



Fresh Oil



June 2016

Dear Fellow Servants,

As we approach the summer season I want to encourage you to use this relaxed time to press in to the things of God, in preparation for what the Lord may bring this fall. The lazy, hazy days of summer afford us a great opportunity to slow down and listen for God's voice. So much of the time we are tempted to hurry along to keep up with life's frenetic pace, but there is a danger in this choice of missing the presence of God.

I want you to notice the situation in which the patriarch, Jacob, found himself as he fled from his brother Esau to go to the land of his mother's brother, Laban. On the way he stopped for the night at a certain place to set up camp. During the night he had a spectacular dream in which the Lord appeared to him and disclosed some incredible things about his future. The promises that God made to him were based on the faithfulness of God to the covenants that were made with Jacob's father, Isaac, and his grandfather, Abraham. Jacob was afraid when he awoke from this dream. He was fleeing from Esau, whose birthright and blessing he had stolen. He wasn't exactly walking closely with God, which is probably why we read these words in Genesis 28:16:

***"When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought,
"Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it."***

I want you to imagine for a moment that you attended a service at church and on the way out the door someone remarked to you, "Wow! That was an incredible service! The presence of the Lord was so strong! Did you sense it?" As you think about this statement you are left wondering if the two of you were actually in the same building that morning. To you, it was just an hour of songs and prayers and another ho-hum sermon. What was the difference? Could it be that, like Jacob, you were not aware of the Lord being there in that service? This is exactly my point to you today. We need to press in to God in order to have our spiritual senses heightened so that we don't miss God's presence. I am not just talking about the Sunday morning church service, either. I am also talking about the everyday stuff, but God is in those things, too.

A good possibility for why we do not recognize God's presence in our lives, or in our church, is that we are not looking for Him. The Christian life is not something that proceeds on automatic pilot. Instead, it is vibrant, active relationship with the living God who desires to be sought after. Let's do more of that this summer and then expect great things this fall!

Your fellow servant,

Pastor Brian

... I have been anointed with fresh oil

PSALM 92:10

