



Run with the Horses – The Pursuit for Manhood.

“So, Jeremiah, if you’re worn out in this footrace with men, what makes you think you can race against horses?”
– Jeremiah 12:5

We long to live life to the fullest. We desire to merge freedom and spontaneity with purpose and meaning. Why then do we, as men, often find our lives boring, adventure-less, and fighting addiction to medicate our pain? Or else so busy, so full of chaos, but still devoid of fulfillment? How do we learn to risk, to trust, to pursue wholeness and excellence—to run with the horses in the midst of life? More is known of the life of Jeremiah than any other prophet, and his life is far more significant than his teaching. This study will be a model of manhood as portrayed by the prophet Jeremiah.

Don’t Believe the Lies! - Psalm 119:32; Jeremiah 7:1-4

Highland Colony Men’s Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

A Man must love the truth and hate the lies.

May 23, 2019

Bible Verses: Jeremiah 12:5; Psalm 119:32; Jeremiah 7:1-15; II Kings 21:1-18; Jeremiah 2:20-22; Jeremiah 3:1-5; Jeremiah 4:3,4; Jeremiah 4:29-31; Jeremiah 6:16-20

Resources: *Run with the Horses – The Quest for Life at Its Best* by Eugene H. Peterson

Music: Hidalgo Trailer

Video: Hidalgo Final Race

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVOK8ddyKh8>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1jnr_jklw

Meet Jeremiah

- _____ → The nation of Israel was split after the death of Solomon. His son Rehoboam was set to become the next king. One of Solomon’s servants, Jeroboam rebelled. The ten tribes of the north rejected Rehoboam and embraced the leadership of Jeroboam. The two tribes of the south—Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to King Rehoboam. The result of tribal discord and political unrest resulted in the split.
- _____ → Jeremiah, the “Weeping Prophet”, was to let people know who God is and what he is like, what he says and what he is doing. He was to wake up the people from their sleepy complacency. Jeremiah angered the people by rejecting their excuses and hiding, then dragging their heartless attitudes and selfish motives out into the open where everyone could see them for what they were. Jeremiah exposed the lies!
 - King Josiah = 2:1 – 12:17.
 - King Jehoiakim = Chapters 13:1-20:18; 25:1-27:11.
 - King Zedekiah = 21:1-24:10; 27:12-39:18.

Jeremiah – Exposing the Darkness

- _____ → Jeremiah was born in the last decade of King Manasseh’s rule. Manasseh was the worst king Hebrews ever had. He was a thoroughly bad man presiding over a totally corrupt government. He reigned in Jerusalem for 55 years. II Kings 21:1-18.
- _____ → Amon succeeded his father, King Manasseh. II Kings 21:19-24.
- _____ → God used an 8 year old boy to bring new life to the land. Josiah began to reform the nation of Judah by cleaning up the place of worship. Josiah began by cleaning up the temple. Worship defines life. If worship is corrupt, life will be corrupt.
- _____ → As the temple was being renovated and repaired, Hilkiyah the priest found an old book there. The book was brought to Josiah and read aloud to him. It was the book of Deuteronomy. Josiah is disgusted with the evil of his father and grandfather and determined to do something about it. He had no blueprint, no direction, no counsel. God’s word gave him what he needed.

Jeremiah – Outward Change is not enough!

- _____ → Jeremiah’s sermons were tireless in calling the people to live in faithful love of God.
 - Jer. 2:20-22 = Jeremiah exposed the idolatry through sexual imagery.
 - Jer. 3:1-5. = Jeremiah called the people out for giving themselves to every god and goddess they met.
 - Jer. 4:3,4. = Jeremiah called the people to repent from their superstition and idolatry/addictions.
 - Jer. 4:29-31. = Jeremiah used sarcasm to call out the people’s behavior.
 - Jer. 6:16-20. = Jeremiah called the people to seek the goodness that leads to God.
- _____ → Jeremiah knew the people were in the right place, and they said the right words—but they were not right. The reform was necessary, but it was not enough. Jeremiah calls out the people for their mindless repeating of holy words. Their religious performance was impeccable; their everyday life was rotten. Jeremiah 7:1-11.

IMAGES WITHOUT SUBSTANCE

- _____ → Images are important. Beginnings are important. But an image without substance is a lie. A beginning without a continuation is a lie.
- _____ → Take a field trip to Shiloh. Shiloh was the right place, but Shiloh was destroyed. Because when the right words no longer expressed love and faith, God no longer protected the place or his people. Jeremiah 7:12-15.

ACTION: Journal This!

- What are lies that we tell our self?
- What secrets do you keep?
- How is denial is or has been an obstacle for you?

Bible Verses – The Message

Jeremiah 12:5 - ⁵ "So, Jeremiah, if you're worn out in this footrace with men, what makes you think you can race against horses? And if you can't keep your wits during times of calm, what's going to happen when troubles break loose like the Jordan in flood?

Psalms 119:32 - ³² "I'll run the course you lay out for me if you'll just show me how.

