



This message was preached on Sunday Morning, March 24, 2024

OUR QUOTE (Mike Tyson): "Everyone has a plan until they are punched in the face." MY QUOTE: "Everyone thinks they are blessed until famine comes."

HONESTLY: This is just a statement that says, there are a lot of Christians that think they are doing "fine" until the battle comes along and they realize they are not fine at all. They really don't have a hold of faith, like they thought.

And the PUNCH IN THE FACE causes us to fall back instead of stand strong!

We've spend the past several weeks talking about pulling back vs. aggressive faith. Don't let the enemy cause you to pull back!

BELOVED: Romans 8:37 tells us that we ARE more than conquerors! However, we continue to get smacked and continue to pull back. The one thing we can be assured of...if we pull back, we will NOT conquer anything!

This got me thinking...

The sport that Mike Tyson was specifically referring to with the "punched in the face" quote is boxing. A couple important things in boxing to keep the enemy from landing THAT punch is obviously a good defense...keeping your guard up!

Which we are not going to talk about...but is important (armor of God).

One area that is NOT known much is Vasoline! Yep, the gooey grease-like substance. They put it on the boxers face and sometimes on areas of the body...but mostly on the face. Why?

To keep the boxing gloves (of the opponent) from sticking to the face and tearing the skin (cutting the skin)—talk about how the hitters twist their gloves on contact. The Vasoline will cause the punch to not necessarily land flush and will cause the gloves to slide off the face. It keeps from cutting the face and adding blood to the equation.

NOW: What does this have to do with us...getting punched in the face by the enemy?

Psalm 23:5 – "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

I have heard many description of this part of the verse...but there is only one that seems in context. **REMEMBER:** David is looking at himself as a sheep (who he has cared for for years) and God as the Good Shepherd. David is not looking at himself as a king...or a soldier...or anything else. He is reminding us that no matter who we are in life...no matter how seemingly BIG or seemingly SMALL...we are all still dumb ole sheep.

Get Oiled Up

"Anointest" - to rub or smear like butter

HERE IS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN: During the warmer months the sheep would be out in the pasture trying to rest. However, there would be these pests that would come and swarm at the sheep's head. They would buzz and fly all around and would keep the sheep in a constant state of agitation.

QUESTION: What is it about the enemy and our head?

KENNETH HAGIN: "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair."

THE ONE CURE to these buzzing pests were for the shepherd to put a balm/ointment on the head of the sheep. When that balm was applied...the pests stayed away...the sheep went on and lived life without the agitation.

Jeremiah grieved for his people who had turned from the Lord and asked:

<u>Jeremiah 8:22</u> – "Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?"

The enemy is having his way with God's people...and it shouldn't be!

AGAIN: The enemy loves to mess with your head...punch you in the face.

DID YOU KNOW: The enemy never comes with just a battle in the flesh...but always corresponding head games?

BELOVED: There are a lot of Christians who are being TAKEN OUT by the enemy because when the enemy hits...it hits flush and cuts and hurts and takes time to heal...and before it can heal, he hits again!

QUESTION: What's a Christian to do?

ANSWER: Walk in the Anointing of the Holy Spirit.

<u>Isaiah 10:27</u> – "And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing."

The anointing is available to all Christians...to see burdens removed and yokes destroyed.

YES: There is an anointing for specific callings (five-fold). Notice when kings were anointed, when prophets were anointed, etc.

YET: There, according to Psalm 23, there is an anointing for every Christian for daily use. Too goop on their heads and keep the enemies punches from landing flush.

There is an anointing that brings healing to His people.

HOWEVER: Most Christians are unaware of that anointing.

"Anointing" – It is God's supernatural power added to our power giving us power to succeed in any challenges we face. It is a tangible presence and power of God that is applied to His people...to manifest that power and presence in their lives. **NOTE:** It also spreads to others we touch.

<u>2 Corinthians 2:14</u> – "Now thanks be unto God, *which always causeth us to triumph in Christ*, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

NOTICE: Our place of triumph is IN CHRIST. That is not just the person of Jesus...it is the anointing that He operated under.

That same anointing is available to all of us.

"In Christ" – it is like we have put HIM on (yes, I know He dwells in us...but the anointing means that He also encompasses us).

So, our TRIUMPH comes because we have put Him on!

Get Oiled Up

Jesus had that anointing!

Matthew 3:16 – "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:"

When Jesus started His ministry...the Holy Spirit came upon Him...He was enveloped by the Holy Spirit (inside and out).

THEREFORE: Every attack the enemy threw at Jesus...it didn't land!

The early church had that anointing.

<u>Luke 24:49</u> – "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry *ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."*

"endued" - sinking into a garment, to array, to put on.

Acts 1:4,5

- And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.
- For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

QUESTION: What were they waiting for? The anointing of the Holy Spirit to endue (clothe) them.

Acts 1:8 – "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

BELOVED: When you are born-again...the Holy Spirit takes up residence inside of you...when you receive the Holy Spirit (His gift), you become immersed in Him. Enclothed in Him!

The disciples were getting ready for a task where they would be continually punched in the face...if they tried to do what they were being called to do without the anointing on them...they would quit at the first sign of pressure.

The Old Testament men and women of God did super-natural things when the Spirit came upon them.

The church of the LIVING God should not be any less than the Old Testament saints.

Matthew 25:1-13

- Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.
- 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:
- 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.
- 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.
- And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.
- 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.
- 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, *Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*
- 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.
- And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.
- 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.
- But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.
- Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

NOTE: This is a picture of the end times.

YES: It is a direct picture of letting your light shine.

Get Oiled Up

HOWEVER: I want to show you another picture of what would happen, as we get closer to the coming of Jesus.

There would be a lot of Christians who are NOT getting oiled up.

They used to get oiled up...but they just ran out of oil.

WHY? Busyness? Laziness? Bad teaching?

Because they ran out of oil...the enemies punches are taking them out.

We know that God insists that we sow seed...that we give!

Vs. 8, 9 – **HOWEVER:** When it comes to the OIL...you need to get your own.

(Yes, you can have a pastor lay hands on you for healing, etc.)

You have to keep your oil full! Stay oiled up!

(**NOTE:** In between rounds the boxers would have more oil added.)

Conclusion

BILL JOHNSON: It doesn't matter what problem you have, you need an immersion in the Spirit of God. In His presence!

- 1.) Time with Him.
- 2.) Speak in your heavenly language.