

TAKE-HOME • SESSION 3

Oil and Anointing

What We Found

Israel poured oil on three kinds of people: priests, prophets, and kings, the three who stand between God and the people. The sacred oil marked a person as claimed, set apart, no longer merely their own, and when Samuel poured it on David, the Spirit of the LORD came in the same moment: sign and gift together. The Hebrew word for an anointed person is *mashiach*; in Greek it is *christos*. So "Christ" is not a last name. It is a claim: Jesus is THE Anointed One, the final priest, prophet, and king. The Church reads Isaiah's promise of a shoot from the stump of Jesse as pointing to Him: one on whom the Spirit would not rush but rest, carrying His gifts; the traditional list of seven follows the Church's ancient Greek and Latin translations of that verse. And Peter later said an astonishing thing: God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit. No horn of oil appears anywhere in the Gospels. So somewhere in the story is an anointing we have all read without recognizing it.

Voices of the Church

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Irenaeus of Lyons (*Against Heresies, Book III, chapter 18*)

The very name "Christ" contains the whole Trinity: it implies the One who anoints, the One who is anointed, and the Anointing itself with which He is anointed. The Father anoints, the Son is anointed, and the anointing is the Holy Spirit.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Thomas Aquinas (*Summa Theologiae I-II, q. 68*)

The gifts of the Holy Spirit that the Church names from Isaiah 11 are not passing jolts of inspiration but abiding dispositions: they perfect a person so as to be readily and promptly moved by the Holy Spirit. The gifts make a soul easy for God to steer.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Cyril of Jerusalem (*Mystagogical Catecheses, Lecture 3*)

St. Cyril told the newly initiated of Jerusalem plainly: through the anointing they share in Christ and are rightly called Christians, anointed ones bearing the Anointed One's own name.

Live It This Week

Parent and candidate together: seven gifts, seven days. Each day this week, pray one sentence together for that day's gift: "Come, Holy Spirit, give us the gift of N."

Monday: wisdom. **Tuesday:** understanding. **Wednesday:** counsel. **Thursday:** fortitude. **Friday:** knowledge. **Saturday:** piety. **Sunday:** fear of the Lord.

One sentence, one gift, once a day. By Sunday you will have prayed the whole sevenfold gift over your house.

Memory Verse

"And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD." (Isaiah 11:2)

Table Talk

One question for the drive home or the dinner table: Which of the seven gifts does our family need most right now, and what would change if we had it?

Before Next Session

Read Ezekiel 36:24-28, slowly, twice.

Catechism references for this session: CCC 436, 695, 1831.