



Fresh Oil



April 2008 (reprise: April 2015)

Dear Fellow Servants,

Do you ever make messes and wonder to yourself, "Why does God put up with me?" Or, do you ever ponder why the great God of the universe seems so interested in you? G.K. Chesterton once wrote, "All men matter. You matter. I matter. It's the hardest thing in theology to believe." King David struggled at times with trying to grasp how he could be so important to God. Listen to what he says in Psalm 8:3-4:

"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?"

There are 2 key words in this passage that are worthy of our closer attention. First of all, the word translated 'mindful' carries a deeper meaning. The Hebrew root conveys the sense of 'piercing' or 'impressing on the memory.' The word is even translated as 'to be born a male' and 'to burn incense.' These latter meanings follow along the theme that the birth of a male child, because he would carry on the family name (ie. the family name would be 'remembered'), connotes a form of remembrance. Also, the offering of incense strikes the senses so that every time this scent is revealed, the original event is remembered. The first time that this word is used is in Genesis 8:1, where God "remembered" Noah and caused the flood waters to begin receding. Every time we see a rainbow we are "reminded" that God has "remembered" His promises to Noah. Isn't it incredible that God has indelibly impressed the memory of His children on His mind? Wow!

The second word to consider is the word 'visit.' This important Hebrew word has a variety of meanings. It is first used in Genesis 21:1 where the Lord intervened on behalf of Sarah in a miraculous way, enabling her to conceive a child at an advanced age. The strong undercurrent meaning is 'a positive action by a superior in relation to his subordinates.' God works positively on our behalf to care for us and look after us. King David marveled at this attention from his Creator, and so should we! We Christians are a privileged bunch!

As we head into the post-Easter springtime of the year, let's arm ourselves with this wonderful knowledge that the King of the ages cares for us so much and pays us His closest attention. Let's also get out there and share that revelation with others. A hurting world is out there needing to know.

Your fellow servant,

Pastor Brian

... I have been anointed with fresh oil

PSALM 92:10

