in Luke!

A huge party and celebration was thrown...and HE was the guest of honor.

That is what David is telling us about God's heart toward us. He Anoints us...

2. The Religious Reasons For Anointing.

Just as there were some ordinary everyday reasons for anointing, in that culture there were some highly symbolic reasons One or two of them are similar to what we just talked about, just a little more specific, and at a higher level.

The others were included either in the directions from God about how His people were to live, or see them acted out regularly

- **Anointing used to indicate something belonged to God, and was set apart for Him!**
You see this regularly in the OT, esp when the Tabernacle (tent in wilderness) or Temple dedicated in Promised Land There was usually a very specific ceremony, involving ritual, prayer, worship...Anointing Ex 30: Special anointing oil ONLY used for those items used in worship: Ark of Covenant
- **Anointing indicted Divine Call and Stamp of Approval for service to God**
~Kings: David: 1 Samuel 16: David was anointed by Samul in Secret, indicating He was God's chosen king
~Prophets: 1 Kings 19 Elisha anointed to be a prophet
~Jesus was called "the Anointed One!"

When someone was anointed, it was a very physical act that was symbolic of a spiritual reality.

God has called this person, and God has put His stamp of approval upon their leadership and their ministry

It was a public way of letting the world know, THIS is God's man...God's person for this time and place

- **Anointing was indicative of God's empowering by the HS**
Again, symbolically of God's empowering by the HS to accomplish what He called you to!
Just as the oil was poured out on the body, so people understood it was symbolic of God's Spirt poured in your life

CONCL: Think about all of those things...Those are all held within that small statement...You Anoint my head with oil David says:

- You are an honored Guest...welcome in the presence of God
- You bring Him joy!
- You belong to Him: 1Cor 6: 20 *“You are not you own you are bought with a price”*
- You are called to serve Him: We are priests...go between with God and man, Saved to Serve and Share 1Pe 2:9 *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*
- You are empowered by the HS
1 Jn 2:20 *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth*

This week, remember those things...and live into each one of them!