Jeremiah 7:1-15 - ¹ The Message from God to Jeremiah: ² "Stand in the gate of God's Temple and preach this Message. ³ God-of-the-Angel-Armies, Israel's God, has this to say to you: ⁴ Don't for a minute believe the lies being spoken here - "This is God's Temple, God's Temple, God's Temple!" ⁵ Total nonsense! Only if you clean up your act (the way you live, the things you do), only if you do a total spring cleaning on the way you live and treat your neighbors, ⁶ only if you quit exploiting the street people and orphans and widows, no longer taking advantage of innocent people on this very site and no longer destroying your souls by using this Temple as a front for other gods - ⁷ only then will I move into your neighborhood. Only then will this country I gave your ancestors be my permanent home, my Temple. ⁸ "Get smart! Your leaders are handing you a pack of lies, and you're swallowing them!" ⁹ Use your heads! Do you think you can rob and murder, have sex with the neighborhood wives, tell lies nonstop, worship the local gods, and buy every novel religious commodity on the market ¹⁰ - and then march into this Temple, set apart for my worship, and say, "We're safe!" thinking that the place itself gives you a license to go on with all this outrageous sacrilege? ¹¹ A cave full of criminals! Do you think you can turn this Temple, set apart for my worship, into something like that? Well, think again. I've got eyes in my head. I can see what's going on." God's Decree! ¹² "Take a trip down to the place that was once in Shiloh, where I met my people in the early days. Take a look at those ruins, what I did to it because of the evil ways of my people Israel. ¹³ "So now, because of the way you have lived and failed to listen, even though time and again I took you aside and talked seriously with you, and because you refused to change when I called you to repent, ¹⁴ I'm going to do to this Temple, set aside for my worship, this place you think is going to keep you safe no matter what, this place I gave as a gift to your ancestors and you, the same as I did to Shiloh. ¹⁵ And as for you, I'm going to get rid of you, the same as I got rid of those old relatives of yours around Shiloh, your fellow Israelites in that former kingdom to the north."

II Kings 21:1-18 - ¹ Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king. He ruled for fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah. ² In God's judgment he was a bad king - an evil king. He reintroduced all the moral rot and spiritual corruption that had been scoured from the country when God dispossessed the pagan nations in favor of the children of Israel. ³ He rebuilt all the sex-and-religion shrines that his father Hezekiah had torn down, and he built altars and phallic images for the sex god Baal and sex goddess Asherah, exactly what Ahaz king of Israel had done. He worshiped the cosmic powers, taking orders from the constellations. ⁴ He even built these pagan altars in The Temple of God, the very Jerusalem Temple dedicated exclusively by God's decree ("in Jerusalem I place my Name") to God's Name.

⁵ And he built shrines to the cosmic powers and placed them in both courtyards of The Temple of God. ⁶ He burned his own son in a sacrificial offering. He practiced black magic and fortunetelling. He held dances and consulted spirits from the underworld. Much evil - in God's judgment, a career in evil. And God was angry. ⁷ As a last straw he placed the carved image of the sex goddess Asherah in The Temple of God, a flagrant and provocative violation of God's well-known statement to both David and Solomon, "In this Temple and in this city Jerusalem, my choice out of all the tribes of Israel, I place my Name - exclusively and forever. ⁸ Never again will I let my people Israel wander off from this land I gave to their ancestors. But here's the condition: They must keep everything I've commanded in the instructions my servant Moses passed on to them." ⁹ But the people didn't listen. Manasseh led them off the beaten path into practices of evil even exceeding the evil of the pagan nations that God had earlier destroyed.

¹⁰ God, thoroughly fed up, sent word through his servants the prophets: ¹¹ "Because Manasseh king of Judah has committed these outrageous sins, eclipsing the sin-performance of the Amorites before him, setting new records in evil, using foul idols to debase Judah into a nation of

sinners, ¹² this is my judgment, God's verdict: I, the God of Israel, will visit catastrophe on Jerusalem and Judah, a doom so terrible that when people hear of it they'll shake their heads in disbelief, saying, 'I can't believe it!' ¹³ "I'll visit the fate of Samaria on Jerusalem, a rerun of Ahab's doom. I'll wipe out Jerusalem as you would wipe out a dish, wiping it out and turning it over to dry. ¹⁴ I'll get rid of what's left of my inheritance, dumping them on their enemies. If their enemies can salvage anything from them, they're welcome to it. ¹⁵ They've been nothing but trouble to me from the day their ancestors left Egypt until now. They pushed me to my limit; I won't put up with their evil any longer." ¹⁶ The final word on Manasseh was that he was an indiscriminate murderer. He drenched Jerusalem with the innocent blood of his victims. That's on top of all the sins in which he involved his people. As far as God was concerned, he'd turned them into a nation of sinners. ¹⁷ The rest of the life and times of Manasseh, everything he did and his sorry record of sin, is written in The Chronicles of the Kings of Judah. ¹⁸ Manasseh died and joined his ancestors. He was buried in the palace garden, the Garden of Uzza. His son Amon became the next king.

