

## I. The Anointed King

If we live in a world that is up-side-down, then the one person who is right-side-up will appear up-side-down to us. Jesus is the only right-side-up person; that's why his words and actions appear so strange.

This strangeness is seen in the final chapters of John where Jesus is revealed as king, but a different kind of king.

### The Context to the Anointing

John paints a scene of stark contrasts:

- Crowds were converging on Jerusalem for the Passover while Jesus withdrew into the wilderness (11:54)
- Crowds coming to see Jesus and others looking for him for sinister reasons

Against this bleak backdrop, John tells the story of the anointing of Jesus followed by the triumphal entry (12:12-15)

### The Anointing of Jesus

Double meaning of anointing: for kings and for the dead. John conflates the two showing him as the king who will die.

Mary's anointing was preparation for burial; misunderstood by his disciples

The sequence: anointing followed by triumphal entry shows that his is no ordinary king

### Lesson

The kind of kingship revealed in Holy Week challenges our upside-down world and its false values

It challenges modern ideas associating anointing with power.