

## **Title: The aroma of Jesus.**

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**Theme:** Touching your community with the loveliness of Christ.

### **Introduction.**

**How does the church become more effective in touching the community?**

**It is by the life of every individual believer spreading the aroma of Christ.**

**We need to see the whole body of Christ mobilized in a readiness to spread the fragrance of Christ!**

There was something about the life of Jesus that attracted people; from the crowds to the lone individual! People from all walks of life and especially sinners wanted to be with Him and wanted to hear Him. They were drawn to Him like bees to flowers.

**Text: Luke 15:1**

Luke 15: 1 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him.
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What caused this and can we have it too? What did Jesus have that we need? Are people drawn to you or repelled by you? What aroma are you spreading? (My conf exper)

### **1. What was the aroma that came from the life of Jesus?**

Jesus was real and relational yet truthful. He showed tremendous love, forgiveness and kindness in word and deed. He had compassion for people and lived to serve. Although He was real His spirituality was not hidden but proved by the supernatural power that manifested through Him.

In short He lived a powerful and compassionate life that gave people hope! He had a ministry of encouragement!

## **2. How is this aroma released through our lives?**

It is only possible for the aroma of Christ to be released as we live from the revelation that Christ is in us. You can only give what you've got!

His aroma is released best:

- From a life lived from the throne room; from His presence; from the secret place; the place of abiding and intimacy with Him. From this place the loveliness of Christ breaks through my humanity and touches others.
- From a Christ like attitude toward others. God is not interested in your opinion about others but in your attitude toward them.
- As we live in agreement with and obedience to the Holy Spirit, not in ignorance or conflict. Such is a life of harmony. Your mouth can't be a fly trap and your heart a fragrant rose garden. That kind of conflict will put people off and make them suspicious.
- As we live the victorious life not the defeated life. (2 Cor. 2:14-16) No one wants to play for the losing team!
- When we live to serve God's purpose in humility. Living beyond yourself; washing the feet of the world.
- As we endeavour to live in **truth and integrity**.
- From a life that keeps Christ at the center in crisis and success.

**The aroma of Jesus is not released in doing first but in being!**

### 3. The stage is set!

God has set the stage for you to touch others.

Pray that God will give you insight into the good works He has prepared for you to walk in. I have found that small things can have a big impact. (Ill of stone in the shoe)

Eph. 2: 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God **prepared beforehand** that we should walk in them.

(Phil. 2:13)

Look for the opportunity to show His kindness to at least one person every day and trust God for opportunities to show His wisdom in challenging situations!

Eph. 3:10 ... to the intent that now the manifold **wisdom of God** might be **made known by the church** to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*,

Take more risks in showing God's kindness and obey the Holy Spirit. (Jack's story) That's where the adventure of Christian living starts!

### 4. Eyes wide open!

Ask God specifically to open your eyes for divine opportunities to touch people with His loveliness. Expect these divine openings and be bold to take them! Every change, every challenge and even everyday happenings that people face, present opportunities to touch their lives. The secret is to have your focus not on yourself but on others via the leading of the Spirit! Get your grace assignment from Him for each day.

**Use every opportunity He brings to its full potential!**

(Eph. 5:15, 16- NIV)

Eph. 5: 15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> **making the most of every opportunity**, because the days are evil.

May He cause you to see what He sees; His plan and purpose; the potential locked up in people even beneath their sin. (Woman that anointed the feet of Jesus – Cathy's story)

## **Conclusion.**

**What is the aroma of your life? You are called to leave the fragrance of Christ with everyone who crosses your path, sometimes in word sometimes in deed; spontaneously and intentionally! We must ask ourselves the question; “When I have been with people do they have more of Jesus or more of me?”**

Let your life release His aroma in your family, and where you work and play. His aroma is irresistible! It's the aroma of life! It says to people that there is hope and forgiveness, a Father that loves them no matter what!

For the Christian to be relevant and make a difference in this world it means that you have to be **active in the will of God**. We are called to carry His aroma from the secret place of His presence into a desperate world.