



# Fresh Oil



September 2018 (reprise of 2009)

Dear Fellow Servants,

Fall is a time of new beginnings and fresh starts. We say good-bye to the lazy, carefree days of summer and get ourselves going again. I like to think of it as a time for a “do over” when there have been things we’ve tried in the past but either didn’t finish or didn’t do well. For the church’s ministry, this means starting with a clean slate.

If there was anyone who could preach to us about “do over’s” it would be Jonah. God called Him to do an assignment, but Jonah didn’t obey. He had to go through some stuff because of his willful disobedience, but then he heard some powerful, liberating words from his Lord after his time of testing. These words are recorded in Jonah 3:1:

***"Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time..."***

There is something very freeing about that phrase, “second time.” It points to the fact that there was a first time, an initial opportunity to do the will of God. For Jonah, that opportunity came and went without his willingness to act upon it. We all have a little Jonah in us from time to time. We can all point to a time, or times, that we just plain didn’t do what we knew we were supposed to do. Most of the Old Testament is a historical account of the obstinacy and disobedience of God’s people. Yet it is also an account of the mercy of God stepping in and giving His people another chance. God perseveres with His people because His love for them is so great.

We are beginning yet another fall season. Perhaps you are coming off the “summer of your discontent.” Sometimes we slip into old habits during the lazy days of summer, and sometimes we even develop new ones (‘bad’ new ones, that is). However, God’s promise to us today as we dive into September is that He is coming to us a second time. There is so much to do for God’s kingdom and we can’t do any of it without His help. Let’s take hold of His hand and get cracking! We have a world out there that needs our Saviour and we are called to bring Him to them.

Your fellow servant,

*Pastor Brian*

*... I have been anointed with fresh oil*

PSALM 92:10

