



### 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.

**WHEN DO YOU QUIT?** - Psalm 119:32; Jeremiah 20:1-3

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

**A Man faces adversity and does not quit.**

June 06, 2019

**Bible Verses:** Jeremiah 12:5; Psalm 119:32; Jeremiah 20:1-18; Jeremiah 19:1-15; Jeremiah 8:8-12  
**Music:** General Dwight D. Eisenhower D-Day Invasion speech to Allied Troops before Battle (1944)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8PruBXQ3Bs>

**Resources:** *Run with the Horses – The Quest for Life at Its Best* by Eugene H. Peterson  
**Video:** America the Story of Us: D-Day Invasion  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIINOUg8wg8>

#### Meet Jeremiah

- 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.
- Return to God** → Jeremiah preached during the turmoil in Judah preceding and during the Babylonian captivity. The message of Jeremiah deals with the certainty of God’s judgment because of sin, yet the tenderness and eternity of God’s boundless love. Jeremiah is concerned with the people’s turn away from God. Judah had forsaken the Lord, and through Jeremiah God sent warnings of impending judgments, beseeching His people to return to His commandments.

#### Jeremiah – FIGHT FOR THE TRUTH!

- \_\_\_\_\_ → Jeremiah led his thoughts and feelings be known (Jeremiah 8:8-12). Jeremiah was not impressed by Pashur.
- \_\_\_\_\_ → The task of a prophet is not to smooth things over but to make things right. The function of walking with God is not to make us feel good but to make us good. YES – God loves. BUT, His love is passionate and seeks faithful, committed love in return. He wants mature, free men who will respond to him in authentic individuality.
- \_\_\_\_\_ → The False Self must be toppled from its pedestal. There must be pure hearts and clear intelligence, confession of sin and commitment in faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_ → God gives peace, but it is not peace that gets along with everyone by avoiding the hint of anything unpleasant. It is not a peace achieved by refusing to talk about painful subjects or touch sore spots. It is a peace that is hard won by learning to fight through prayer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ → We are trained to listen to the Word of God, to test everything against what God reveals to us in Christ, to discover all meaning and worth by examining life in relation to God’s will.

#### Jeremiah – EXPOSE THE LIES!

- \_\_\_\_\_ → Jeremiah accused the leaders of going along with a religion that assured them of success in whatever they undertook at the same time that they were abandoning the God who called them to live in love and faith. He accused them of taking their religion from the world around them, making a religious ritual out to the gratification of lust, handing out religious formulas for financial prosperity (Jeremiah 19:1-15).
- \_\_\_\_\_ → Jeremiah had one focus. He arranged for a conference with some of the leaders of the city. He took them 400 yards south of the temple to the Valley of Hinnom at the site of Topheth. Child sacrifice had been carried out there and still was being done in secret. It was the garbage dump of the city. The place stank. Jeremiah spoke the truth. All that matters is God.

#### Jeremiah – NOT AFRAID TO PROCLAIM GOD – Jeremiah 20:1-18.

- \_\_\_\_\_ → Jeremiah yelled at the chief overseer of the temple, Pashur. Pashur was the honored chief officer of the temple, presiding over splendid rituals and applauded by crowds of people. Jeremiah was in the stocks—a laughingstock.
- \_\_\_\_\_ → Jeremiah’s humiliation was complete, taunted with the name Danger-Everywhere. The word that has been forged out of suffering and articulated out of concern for the perilous existence of his people was now a slogan of contempt: Danger-Everywhere; old fire-and brimstone himself!
- \_\_\_\_\_ → Jeremiah didn’t like his circumstances. He yelled at Pashur, and after he yelled at Pashur he yelled at God, angry, hurt and somewhat bewildered that all this was happening to him. He didn’t like any of it, but he wasn’t afraid of it because the most important thing in his life was God—not comfort, not applause, not security, but the living God.

#### ACTION: Journal This!

- What injustice angers you most?
- What conviction would you die for?
- When have you been tempted to quit, but did not?