Jeremiah 2:20-22 - ²⁰ "A long time ago you broke out of the harness. You shook off all restraints. You said, 'I will not serve!' and off you went, Visiting every sex-and-religion shrine on the way, like a common whore. ²¹ You were a select vine when I planted you from completely reliable stock. And look how you've turned out - a tangle of rancid growth, a poor excuse for a vine. ²² Scrub, using the strongest soaps. Scour your skin raw. The sin-grease won't come out. I can't stand to even look at you!" God's Decree, the Master's Decree.

Jeremiah 3:1-5 - ¹ God's Message came to me as follows: "If a man's wife walks out on him And marries another man, can he take her back as if nothing had happened? Wouldn't that raise a huge stink in the land? And isn't that what you've done - 'whored' your way with god after god? And now you want to come back as if nothing had happened." God's Decree. ² "Look around at the hills. Where have you not had sex? You've camped out like hunters stalking deer. You've solicited many lover-gods, Like a streetwalking whore chasing after other gods. ³ And so the rain has stopped. No more rain from the skies! But it doesn't even faze you. Brazen as whores, you carry on as if you've done nothing wrong. ⁴ Then you have the nerve to call out, 'My father! You took care of me when I was a child. Why not now?' ⁵ Are you going to keep up your anger nonstop? That's your line. Meanwhile you keep sinning nonstop." Admit Your God-Defiance

Jeremiah 4:3,4 - ³ Here's another Message from God to the people of Judah and Jerusalem: "Plow your unplowed fields, but then don't plant weeds in the soil! ⁴ Yes, circumcise your lives for God's sake. Plow your unplowed hearts, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem. Prevent fire - the fire of my anger - for once it starts it can't be put out. Your wicked ways are fuel for the fire. God's Sledgehammer Anger

Jeremiah 4:29-31 - ²⁹ Someone shouts, "Horsemen and archers!" and everybody runs for cover. They hide in ditches, they climb into caves. The cities are emptied, not a person left anywhere. ³⁰ And you, what do you think you're up to? Dressing up in party clothes, Decking yourselves out in jewelry, putting on lipstick and rouge and mascara! Your primping goes for nothing. You're not going to seduce anyone. They're out to kill you! ³¹ And what's that I hear? The cry of a woman in labor, the screams of a mother giving birth to her firstborn. It's the cry of Daughter Zion, gasping for breath, reaching out for help: "Help, oh help me! I'm dying! The killers are on me!"

Jeremiah 6:16-20 - ¹⁶ God's Message yet again: "Go stand at the crossroads and look around. Ask for directions to the old road, The tried and true road. Then take it. Discover the right route for your souls. But they said, 'Nothing doing. We aren't going that way.' ¹⁷ I even provided watchmen for them to warn them, to set off the alarm. But the people said, 'It's a false alarm. It doesn't concern us.' ¹⁸ And so I'm calling in the nations as witnesses: 'Watch, witnesses, what happens to them!' ¹⁹ And, 'Pay attention, earth! Don't miss these bulletins.' I'm visiting catastrophe on this people, the end result of the games they've been playing with me. They've ignored everything I've said, had nothing but contempt for my teaching. ²⁰ What would I want with incense brought in from Sheba, rare spices from exotic places? Your burnt sacrifices in worship give me no pleasure. Your religious rituals mean nothing to me."

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1. **North & South Kingdoms** → The nation of Israel was split after the death of Solomon. His son Rehoboam was set to become the next king. One of Solomon's servants, Jeroboam rebelled. The ten tribes of the north rejected Rehoboam and embraced the leadership of Jeroboam. The two tribes of the south—Judah and Benjamin remained loyal to King Rehoboam. The result of tribal discord and political unrest resulted in the split.
2. **Tell Them** → Jeremiah, the "Weeping Prophet", was to let people know who God is and what he is like, what he says and what he is doing. He was to wake up the people from their sleepy complacency. Jeremiah angered the people by rejecting their excuses and hiding, then dragging their heartless attitudes and selfish motives out into the open where everyone could see them for what they were. Jeremiah exposed the lies!
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2. **No Change – Evil Continued** → Amon succeeded his father, King Manasseh. II Kings 21:19-24.
3. **God uses a Boy** → God used an 8 year old boy to bring new life to the land. Josiah began to reform the nation of Judah by cleaning up the place of worship. Josiah began by cleaning up the temple. Worship defines life. If worship is corrupt, life will be corrupt.
4. **An Old Book** → As the temple was being renovated and repaired, Hilkiyah the priest found an old book there. The book was brought to Josiah and read aloud to him. It was the book of Deuteronomy. Josiah is disgusted with the evil of his father and grandfather and determined to do something about it. He had no blueprint, no direction, no counsel. God's word gave him what he needed.

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2. Right Place, But Wrong Attitude → Take a field trip to Shiloh. Shiloh was the right place, but Shiloh was destroyed. Because when the right words no longer expressed love and faith, God no longer protected the place or his people. Jeremiah 7:12-15.

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