

Devoted to Christ

Lesson 01 of 04 in the series: "Devoted 2021"

A. Three important definitions:

1. Devoted = loyal, loving, committed, true.
2. Christ = Messiah = "anointed one". *Note:* "Christ" is a title, NOT Jesus' last name or a cuss word.
3. "Anointing" = placing olive oil on the head of an OT leader to designate him for a particular role, set him apart for service, and symbolize God's Spirit being poured out on him.

B. Three important leadership roles for which people were anointed in the OT:

1. Prophets: "Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm." 1 Chronicles 16:22 (NIV)
Note: OT prophets spoke the Word of the Lord, foretold the future, and performed miracles.
2. Priests: "With their anointing, Aaron's descendants are set apart for the priesthood forever, from generation to generation." Exodus 40:15b (NLT)
Note: OT Priests were mediators between Holy God and sinful people, and they offered sacrifices to atone for the sins of the people.
3. Kings: "So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on..."
1 Samuel 16:13 (NLT)
Note: OT Kings were God's chosen leaders of His people. They sovereignly ruled over God's people, protected them, and conquered their enemies.

C. Three reasons why Jesus is THE Anointed One:

1. Jesus is the ultimate prophet.
 - Jesus speaks the Word of God because He is the Word of God. "So the Word became human and made his home among us." John 1:14a (NLT)
 - Jesus knows the future because He is the Eternal One. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." Revelation 22:13 (NLT)
 - Jesus performs amazing miracles because He is the All-powerful One. "John the Baptist... sent his disciples to ask Jesus, 'Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?' Jesus told them, 'Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.'" Matthew 11:2-5 (NLT)

Life Application: Because Jesus is the ultimate prophet, we can count on God speaking to us, guiding us into the future, and doing miracles in our lives. "By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence." 2 Peter 1:3 (NLT)
2. Jesus is the ultimate priest.
 - Jesus is the only mediator who can reconcile sinful people and Holy God. "...There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone." 1 Timothy 2:5-6a (NLT)
 - Jesus is our High Priest AND the permanent sacrifice for our sins. "Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time." Hebrews 10:11-12a (NLT)

Life Application: "So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."
Hebrews 4:14-16 (NLT)

3. Jesus is the ultimate King.

- Jesus is God's chosen leader to sovereignly rule over all mankind. "Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True... On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords." Revelation 19:11, 16 (NLT)
- Jesus is our protector and has conquered sin, Satan, and death. "The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out." John 12:31 (NLT) "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? For sin is the sting that results in death... But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57 (NLT)

Life Application: Because Jesus is the ultimate King, we can live victoriously. "...we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." Romans 8:37 (NIV)

Life Application: I must decide whether or not I am devoted to Jesus Christ.

"...(Jesus) asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'" Matthew 16:13-16 (NKJV)

"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God." 1 John 5:1a (NLT)

Note: "We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. What does the word "devoted" mean to you?
2. What does the word "Christ" mean to you? Why do you think it is frequently used as a cuss word in our culture?
3. Discuss the following three OT leadership roles that only Jesus fills perfectly:

Jesus is the ultimate prophet.

- He speaks the Word of God (John 1:14, Matthew 7:28-29)
- He foretells the future. (Revelation 22:13, Matthew 24:3-14)
- He performs amazing miracles. (Matthew 8:23-27, 11:2-5)

Jesus is the ultimate priest.

- He is the only mediator who can reconcile sinful people and Holy God. (1 Timothy 2:5-6)
- He is our High Priest AND the permanent sacrifice for our sins. (Hebrews 10:11-12)

Jesus is the ultimate king.

- He is God's chosen leader to sovereignly rule over all mankind forever. (Luke 1:30-33, Revelation 19:11-16)
- He is our protector and has conquered Satan and death. (John 12:31, 1 Corinthians 15:54-58, Revelation 1:18)

4. 1 John 1:5 says, "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God." Why does this matter? (Matthew 16:13-16, Galatians 2:20)
5. What do you think Centerpoint would look like if 100% of us became fully engaged in following Christ?
6. Read Romans 5:8. How does it make you feel to know that God was devoted to us long before we were devoted to Him?