

# The scent of Jesus...?

At [www.hisessence.com](http://www.hisessence.com) you will find a company which offers fragrant candles which are supposed to offer the scent of Jesus. The producers of the candles, Karen and Bob Tosterud of South Dakota, USA, say that they got the idea from Psalm 45:8.

They say: His Essence™ is a South Dakota company inspired by Psalm 45:8 - "All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia..." The Bible verse refers to the garments of the Messiah when He returns. We carefully combine these fragrances and the result is a scent, which serves as a reminder of His Presence.

When Jesus was walking around with his disciples he probably would not have smelled quite so fragrant. Life would have been hot, sweaty and extremely dirty. What the candle makers are referring to is a spiritual or heavenly experience.

The candles have proved extremely popular. The Tosteruds describe them as a 'ministry' (although they also make a profit). They suggest "We wanted people to be able to experience Christ in new ways and to be able to read a bible and have that scent and that candle as a reminder that he is with us all the time" and "You can't see him and you can't touch him. This is a situation where you may be able to sense him by smelling. And it provides a really new dimension to one's experience with Jesus."

Because of the popularity of the candles, the company also offers two other biblically inspired candles:

**Resurrection**, inspired by John 19:39-40, "Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about 75 pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen."

**Servanthood**, inspired by John 12:3, "Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."

The popularity of these candles gives pause for thought. People want to experience and explore their spirituality through scent. Therefore one way of exploring your own spirituality or of engaging other people might be to start with a scented candle, or other perfumed object, one that evokes myrrh and aloes, and then explore the biblical texts cited.

- ⊕ Ask people to think about what the scent suggests to them.
- ⊕ Ask people to imagine what the biblical scene would be like, with the help of the scent