

TAKE-HOME • SESSION 5

The Anointed One

What We Found

We solved Peter's riddle. He said God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit, yet no horn of oil appears anywhere in the Gospels, because the Messiah's anointing was better than oil. At the Jordan, the sinless one stood in the sinners' line on purpose, and as he prayed, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended in bodily form as a dove, and the Father's voice claimed him: "You are my beloved Son." John the Baptist was told to watch for one identifying detail: the One on whom the Spirit would descend AND REMAIN. Rest; remain: Isaiah's seven-hundred-year-old verb, landing. Then at Nazareth, Jesus found Isaiah's anointing text in the scroll, read "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me," and said the word that changed everything: today.

Voices of the Church

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Irenaeus of Lyons (*Against Heresies, Book III, chapter 17*)

At the Jordan the Spirit descended on the Son of God made Son of man, and in him began growing accustomed to dwelling in the human race. What the Spirit practiced on Christ, he intended for us: having learned to rest on one man, he would come to rest on mankind.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Hilary of Poitiers (*Commentary on Matthew*)

Everything that took place over Christ at his baptism is a lesson about ourselves: after the washing with water, the Holy Spirit comes down upon us, and we are bathed in the Father's voice declaring us his children. What happened over the Jordan is the pattern of what happens over every Christian.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Gregory Nazianzen (*Oration 39, On the Holy Lights*)

Christ comes up out of the water carrying the world up with him. Christ is bathed in light; let us also be bathed. He steps into our water so that we can step into his life.

Live It This Week

Parent and candidate together. Sometime this week, parents: tell your candidate the story of their own baptism. Who was there, what the day was like, what you remember feeling. Get out photos or the certificate or the candle if you have them. If the memories are thin or complicated, tell what you can and finish with the one sentence that is the whole point: "We brought you, and God claimed you."
Candidates: your only job is to ask one question about that day.

Memory Verse

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor." (Luke 4:18)

Table Talk

One question for the drive home or the dinner table: At the Jordan, the Father said "beloved" before Jesus had done anything public at all. What would change in our house if we believed God's first word over each of us is "beloved"?

Before Next Session

Read John 14:15-26. The night before he died, Jesus made his friends a promise about Someone he called the Counselor. Read it slowly, and circle every single thing Jesus says this Counselor will do.

Catechism references for this session: CCC 536, 537, 1286.