



AN ATMOSPHERE OF WORSHIP

The Fragrance of a Surrendered Life



A Fragrance of Worship — A Life Poured Out Before Him

Surrender • Fragrance • Devotion

“Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.”

—John 12:3

THE FRAGRANCE OF WORSHIP

What does it mean to create an atmosphere of worship?

Worship is more than music, singing, dancing, or something we do when we gather together. True worship flows from **a surrendered life**—a heart wholly devoted to the One we love and adore.



There is something beautiful that happens when we let go of ourselves and press into the presence of God. Our attention shifts away from ourselves and toward Him.

Worship becomes an offering.

Mary of Bethany gives us one of the most beautiful pictures of extravagant worship in Scripture. She came before Yeshua with something extremely precious and costly—a **pound of pure spikenard**.

- She poured it upon Him.
- She anointed His feet.
- She wiped His feet with her hair.

And Scripture tells us:

“And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.”
—**John 12:3**

Imagine being in that room. The fragrance of the spikenard would have permeated the atmosphere. Everyone present would have known that something costly had been poured out upon Yeshua.

But there was another fragrance filling that house—the fragrance of **Mary's extravagant love and devotion**. She was not concerned about what others thought. She was focused upon the One she loved.

A COSTLY OFFERING

Not everyone understood Mary's worship. Judas questioned why such costly fragrant oil had been “wasted” rather than sold. Yet Yeshua defended Mary and recognized the significance of what she had done. True surrender costs us something.

It may cost us our pride.

It may cost us the approval of others.

It may require us to lay down our plans, our desires, or our need to remain in control.

But when our hearts truly recognize **Who He is**, our worship is no longer about what we are giving up. **It becomes about what He is worthy to receive.**

“Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me.”
—**Mark 14:6**

Mary's worship was remembered because it came from a heart of extravagant devotion.



THE ALABASTER FLASK

The alabaster vessel contained something precious. In much the same way, **our lives are vessels before the LORD**. What we carry within us will eventually be poured out.

Paul writes:

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

—2 Corinthians 4:7

There are times when surrender requires a breaking—a breaking of pride, self-will, fear, or anything else that keeps us from giving ourselves wholly to Him. The breaking is not the end. **It is often where the pouring out begins.**

THAT DAY MY FLASK BROKE

I experienced a breaking in my own life several years ago—a breakthrough in worship that changed me forever.

It began at a ladies' meeting. My pastor said: **“Lora, sit in this chair, and girls, surround her and pray for a breakthrough in worship in Lora's life.”**

I have to smile when I remember it because I sat down with a rather **defiant plop**—and actually hurt my elbow! Nothing seemed to happen at that ladies' meeting.

BUT GOD...

Two days later, during worship on Sunday morning, my pastor said: **“Anyone called to the Worship Arts Ministry, stand up.”** Before I even realized what I was doing, I found myself standing! I looked around almost wondering, *how did that happen?*

Oh, the defiant one that I was!

Then my pastor spoke a prophetic word over me—that I would have **a warfare dance and fire in my feet**. Something broke open within me that day. I stood throughout the two-hour service waving a red worship flag. I could not sit down.

That day my flask broke!

The worship that had been held inside of me began to pour out. Something had changed, and I knew I would never be the same.



The fragrance of worship came out of my life.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Here are a few questions to ponder...selah.

- **Is there an area of your life you have not fully surrendered?**
- **Are you holding something back from the LORD?**
- **Do you know Yeshua personally and intimately?**
- **Are you willing to pour out your life before Him without worrying about what others may think?**

Others may not always understand extravagant worship. They may even think you are wasting your time or your life. But Mary knew the One **Who was before her**. And when we remember where Yeshua has brought us from, how much He has forgiven us, and the price He paid for us, something rises from deep within our hearts:

He is worthy.

- Worthy of our praise.
- Worthy of our worship.
- Worthy of our surrender.
- Worthy of our lives.