## 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?

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

**Jeremiah 20:1-18** - <sup>1</sup> The priest Pashur son of Immer was the senior priest in God's Temple. He heard Jeremiah preach this sermon. <sup>2</sup> He whipped Jeremiah the prophet and put him in the stocks at the Upper Benjamin Gate of God's Temple. <sup>3</sup> The next day Pashur came and let him go. Jeremiah told him, "God has a new name for you: not Pashur but Danger-Everywhere, <sup>4</sup> because God says, 'You're a danger to yourself and everyone around you. All your friends are going to get killed in battle while you stand there and watch. What's more, I'm turning all of Judah over to the king of Babylon to do whatever he likes with them - haul them off into exile, kill them at whim. <sup>5</sup> Everything worth anything in this city, property and possessions along with everything in the royal treasury - I'm handing it all over to the enemy. They'll rummage through it and take what they want back to Babylon.

<sup>6</sup> "And you, Pashur, you and everyone in your family will be taken prisoner into exile - that's right, exile in Babylon. You'll die and be buried there, you and all your cronies to whom you preached your lies." <sup>7</sup> You pushed me into this, God, and I let you do it. You were too much for me. And now I'm a public joke. They all poke fun at me. <sup>8</sup> Every time I open my mouth I'm shouting, "Murder!" or "Rape!" And all I get for my God-warnings are insults and contempt. <sup>9</sup> But if I say, "Forget it! No more God-Messages from me!" The words are fire in my belly, a burning in my bones. I'm worn out trying to hold it in. I can't do it any longer! <sup>10</sup> Then I hear whispering behind my back: "There goes old 'Danger-Everywhere.' Shut him up! Report him!" Old friends watch, hoping I'll fall flat on my face: "One misstep and we'll have him. We'll get rid of him for good!" <sup>11</sup> But God, a most fierce warrior, is at my side. Those who are after me will be sent sprawling - Slapstick buffoons falling all over themselves, a spectacle of humiliation no one will ever forget. <sup>12</sup> Oh, God-of-the-Angel-Armies, no one fools you. You see through everyone, everything. I want to see you pay them back for what they've done. I rest my case with you. <sup>13</sup> Sing to God! All praise to God! He saves the weak from the grip of the wicked. <sup>14</sup> Curse the day I was born! The day my mother bore me - a curse on it, I say! <sup>15</sup> And curse the man who delivered the news to my father: "You've got a new baby - a boy baby!" (How happy it made him.) <sup>16</sup> Let that birth notice be blacked out, deleted from the records, And the man who brought it haunted to his death with the bad news he brought. <sup>17</sup> He should have killed me before I was born, with that womb as my tomb, My mother pregnant for the rest of her life with a baby dead in her womb. <sup>18</sup> Why, oh why, did I ever leave that womb? Life's been nothing but trouble and tears, and what's coming is more of the same.

**Jeremiah 19:1-15** - <sup>1</sup> God said to me, "Go, buy a clay pot. Then get a few leaders from the people and a few of the leading priests <sup>2</sup> and go out to

the Valley of Ben-hinnom, just outside the Potsherd Gate, and preach there what I tell you. <sup>3</sup> "Say, 'Listen to God's Word, you kings of Judah and people of Jerusalem! This is the Message from God-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel. I'm about to bring doom crashing down on this place. Oh, and will ears ever ring! <sup>4</sup> Doom - because they've walked off and left me, and made this place strange by worshiping strange gods, gods never heard of by them, their parents, or the old kings of Judah. Doom - because they have massacred innocent people. <sup>5</sup> Doom - because they've built altars to that no-god Baal, and burned their own children alive in the fire as offerings to Baal, an atrocity I never ordered, never so much as hinted at! <sup>6</sup> "And so it's pay day, and soon' - God's Decree! - 'this place will no longer be known as Topheth or Valley of Ben-hinnom, but Massacre Meadows. <sup>7</sup> I'm canceling all the plans Judah and Jerusalem had for this place, and I'll have them killed by their enemies. I'll stack their dead bodies to be eaten by carrion crows and wild dogs. <sup>8</sup> I'll turn this city into such a museum of atrocities that anyone coming near will be shocked speechless by the savage brutality. <sup>9</sup> The people will turn into cannibals. Dehumanized by the pressure of the enemy siege, they'll eat their own children! Yes, they'll eat one another, family and friends alike.' <sup>10</sup> "Say all this, and then smash the pot in front of the men who have come with you. <sup>11</sup> Then say, 'This is what God-of-the-Angel-Armies says: I'll smash this people and this city like a man who smashes a clay pot into so many pieces it can never be put together again. They'll bury bodies here in Topheth until there's no more room. <sup>12</sup> And the whole city will become a Topheth. <sup>13</sup> The city will be turned by people and kings alike into a center for worshiping the star gods and goddesses, turned into an open grave, the whole city an open grave, stinking like a sewer, like Topheth.'" <sup>14</sup> Then Jeremiah left Topheth, where God had sent him to preach the sermon, and took his stand in the court of God's Temple and said to the people, <sup>15</sup> "This is the Message from God-of-the-Angel-Armies to you: 'Warning! Danger! I'm bringing down on this city and all the surrounding towns the doom that I have pronounced. They're set in their ways and won't budge. They refuse to do a thing I say.'"

