



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.

RUN WITH HORSES - Psalm 119:32

Highland Colony Men’s Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

A Man understands that he needs a model to follow.

May 02, 2019

Bible Verses: Jeremiah 12:5; Psalm 119:32; Jeremiah 1:1-8; Ephesians 2:8-10; Jeremiah 16:1,2; Matthew 16:13,14

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

Music: Seabiscuit – Trailer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yv6RnFTlu4I>

Video: Seabiscuit - Red's First Ride
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlUPc1tu64s>

Meet Jeremiah

- _____ → “Tell it like it is.” God appointed a young Jeremiah to be a prophet of the Lord in a most trying hour in the history of God’s chosen people. His father, Hilkiah, was a priest who brought the book of the Law to the notice of King Josiah, which started the great revival in the kingdom.
- _____ → God chose the sensitive, shrinking Jeremiah (Jer. 1:1-8). First, he pleaded his youth (only 21), second, inexperience, and third, his lack of eloquence as reasons for not accepting the call.
- _____ → Jeremiah was assured that God called him to this work before his birth (Ephesians 2:8-10). He not allowed to marry, for God has a special mission for him (Jer. 16:1,2).
- _____ → Jeremiah prophesied during the time when Israel had been taken into captivity and Judah was in her declining days. He barely escaped with his life on numerous occasions (26:7-16). He was beaten and put in prison.
- _____ → Jeremiah used symbols given him by God in teaching his people.

Do You Want to be Whole?

- _____ → The two-edged quality of Scripture related to Manhood is the capacity to intensify a passion for excellence combined with an indifference to human achievement as such.
- _____ → Jeremiah is an image of a man who models a life of excellence which comes from a life of faith, from being more interested in God than in self, and has almost nothing to do with comfort or esteem or achievement. He gives no hint of human pride or worldly success or personal achievement. He arouses passion for a full life, but he firmly shuts the door against attempts to achieve it through self-promotion, self-gratification or self-improvement.
- _____ → The world’s counsel is that we can arrive at our full humanness by gratifying our desires, but the Biblical counsel is clear: “not my will but thine be done.”

The Pursuit of Manhood

- _____ → The only way that any of us can live at our best. If you want to be a man, live by faith in God and feed from his word.
- _____ → Jeremiah is a well-developed man, mature and robust, living by faith. More is known of Jeremiah than any other prophet, and his life is far more significant than his teaching. When people were trying to account for Jesus, Jeremiah was one of the names put forward (Matthew 16:14).
- _____ → “Anyone who has gone through tough times looks for companions who have been through them earlier, wanting to know how they went they made it, what it was like. In looking for a companion who has lived through catastrophic disruption and survived with grace, biblical men more often than not come upon Jeremiah and receive him as true, honest and God-revealing companion for the worst of times.” – Eugene Peterson.

Running With Horses!

- _____ → A man who goes on living for many years, but has died years before. Quote by Czech Philosopher, Vitezslav Gardavsky – author of *God is Not Yet Dead*.
- _____ → Jeremiah was worn down by the opposition and absorbed in self-pity. He was about to capitulate to just such a premature death. He was ready to abandon his unique calling in God and settle for being a Jerusalem statistic.
- _____ → Biochemist Erwin Chargaff: “What do you want to achieve? Greater riches? Cheaper chicken? A happier life, a longer life? Is it power over your neighbors that you are after? Are you only running away from your death? Or are you seeking greater wisdom, deeper piety?”
- _____ → What is it you really want, Jeremiah? Do you want to shuffle along with this crowd, or run with the horses? His life became his answer, “I’ll run with the horses.”

ACTION: Journal This!

- “To our chagrin we discover that the declaration of autonomy has issued on in a race of free, masterly men, but rather in a race that can be described by its poets and dramatists only as bored, vexed, frantic, embittered, and sniffing.” -- Tom Howard, author of *Chance or Dance*. What does it mean to be a mature, whole, blessed man?
- What would it take for you to become whole?
- If your growth were determined by your level of feeding from God’s word, would you be thriving or starving?

QUOTE: The terrible threat is "that we might die earlier than we really do die, before death had become a natural necessity. The real horror lies in just such a premature death, a death after which we go on living for many years. – Vitezslav Gardavsky, Czech philosopher and martyr and author of *God is Not Yet Dead*.

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 1:1-8 - ¹ The Message of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah of the family of priests who lived in Anathoth in the country of Benjamin. ² God's Message began to come to him during the thirteenth year that Josiah son of Amos reigned over Judah. ³ 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. ⁴ This is what God said: ⁵ "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." ⁶ But I said, "Hold it, Master God! Look at me. I don't know anything. I'm only a boy!" ⁷ 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." ⁸ Don't be afraid of a soul. I'll be right there, looking after you." God's Decree.

