

**BURUBURU COMMUNITY CENTRE
BURUBURU CHURCH OF GOD**

Sunday Service September 16, 2018

Lesson: ANOINTING

Text: Exodus 30:22-33

Anointing with oil is among the concepts and practices in the church that have been carried out with very little understanding and, many times, with a lot of misinterpretations. The reason it is important to study the Word of God is so that we can understand the meanings and purposes of God in anything we do as Christians and in the Lord's name. Have you noticed that there are many things we do even in the church without any explanations or understanding of why we do them. The sad thing about us in the church is that we go through rituals and ceremonies in our church life but we cannot explain to anyone what it means. Because of this, many things we do become empty rituals that don't touch anybody's life. Does coming to church change your life?

The Word of God demands that we be able to explain what we are about and what we do. It is not right for a Christian to live an empty and meaningless life. In Exodus 12:26 and Joshua 4:6 it is demanded by the Lord that we be able to answer and explain to our children when they ask us about what we do and what we have established. In 1 Peter 3:15 we are commanded to be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks us about our hope.

Anointing is one of the practices of the church that we need to understand so that we don't either ignore or abuse them. There are also things we do as Christians or the church that are not effective because of lack of understanding or meaning in what we do.

Definition:

English – To pour oil or water on somebody's head in a religious ceremony.

Biblical – the pouring of oil or rubbing or smearing with oil in a religious ceremony. In Kiswahili we use the word UPAKO which derives from the idea of rubbing or smearing.

Element:

The basic item used in anointing is oil. In the Bible the Lord gave basic instructions for the preparation of the oil to be used in anointing. There were a few other elements to be mixed with the Olive Oil, especially spices with special fragrances, to constitute the sacred anointing oil (Exo. 25:6; 30:22-25). This oil was not to be used for any other purpose and no one was allowed to make anything else like it (Exo. 25:31-33).

For the church today, there is anointing oil provided and is used by many ministers and churches. It is mostly Olive Oil. Once it is dedicated for the use of the Lord's ministry, it should remain for that purpose alone.

Purpose:

The practice of anointing was known among Egyptians, Hebrews, Greeks, Romans, and in the Far Eastern regions. It was mainly for the purposes of skin care, to check the drying of skin in hot climates. The care was extended to the care of the dead bodies to check decay (Mark 14:8; Luke 23:56).

In the Bible:

1. It became an expression of joy and hospitality as indicated in Psa. 23:5; 92:10; 133:10; Heb. 1:9).
2. It was used for healing purposes (Isa. 1:6; Mrk. 6:13; Jas. 5:14), however, the healing that is brought about here is not from some magical powers. In James 5:14, for example, it is the prayer of faith that brings about healing.
3. The key Biblical purpose of anointing is with two concepts behind it: one is of cleansing and the other of consecration for service to God. The one of cleansing includes healing as mentioned in Mark 6:13 and James 5:14 – the idea of anointing for healing is associated with the rubbing or smearing of oil. The second concept is of consecration which has the meaning of setting aside for purposes of worship or service to God and, therefore, making sacred/holy. What is anointed can never be for ordinary use anymore.

Anointing was a way of consecrating someone or something for a holy purpose, such as bestowing power on a king, a prophet, or a priest, thus setting apart for a holy purpose. (Gen. 28:18; 35:14; Exo. 29:7; 30:23-25, 30-33; 1 Kings 1:39). The king was therefore referred to as "the Lord's anointed" (1 Sam. 24:6), hence the term "Mashiah" in Hebrew or "Christos" in Greek. Places and items were also anointed for the purposes of God.

Examples from the Old Testament: Jacob anointed the place of his meeting with God by pouring oil on the ground (Gen. 35:13-14). Kings Saul and David were anointed by Samuel to rule over Israel (1 Sam. 10:1; 16:13). Aaron and his sons were anointed as priests and so were their garments (Exo. 28:41; 29:7, 21; 30:30; Num. 3:3). The sanctuary and all the items in it were anointed (Exo. 30:26-29; Lev. 8:10). Prophets were the anointed ones of the Lord (1 Chron. 16:22).

In the New Testament Jesus came as the Anointed of God (Luk. 4:18; Acts 4:26-27). It speaks of Jesus Christ as being anointed by God with the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38). Believers in the church are genuinely anointed by God who endowed them with his Spirit (1 Cor. 1:21-22; 1 Jhn. 2:20; 2:27).

In the church today anointing is symbolic of the endowment with the Holy Spirit for a purpose and for knowledge of truth (1 Sam. 10:1, 6; Isa. 61:1; John 16:14). It is Jesus who anoints his followers with the Holy Spirit, the life giver.

In all this we notice that:

1. Anointing cannot be taken lightly as it is supposed to be the act of God. Nobody is allowed to abuse or ignore whatever is anointed.
2. The anointing of oil is applied upon specific units, such as individual persons, groups, places and items.
3. It is never meant generally to everybody. When done, the purpose must be clearly known.

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