

Fresh Oil



June 2011

Dear Fellow Servants,

Recently I was preaching in another church and a soloist brought some special music before the message. The song she sang was entitled, “Three Wooden Crosses.” It was made famous by country music singer, Randy Travis, but is actually written by Kim Williams and Doug Johnson. It chronicles the fate of 4 travelers heading from the United States to Mexico on a late night bus. The bus misses a stop sign and is struck by an 18-wheeler. Of the 4 travelers (a farmer, a teacher, a preacher, and a hooker) only the hooker survives. In his dying breath the preacher hands her his blood-stained Bible. As the story goes, she eventually trains her son in the ways of the Lord and he becomes a preacher, too. There is a key line in the song which I want you to ponder as we head into this summer season. It is this:

“I guess it’s not what you take when you leave this world behind you, it’s what you leave behind you when you go.”

There is so much sound advice in that phrase, isn’t there? We can spend a lot of time and energy accumulating information and material things, as well as pursuing pleasure, but what message are we sending to those who follow us? The decisions we are making today are the seeds sown for tomorrow’s harvest. It’s all in the preparation *NOW!* Consider the wise advice of Proverbs 24:27 in the Amplified Bible:

“(Put first things first.) Prepare your work outside and get it ready for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house and establish a home.”

This key verse of Scripture is especially talking about marriage and being financially secure before making that important step. However, in a general sense, it also teaches us to line up our priorities. We need to be thinking about the consequences of our actions and how they are affecting others.

With that in mind, I have a summer assignment for you. I want you to take some time during the hazy and lazy days of this season to consider your life and what fruit is coming from it. Are there some good things happening? Good. Add to that. Are there some areas where pruning is required? Well then, start cutting. If you are really feeling bold you can ask a trusted friend to give you their opinion. The goal in all of this is to improve what you’re leaving behind. Remember, others are following in your wake!

- Pastor Brian

... I have been anointed with fresh oil

PSALM 92:10

