



### 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.

“I’m ONLY ... !” - Psalm 119:32

Highland Colony Men’s Roundtable  
[www.MensTable.com](http://www.MensTable.com)

A Man must overcome his excuses in order to walk with God.

May 16, 2019

**Bible Verses:** Jeremiah 12:5; Psalm 119:32; Jeremiah 1:1-8; Jeremiah 1:9-17; Jeremiah 17:9, 10; John 15:1-8

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

**Music:** Buck (2012) - Official Trailer  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixzqy2Ja8og>

**Video:** The Real Horse Whisperer - A Conversation With Buck Brannaman  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ql2FgIU\\_7c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ql2FgIU_7c)

#### 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 came from the village of Anathoth some three miles from Jerusalem. He was overwhelmed at the thought of hurting anyone. He would rather live at peace with them. Jeremiah had to choose between his desires and God’s will.
- \_\_\_\_\_ → Jeremiah’s commission was worldwide. His commission was to root out and pull down, to destroy and to throw down. God touched Jeremiah as a pledge that He would be with him. Jeremiah could not get away from it.

#### Jeremiah – “I cannot do that!”

- \_\_\_\_\_ → The job Jeremiah refused was to be a prophet. A prophet is obsessed with GOD, and a prophet is immersed in the NOW. A prophet has two convictions:
  - God is personal and alive and active.
  - What is going on right now, in this world at this time in history, is critical.
- \_\_\_\_\_ → The Prophet’s Message is a challenge to live up to our creation, to live into our salvation—to become all that we are designed to be. **We cannot be human if we are not in connection to God.** John 15:1-8.
- \_\_\_\_\_ → A prophet lets people know who God is and what he is like, what he says and what he is doing. A prophet wakes us up from our sleepy complacency. A prophet angers us by rejecting our euphemisms and ripping off our disguises, then dragging our heartless attitudes and selfish motives out into the open where everyone sees them for what they are. A prophet makes everything seem significant and important. **Stop being sloppy and selfish!**

#### FROM BOY TO MAN!

- \_\_\_\_\_ → If we look at ourselves and are absolutely honest, we are always inadequate. We are not always honest. We fudge and cheat on the tests. We cover up a bit here; we bluff a bit there. We pretend to be more sure than we are (Jer. 17:9, 10).
- \_\_\_\_\_ → There is an enormous gap between what we think we can do and what God calls us to do (Jer. 1:9, 10). We are to walk by faith—trust God to make us what he designed us to be. Three pairs of verbs:
  - Pull up/tear down = INVOLVED.
  - Take apart/demolish = INVOLVED.
  - Build/plant = INVOLVED.
- \_\_\_\_\_ → Jeremiah moved from the shuffling, excuse-making “I’m only a boy!” to the “steel post” career of accepting the assignment as prophet. God equipped Jeremiah for life by showing him two visions.

#### VISION-SHAPED

- \_\_\_\_\_ → The almond tree is one of the earliest trees to bloom in Palestine. Before it puts forth leaves, it puts forth blossoms, white and snowy giving the promise of spring. It is anticipation. It is promise (Jer. 1:11, 12). The vision is accented with a word play. The word **almond (shaqed)** and the word **watching (shoqed)** are nearly identical in Hebrew. Every spring for the rest of Jeremiah’s life the sight of the almond blossom would trigger him to remember the promise of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ → The boiling water cascading down toward Israel is identified as enemy armies poised for an invasion (Jer. 1:13-16). The enemy kings and officers, audacious and mocking, would camp right in front of the city gates and around the city. This imminent war is linked with God’s judgment. The boiling pot is a container—for its effect is to contain evil.
- \_\_\_\_\_ → The almond rod convinced Jeremiah that the word of God bursts with wonders and that its wonders are not illusions. The boiling pot convinced Jeremiah that the world is very dangerous but that the danger is not catastrophic. Jeremiah was trained to live with a keen edge of hope and to never be intimidated by evil.

**ACTION: Journal This!**

1. What are your 3 most typical excuses?
2. What area of your life do you need assurance – hope?
3. How are “bad things” stretching or challenging your shalom?

**Bible Verses – The Message**

**Jeremiah 12:5** - <sup>5</sup> "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?"

**Psalm 119:32** - <sup>32</sup> I'll run the course you lay out for me if you'll just show me how.

**Jeremiah 1:1-8** - <sup>1</sup> The Message of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah of the family of priests who lived in Anathoth in the country of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God's Message began to come to him during the thirteenth year that Josiah son of Amos reigned over Judah. <sup>3</sup> It continued to come to him during the time Jehoiakim son of Josiah reigned over Judah. And it continued to come to him clear down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of the reign of Zedekiah son of Josiah over Judah, the year that Jerusalem was taken into exile. <sup>4</sup> This is what God said: <sup>5</sup> "Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you: A prophet to the nations - that's what I had in mind for you." <sup>6</sup> But I said, "Hold it, Master God! Look at me. I don't know anything. I'm only a boy!" <sup>7</sup> God told me, "Don't say, 'I'm only a boy.' I'll tell you where to go and you'll go there. I'll tell you what to say and you'll say it." <sup>8</sup> Don't be afraid of a soul. I'll be right there, looking after you." God's Decree.

**Jeremiah 1:9-17** - <sup>9</sup> God reached out, touched my mouth, and said, "Look! I've just put my words in your mouth - hand-delivered!" <sup>10</sup> See what I've done? I've given you a job to do among nations and governments - a red-letter day! Your job is to pull up and tear down, take apart and demolish, And then start over, building and planting." Stand Up and Say Your Piece <sup>11</sup> God's Message came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?" I said, "A walking stick - that's all."<sup>12</sup> And God said, "Good eyes! I'm sticking with you. I'll make every word I give you come true." <sup>13</sup> God's Message came again: "So what do you see now?" I said,

"I see a boiling pot, tipped down toward us." <sup>14</sup> Then God told me, "Disaster will pour out of the north on everyone living in this land. <sup>15</sup> Watch for this: I'm calling all the kings out of the north." God's Decree. "They'll come and set up headquarters facing Jerusalem's gates, Facing all the city walls, facing all the villages of Judah. <sup>16</sup> I'll pronounce my judgment on the people of Judah for walking out on me - what a terrible thing to do! - And courting other gods with their offerings, worshiping as gods sticks they'd carved, stones they'd painted. <sup>17</sup> But you - up on your feet and get dressed for work! Stand up and say your piece. Say exactly what I tell you to say. Don't pull your punches or I'll pull you out of the lineup.

**Jeremiah 17:9, 10** - <sup>9</sup> "The heart is hopelessly dark and deceitful, a puzzle that no one can figure out. <sup>10</sup> But I, God, search the heart and examine the mind. I get to the heart of the human. I get to the root of things. I treat them as they really are, not as they pretend to be."

**John 15:1-8** - <sup>1</sup> "I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. <sup>3</sup> You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. <sup>4</sup> "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. <sup>5</sup> "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. <sup>7</sup> But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. <sup>8</sup> This is how my Father shows who he is - when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

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# RUN WITH HORSES



# Run with the Horses – The Pursuit for Manhood

*“So, Jeremiah, if you’re worn out in this footrace with men,  
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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.

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2. **Reluctance** → Jeremiah came from the village of Anathoth some three miles from Jerusalem. He was overwhelmed at the thought of hurting anyone. He would rather live at peace with them. Jeremiah had to choose between his desires and God's will.
3. **Commission** → Jeremiah's commission was worldwide. His commission was to root out and pull down, to destroy and to throw down. God touched Jeremiah as a pledge that He would be with him. Jeremiah could not get away from it.

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