

OF THE PROPHET & PROPHETESS





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THE PRICE OF THE PROPHET AND PROPHETESS

The Cost of the Oil

Written by Pastor Keith Joel Walker In life, there are certain things that come with a price tag—a cost that must be paid for the treasures we seek. This is especially true in the spiritual realm, where the price of anointing, wisdom, and prophetic insight often requires sacrifice, perseverance, and a deep commitment to the journey of faith.

The Cost of the Anointing

When we speak of the "price of the prophet and prophetess," we refer to the spiritual cost associated with those who are called to deliver God's messages. Just as the oil used in anointing carries significance, so does the process of obtaining that oil. The cost of the oil represents the spiritual preparation, the trials, and the intimate relationship with God that are necessary for a person to stand as a prophet or prophetess.

• Sacrifice and Surrender: There is a price to pay for spiritual depth. It involves surrendering our desires, ambitions, and sometimes even our comfort. Those who are called to prophetic ministry often face challenges that refine their character and deepen their reliance on God. The price tag for a true prophet or prophetess costs you everything; your whole life must be surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Master Potter, the Master Cobbler, and the Master Builder. • Value of the Anointing: Many do not understand the value of the anointing or the depth of the preparation that goes into it. Just as a master cobbler spends countless hours crafting shoes that are built to last, a prophet or prophetess invests time in prayer, fasting, and studying the Word. The anointing is not something that can be bought cheaply; it is forged through experience and divine encounter.

The Analogy of the Master Cobbler

Consider the analogy of the master cobbler in Italy who creates exquisite, handmade shoes. These shoes, crafted with precision and care, may come with a hefty price tag—\$800 to \$1,000 or more. To the untrained eye, this price may seem exorbitant. However, for those who understand the craft, the value of such shoes is immeasurable.

Craftsmanship: The rare master cobbler embodies skill and artistry, pouring hours of labor into each pair. The shoes are not just functional; they are a testament to quality and longevity. A wise buyer recognizes that investing in a single pair of shoes that will last 10-20 years is far more economical than purchasing multiple cheaper pairs that will fall apart.
Perspective on Value: My father often said, "Boy, you get what you pay for." This wisdom rings true in many areas of life, especially in our spiritual journey.

The true cost of discipleship and prophetic living may seem high, but the rewards far outweigh the sacrifices. Those who are willing to pay the price will find that the value of their investment is evident in the fruit of their lives.

The Story of the Young Boy and the Master Cobbler

Imagine a young boy who dreams of walking freely and confidently, despite the challenges he faces due to his disability. He learns about a master cobbler renowned for crafting special shoes that can help children like him walk with ease. The boy approaches the master cobbler and expresses his desire for a pair of shoes tailored just for him.

The master cobbler agrees to take on the challenge but explains that creating such a unique design will take time—months, perhaps even years. The boy, willing to pay the price, commits to sitting by the master cobbler's side, learning the craft, and listening intently to his wisdom. He understands that the journey to obtaining these special shoes involves not just financial cost but also patience, dedication, and a willingness to learn.

As the boy spends countless hours observing the master cobbler, he witnesses the meticulous process

involved in creating each shoe. He sees the precision, the artistry, and the love poured into every stitch. He understands that these shoes are not merely products; they are crafted with care and purpose.

One day, the master cobbler passes away, leaving behind a legacy of craftsmanship and compassion. The young boy, now a skilled cobbler himself, takes over the operation. He honors the master's legacy by continuing to create shoes not only for himself but for disabled children all over the world. His company becomes renowned for its dedication to helping the less fortunate, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to walk with dignity.

The Challenge of the Modern Generation

In today's world, many are drawn to the allure of quick fixes and instant gratification. The idea of investing time, effort, and resources into something that requires patience and endurance can be daunting. Some may have the means to pay the price, but they hesitate, failing to see the long-term benefits of their investment.

• Spiritual Shortcuts: The temptation to seek shortcuts or to settle for cheap imitations can lead to a lack of depth in spiritual life. Just as one might opt for cheap shoes that wear out quickly, individuals may seek quick spiritual experiences that leave them unfulfilled.

• Understanding True Value: It is essential for believers to recognize the value of the anointing and the prophetic voice. Investing in a relationship with God, seeking His presence, and cultivating a life of prayer and worship are invaluable. The cost may be high, but the rewards of a deep, abiding relationship with the Master are eternal.

The Price Paid by Old Testament Prophets

Throughout the Old Testament, many prophets paid a heavy price for their calling:

 Moses: He endured the wilderness for 40 years, leading a stubborn people and facing rejection.
 His deep relationship with God came at the cost of personal sacrifice and leadership challenges.

2. Elijah: The prophet faced persecution from Queen Jezebel and had to flee for his life. His prophetic ministry was marked by challenges and loneliness, but he remained faithful to God's call.

3. Jeremiah: Known as the "weeping prophet," he faced ridicule, imprisonment, and rejection for delivering God's messages. His life was one of deep sorrow and unwavering commitment to God's truth. 4. Isaiah: He prophesied during tumultuous times and faced hostility for his messages. Tradition holds that he was martyred for his faithfulness to God.

The Price Paid by New Testament Ministers

In the New Testament, the fivefold ministers also paid a significant price for their calling:

1. Paul: He endured shipwrecks, beatings, imprisonment, and ultimately martyrdom for the sake of the Gospel. His letters reflect the depth of his suffering and the joy of his calling.

2. Peter: He was imprisoned and ultimately crucified upside down for his faith. His journey from denial to bold proclamation exemplifies the cost of discipleship.

3. Stephen: The first martyr of the church, he paid the ultimate price for his faith by standing boldly for Christ, even in the face of death.

4. John: Exiled to the island of Patmos for his testimony of Jesus, he suffered isolation but received profound revelations that would shape Christian theology.

5. James: The brother of Jesus, he faced persecution

and was ultimately martyred. His leadership in the early church exemplified a life committed to the teachings of Christ.

Conclusion

The price of the prophet and prophetess and the cost of the oil serve as powerful reminders of the sacrifices required for spiritual depth and anointing. Just as a master cobbler creates shoes that last a lifetime, so too does God craft His prophets through trials, prayer, and devotion. In a world that often seeks the cheap and easy, may we be willing to pay the price for the treasures of the Kingdom.

Let us invest in our spiritual lives, recognizing that the true value lies not in the immediate but in the lasting impact of a life fully surrendered to God. In doing so, we will find that the oil of anointing flows freely, empowering us to fulfill our divine calling. The story of the young boy and the master cobbler illustrates that true value is found in dedication, learning, and a commitment to serving others, ensuring that the legacy of love and craftsmanship continues for generations to come.

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