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”

—John 3:30

THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST

A surrendered life carries a fragrance.

Just as the fragrance of Mary's spikenard filled the house, our lives can carry the fragrance of Messiah wherever we go.

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.”

—2 Corinthians 2:14–15

What a beautiful picture!

We are called to carry **the fragrance of Christ** into the world around us. It is not something we manufacture. It comes from a life that has been surrendered to Him—a life in which Yeshua is increasing and self is decreasing.



Sometimes you can sense when someone has spent time in the presence of the LORD. They may not have to say very much. There is something about their life—their love, peace, humility, and devotion to Yeshua—that draws you toward Him.

A consecrated life carries a fragrance.

Our worship does not end when the music stops. Worship is revealed in how we live, how we love, how we serve, how we forgive, and how we surrender ourselves to the LORD. Our lives become an offering poured out before Him.

GENUINE AND PURE WORSHIP

Yeshua is not looking merely for outward expressions of worship. He desires our hearts. We can sing the right songs, lift our hands, wave a flag, dance, or participate in every outward expression of worship—but the LORD sees beyond the outward expression.

He sees the heart.

- True worship flows from intimacy with Him.
- It is not performance.
- It is not about being seen.
- It is not about impressing others.
- **It is about Yeshua.**

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.”

—**Matthew 15:8**

The fragrance that pleases the LORD comes from a heart that says: **“Yeshua, You are worthy of everything.”**

MYRRH • FRANKINCENSE • SPIKENARD

Throughout Scripture, fragrant oils and spices appear in worship, anointing, burial, and offerings to the LORD. Three fragrances beautifully complement the message of this teaching:

- **Myrrh — Surrender & Suffering**
Myrrh appears in Scripture in connection with fragrance, anointing, and burial. It reminds us that following Yeshua sometimes involves suffering, surrender, and dying to self.



- **Frankincense — Worship & Offering**

Frankincense was used in offerings before the LORD. Its fragrance rising upward gives us a beautiful picture of prayer and worship offered to God.

- **Spikenard — Costly Devotion**

Mary poured out costly spikenard upon Yeshua. Her offering was extravagant because **her love was extravagant**.

Together they give us a beautiful picture:

Surrender • Sacrifice • Worship • Devotion.

Not simply fragrances from a jar—but a picture of **a life poured out before the Bridegroom**.

WHAT FRAGRANCE ARE YOU?

- Beloved, what fragrance is coming from your life?
- Is your life consecrated unto the LORD, your Bridegroom?
- Have you allowed Him into the places that still need to be surrendered?

Mary did not hold back her costly offering. She poured it out upon Yeshua, and **the fragrance filled the house**.

What a beautiful prophetic picture of a life wholly surrendered to Him.

There are times when the LORD allows the alabaster flask of our lives to be broken—not to destroy us, but to bring us into a deeper place of surrender. Pride is broken. Self-will is laid down. The fear of what others think loses its hold upon us. And from that surrendered place, something beautiful can be poured out.

Worship

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

—Romans 12:1

The Bridegroom is worthy of more than our words. He is worthy of our hearts, our devotion, our obedience—**our entire lives**.

- May the fragrance of Yeshua fill our homes.
- May it fill our worship.
- May it be evident in the way we love and serve others.
- And may our lives continually declare: **Yeshua, You are worthy of it all!**



THE BRIDEGROOM IS COMING

Beloved, keep your lamp burning and stay close to Yeshua. Live a life surrendered and worship extravagantly!

Let your life carry the beautiful fragrance of Messiah as you watch and wait for your Bridegroom.

“And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’”
—**Revelation 22:17**

Surrender • Fragrance • Devotion

—Lora



Further Reading

Biblical Oil — The Scent of Worship

<https://worshipwarriors.net/teachings/WORSHIP-WARRIORS-An-Atmosphere-Of-Worship.pdf>

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