



# Fresh Oil



January 2016

Dear Fellow Servants,

Once again we find ourselves embarking on a New Year, a new journey in our walk of faith. As we say good-bye to the old year and launch out into the new, I would like to challenge you to 'go deeper' in 2016. Look at what Jesus told the struggling disciples in Luke 5:4:

***“When He (Jesus) had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, ‘Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.’”***

As this chapter in Luke's gospel records for us, Simon Peter and his companions had been fishing all night and had come up empty. When Jesus arrived on the scene the next morning the cleanup operation was already in motion. These tired and discouraged fishermen were likely caught off guard by the Saviour's unreasonable directive to go back out there. Hadn't they already done all there was to do for one night? If there were fish to be caught, wouldn't they have caught them?

Sometimes our best efforts result in poor results. As Christians, we need to train our voices to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, and then, having heard it, to obey. The reason this is so important is that the Lord may know something we don't (wow! Ya think?). These seasoned fishermen went through their usual routine that night, which usually produced good results, but this time it didn't work. Something more was needed! In order to acquire that "something more" they would need to step it up by going back out there and fishing in DEEPER WATER.

As we begin this new year of 2016 let me ask you something. What represents the "deeper water" in your life? What are those areas that need greater attention, where you need to 'step it up' a bit? Perhaps you should start with the basics like regular Bible reading, a greater commitment to prayer, both personal and corporate, and commitment to be in church every Sunday. How is your level of financial giving? Does it need to "go deeper", as well? Finally, let me challenge you to the goal of "each one reach one" this year. In other words, pray and seek to reach one soul to bring to Christ in this calendar year ahead of us. For some of you this may be very deep water, indeed. Nevertheless, Jesus says that is where the fish are, not in the shallow shoals of what is already comfortable and predictable. Are you ready for a fresh launch? Let's do this, people!

Your fellow servant,  
Pastor Brian

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

PSALM 92:10