**Jeremiah 8:8-12** - <sup>8</sup> "How can you say, 'We know the score. We're the proud owners of God's revelation'? Look where it's gotten you - stuck in illusion. Your religion experts have taken you for a ride! <sup>9</sup> Your know-it-alls will be unmasked, caught and shown up for what they are. Look at them! They know everything but God's Word. Do you call that 'knowing'? <sup>10</sup> "So here's what will happen to the know-it-alls: I'll make them wifeless and homeless. Everyone's after the dishonest dollar, little people and big people alike. Prophets and priests and everyone in-between twist words and doctor truth. <sup>11</sup> My dear Daughter - my people - broken, shattered, and yet they put on band-aids, saying, 'It's not so bad. You'll be just fine.' But things are not 'just fine'! <sup>12</sup> Do you suppose they are embarrassed over this outrage? Not really. They have no shame. They don't even know how to blush. There's no hope for them. They've hit bottom and there's no getting up. As far as I'm concerned, they're finished.'" God has spoken.

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# RUN WITH HORSES



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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. **Return to God** → Jeremiah preached during the turmoil in Judah preceding and during the Babylonian captivity. The message of Jeremiah deals with the certainty of God's judgment because of sin, yet the tenderness and eternity of God's boundless love. Jeremiah is concerned with the people's turn away from God. Judah had forsaken the Lord, and through Jeremiah God sent warnings of impending judgments, beseeching His people to return to His commandments.

# Jeremiah – FIGHT FOR THE TRUTH!

1. **ANGRY EXASPERATION** → Jeremiah led his thoughts and feelings be known (Jeremiah 8:8-12). Jeremiah was not impressed by Pashur.
2. **Make Things Right** → The task of a prophet is not to smooth things over but to make things right. The function of walking with God is not to make us feel good but to make us good. YES – God loves. BUT, His love is passionate and seeks faithful, committed love in return. He wants mature, free men who will respond to him in authentic individuality.
3. **Honesty & Truth** → The False Self must be toppled from its pedestal. There must be pure hearts and clear intelligence, confession of sin and commitment in faith.
4. **Peace** → God gives peace, but it is not peace that gets along with everyone by avoiding the hint of anything unpleasant. It is not a peace achieved by refusing to talk about painful subjects or touch sore spots. It is a peace that is hard won by learning to fight through prayer.
5. **Trained** → We are trained to listen to the Word of God, to test everything against what God reveals to us in Christ, to discover all meaning and worth by examining life in relation to God's will.