Ephesians 2:8-10 - ⁸ Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! ⁹ We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! ¹⁰ No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

Jeremiah 16:1,2 - ¹ God's Message to me: ² "Jeremiah, don't get married. Don't raise a family here."

Matthew 16:13,14 - ¹³ When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ They replied, "Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

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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, what makes you think you can race against horses?”

– Jeremiah 12:5 (The Message)

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.

RUN WITH HORSES

Psalm 119:32

Meet Jeremiah

1. **Prophet** → “Tell it like it is.” God appointed a young Jeremiah to be a prophet of the Lord in a most trying hour in the history of God’s chosen people. His father, Hilkiah, was a priest who brought the book of the Law to the notice of King Josiah, which started the great revival in the kingdom.
2. **“Not me!”** → God chose the sensitive, shrinking Jeremiah (Jer. 1:1-8). First, he pleaded his youth (only 21), second, inexperience, and third, his lack of eloquence as reasons for not accepting the call.
3. **Mission** → Jeremiah was assured that God called him to this work before his birth (Ephesians 2:8-10). He not allowed to marry, for God has a special mission for him (Jer. 16:1,2).
4. **Difficult Times** → Jeremiah prophesied during the time when Israel had been taken into captivity and Judah was in her declining days. He barely escaped with his life on numerous occasions (26:7-16). He was beaten and put in prison.
5. **Metaphors** → Jeremiah used symbols given him by God in teaching his people.

Do You Want to be Whole?

1. **Challenge** → The two-edged quality of Scripture related to Manhood is the capacity to intensify a passion for excellence combined with an indifference to human achievement as such.
2. **Excellence** → Jeremiah is an image of a man who models a life of excellence which comes from a life of faith, from being more interested in God than in self, and has almost nothing to do with comfort or esteem or achievement. He gives no hint of human pride or worldly success or personal achievement. He arouses passion for a full life, but he firmly shuts the door against attempts to achieve it through self-promotion, self-gratification or self-improvement.
3. **Biblical Counsel** → The world's counsel is that we can arrive at our full humanness by gratifying our desires, but the Biblical counsel is clear: "not my will but thine be done."

The Pursuit of Manhood

1. **Radical Faith in God** → The only way that any of us can live at our best. If you want to be a man, live by faith in God and feed from his word.
2. **Model** → Jeremiah is a well-developed man, mature and robust, living by faith. More is known of Jeremiah than any other prophet, and his life is far more significant than his teaching. When people were trying to account for Jesus, Jeremiah was one of the names put forward (Matthew 16:14).
3. **Friend for Tough Times** → “Anyone who has gone through tough times looks for companions who have been through them earlier, wanting to know how they went they made it, what it was like. In looking for a companion who has lived through catastrophic disruption and survived with grace, biblical men more often than not come upon Jeremiah and receive him as true, honest and God-revealing companion for the worst of times.” – Eugene Peterson.

Running With Horses!

1. **Premature Death** → A man who goes on living for many years, but has died years before. Quote by Czech Philosopher, Vitezslav Gardavsky – author of *God is Not Yet Dead*.
2. **Will You Settle?** → Jeremiah was worn down by the opposition and absorbed in self-pity. He was about to capitulate to just such a premature death. He was ready to abandon his unique calling in God and settle for being a Jerusalem statistic.
3. **What Do You Want?** → Biochemist Erwin Chargaff: “What do you want to achieve? Greater riches? Cheaper chicken? A happier life, a longer life? Is it power over your neighbors that you are after? Are you only running away from your death? Or are you seeking greater wisdom, deeper piety?”
4. **Run with the Horses** → What is it you really want, Jeremiah? Do you want to shuffle along with this crowd, or run with the horses? His life became his answer, “I’ll run with the horses.”

The terrible threat is “that we might die earlier than we really do die, before death had become a natural necessity. The real horror lies in just such a premature death, a death after which we go on living for many years.

*– Vitezslav Gardavsky, Czech philosopher and martyr and author of **God is Not Yet Dead.***

ACTION: Journal This!

1. “To our chagrin we discover that the declaration of autonomy has issued on in a race of free, masterly men, but rather in a race that can be described by its poets and dramatists only as bored, vexed, frantic, embittered, and sniffling.” -- Tom Howard, author of *Chance or Dance*. What does it mean to be a mature, whole, blessed man?
2. What would it take for you to become whole?
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