



**Jabulani  
Mudenda,**

Zimbabwe  
[1975-2021]

It is with earthly sorrow that we share the news that Jabulani Mudenda, long-term friend of Challenge, and distributor, has gone home to be with the Lord.

Jabulani's work also involved orphanages, distribution of bicycles and Bibles to rural pastors, President of Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe (2010-14).

Jabulani succumbed to injuries sustained in a road accident, in which colleague Godwin Saungweme also sustained serious injuries.

Jabulani is survived by his wife, Zondiwe, and three daughters.

*During times like this when we seem to have more questions than answers, we remember that our strength and hope does not come from knowing and understanding all that God is doing. Rather, our strength and hope comes from knowing God Himself. He is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of need (Psalm 46:1).*

# 15 October 2021

**PSALM 23** is a small passage of scripture but is so full of truth. The second half of v5 says, *"You anoint my head with oil, my cup runs over."*



## THE LORD MY SHEPHERD

### PART 7

So often our view of this Psalm can be seen in the light of meeting our physical needs only, however, this section of Psalm 23 reveals to us that God is vitally interested in meeting our daily **spiritual** needs.

The anointing with oil introduces to us a symbol of the Holy Spirit and the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit. The shepherd used oil as a means of protecting his flock from some sinister dangers. Two examples in particular stand out. The first one was the risk of sheep being bitten by snakes. The viper lives under-ground and as the sheep grazed there was always the danger that a snake would poke its head up and bite the unsuspecting sheep.

The shepherd dealt with this problem by doing a survey of the pasture while leading his sheep. If he spotted a viper hole he would get out his container of oil and pour out a ring of oil around the hole. The oil, at least for a while, would prevent the viper emerging from the hole to attack the flock.

The other example where oil was such an important part of the shepherd caring for his flock was as an insect repellent. Insects of various kinds can make life almost unbearable for some animals. For sheep the appearance of the nasal fly can cause great distress. These flies lay their eggs in the soft tissue membrane of the sheep's nose, and once the larvae emerge they start to burrow into the very sensitive nasal tissue, which can drive a sheep literally mad.

In a vain attempt to gain some relief from what must be excruciating pain, the sheep will deliberately beat their heads against trees, rocks or thick brush. So it is no surprise when a swarm of flies arrive that a flock of sheep can start to panic by running around, trying to hide in rocks or brush to escape. The shepherd knows that his sheep are troubled because they throw their heads back for hours. Some of the sheep stop eating and their general health can start to deteriorate.

**CONTINUED  
OVER**

To stop all of this unsettled behaviour the shepherd anoints the sheep's head with some scented oil which keeps the flies at bay. If we as Christians are going to be the witnesses that we know God wants us to be, we need to be filled, anointed, empowered by the Holy Spirit, so that regardless of the circumstances we are at peace within ourselves.

It is not long before you can see whether a person is filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit. Our reaction to a problem, situation or a word of criticism, or an unkind action soon tells us whether a person is controlled by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5v18 says this, *"And do not be drunk with wine...But be filled with the Holy Spirit."* Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not an optional extra to the Christian life, but foundational and fundamental to a fruitful Christian life and service.

The tense of this verse indicates that we are to be filled moment by moment with the Holy Spirit. The word filled can be misleading because it can distract us from the fact that the Holy Spirit is not some nebulous force or influence or liquid. We are to be controlled by the Spirit in our thoughts, choices and appetites.

It is interesting to note that once the sheep's head is anointed it brings rest to the remaining parts of the body. We as Christians need to have the anointing work of the Holy Spirit upon our minds. The mind is the critical area that the enemy aims for when he wants us to cave in to temptation. If he controls the mind he controls everything else. This is why the writer of Proverbs says, "As a man thinks so is he." How we think ultimately determines how we act. Talk to someone who has been hooked on internet pornography. Ask them how they got hooked and they will tell you one day they made a choice to open an email, and very quickly they lost control of their minds.

Oil was often used by the shepherd to help sheep who had been hurt or wounded in some way. How we need the healing balm of the Holy Spirit to deal with our hurts, those relational wounds that have been weeping for years. Often we battle with forgiveness, bitterness, or hurt because something has not turned out the way we had expected. Just recently a friend applied for a job which he felt he was suitable for. Unfortunately he was not appointed and as a result he has decided to move on from his employment feeling somewhat disillusioned and hurt. It seems that daily we need the healing balm of God's Holy Spirit to help us keep a right perspective on the various issues that come across our path. So I think it is absolutely necessary that we daily seek from God a fresh unction, a fresh anointing, a fresh fullness of the Holy Spirit so we can know His moment by moment leading and direction.

{ CARL CARMODY  
EDITOR CHALLENGE }

#### **PRAISE the Lord for:**

The many ministries and individuals that continue to use the paper for evangelism  
A substantial gift received towards the setting up of our new project in the Philippines  
Each person who has committed their life to Christ through the testimonies/articles in the paper

#### **PRAYER needed for:**

The latest edition of Challenge as it is distributed around Australia. Pray that as people read the paper their hearts will be open to the gospel  
Promotion and development trip to Tasmania for Carl and Kevin (17 Nov – 1 Dec)  
Our upcoming Christmas edition of the paper in terms of content and orders

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