# Jeremiah – EXPOSE THE LIES!

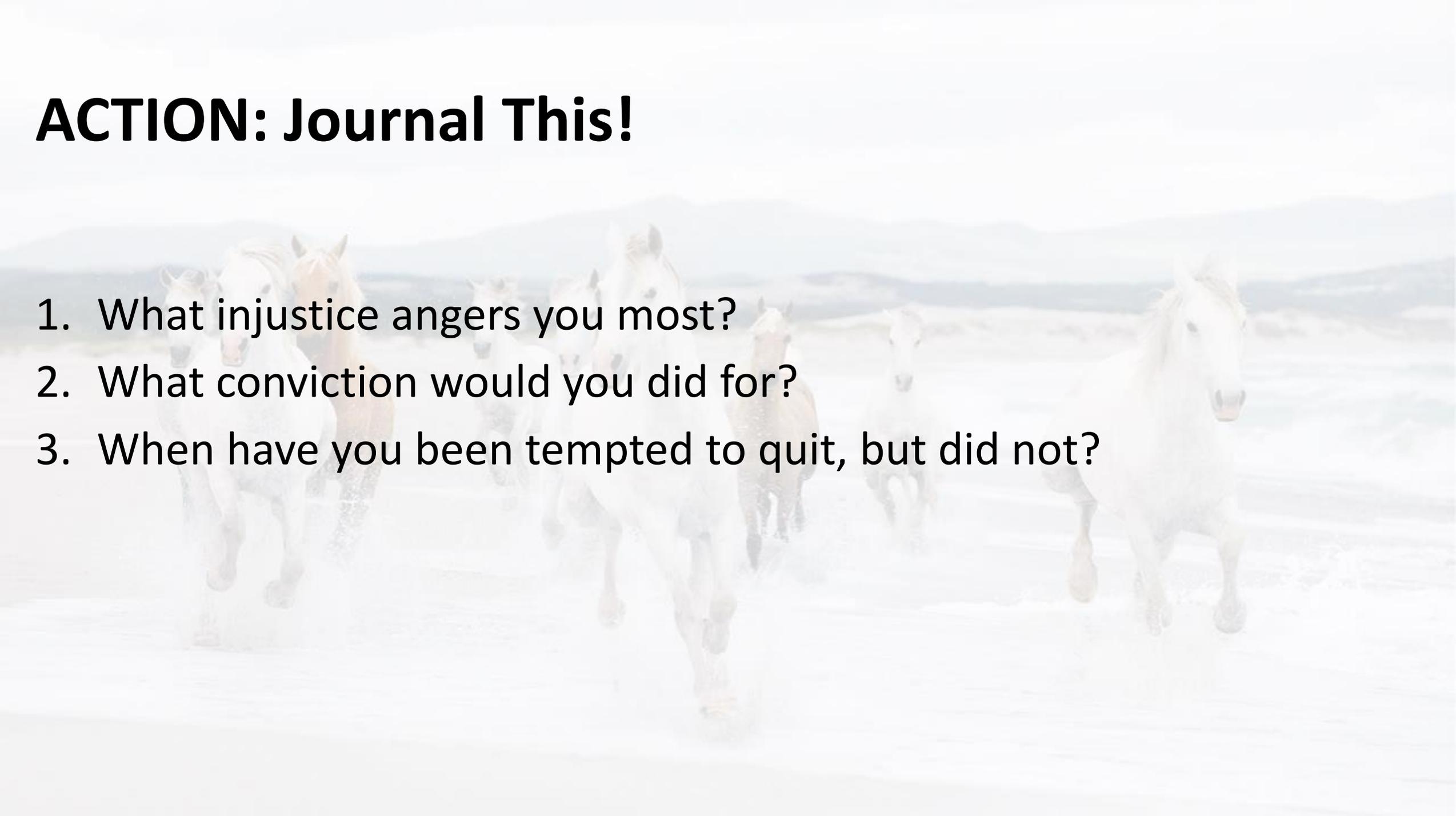
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2. **Object of Ridicule** → Jeremiah's humiliation was complete, taunted with the name Danger-Everywhere. The word that has been forged out of suffering and articulated out of concern for the perilous existence of his people was now a slogan of contempt: Danger-Everywhere; old fire-and brimstone himself!
3. **Passionate for God** → Jeremiah didn't like his circumstances. He yelled at Pashur, and after he yelled at Pashur he yelled at God, angry, hurt and somewhat bewildered that all this was happening to him. He didn't like any of it, but he wasn't afraid of it because the most important thing in his life was God—not comfort, not applause, not security, but the living God.

# **ACTION: Journal This!**

1. What injustice angers you most?
  2. What conviction would you die for?
  3. When have you been tempted to quit, but did not?
- 
- A herd of horses of various colors (white, brown, grey) is running through shallow water on a beach. The background shows a hazy landscape with mountains under a bright sky. The overall tone is bright and somewhat ethereal.