



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.

Why Don’t You Live Like That? - Psalm 119:32; Jeremiah 35:1-16.

Highland Colony Men’s Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

A Man lives with distinctiveness and integrity that identifies him as a Jesus follower.

July 11, 2019

Bible Verses: Jeremiah 12:5; Psalm 119:32; Jeremiah 35:1-16; Jeremiah 20:9

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

Music: Prison Inmates Taming Wild Horses Are Learning How To Handle Themselves
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyEOthkG2E8>

Video: Training Wild Horses With Convict Cowboys
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zPYcHeQIbg>

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.
- _____ → It was a sad day for Judah when Jehoiakim ascended to power. He reigned 11 years, and after his death his son, Jehoiachin, a youth 18, came to the throne. He only reigned for 3 months because Nebuchadnezzar’s army captured the city. Jeremiah’s mission was to endeavor to turn his people back to God. Jeremiah stood in the Temple and told the people that the Temple would be destroyed and Jerusalem itself would become a desolation. They called his words blasphemy. Jeremiah was charged with being unpatriotic. The priests and prophets threatened to kill Jeremiah.

Jeremiah – Fire in the Belly (Jer. 20:9).

- _____ → Everything Jeremiah lived and spoke came from his heart for God’s word. He mediated long and passionately on the word of God. He spoke words that were intense and personal to him.
- _____ → Jeremiah wanted everything God promises. He wanted to participate in all that God does. His spiritual intensity and passion set him apart.
- _____ → An artist, the athlete, and the saint inspire us. We observe a person live with courage and zest and decide that we also will pursue the very best that is in us. But other times we respond by being intimidated. The artist, the athlete, and the saint are rejected as evidence and proof of what is possible and treated as diversions and entertainments for lazy spectators and bored consumers.
- _____ → There are no special aptitudes for life with God—no required level of intelligence or degree of morality, no particular spiritual experience. There are only human beings, everyone created for a relationship with God that is personal and eternal.

Jeremiah – Where is Your Distinctiveness?

- _____ → Jeremiah was the expert in using metaphors to get the people to hear and see the ways of God.
- _____ → God told Jeremiah to invite the Recabite community to the Temple and serve them wine. But Recabites don’t drink wine. Why invite them to a wine party that they can’t enjoy?
- _____ → The Recabites were evidence that everyday, ordinary people could live their entire lives directed by a personal command (and not the impersonal pressures of the crowd) and to maintain persistently a distinctive way of life (and not assimilate to the fashions of the crowd).
- _____ → The discipline that made it possible for the Recabites to maintain their craft as metalworkers was far more important to them than making the commonsense adaptations that would have given them an easy rapport with their new neighbors.

Jeremiah – Live with Integrity.

- _____ → Jeremiah was not suggesting the specific details of the Recabite life to be held up but that they lived in obedience to a command and lived with integrity in a discipline. “Your problem is not that you are incapable but that you are lazy.
- _____ → God has commanded you to live set apart for a life of love. The Recabites are ordinary, mortal human beings, and they have been doing it for 250 years. You also have a way of life that requires certain disciplines to maintain its character.
- _____ → Don’t just talk about being righteous, but be engaged in regular worship, faithful prayer, tithing, caring for the poor, moral conduct, and the pursuit of righteousness.
- _____ → We are much more ourselves, more human when we respond to God’s call than the moral level of the culture. We become a little more alive every time we reject the habits of the crowd and practice the disciplines of the faith.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. How did the Bible become a critical variable in your walk with God?
2. When did you begin to identify yourself as a believer in Jesus?
3. How do you practice the spiritual disciplines?

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?"

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

Jeremiah 35:1-16 – ¹ The Message that Jeremiah received from God ten years earlier, during the time of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Israel: ² "Go visit the Recabite community. Invite them to meet with you in one of the rooms in God's Temple. And serve them wine." ³ So I went and got Jaazaniah son of Jeremiah, son of Habazziniah, along with all his brothers and sons - the whole community of the Recabites as it turned out -⁴ and brought them to God's Temple and to the meeting room of Hanan son of Igdaliah, a man of God. It was next to the meeting room of the Temple officials and just over the apartment of Maaseiah son of Shallum, who was in charge of Temple affairs. ⁵ Then I set out chalices and pitchers of wine for the Recabites and said, "A toast! Drink up!" ⁶ But they wouldn't do it. "We don't drink wine," they said. "Our ancestor Jonadab son of Recab commanded us, 'You are not to drink wine, you or your children, ever. ⁷Neither shall you build houses or settle down, planting fields and gardens and vineyards. Don't own property. Live in tents as nomads so that you will live well and prosper in a wandering life.' ⁸ "And we've done it, done everything Jonadab son of Recab commanded. We and our wives, our sons and daughters, drink no wine at all. ⁹ We don't build houses. We don't have vineyards or

fields or gardens. ¹⁰ We live in tents as nomads. We've listened to our ancestor Jonadab and we've done everything he commanded us. ¹¹ "But when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded our land, we said, 'Let's go to Jerusalem and get out of the path of the Chaldean and Aramean armies, find ourselves a safe place.' That's why we're living in Jerusalem right now." ¹² Then Jeremiah received this Message from God: ¹³ "God-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel, wants you to go tell the people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem that I say, 'Why won't you learn your lesson and do what I tell you?' God's Decree. ¹⁴ 'The commands of Jonadab son of Recab to his sons have been carried out to the letter. He told them not to drink wine, and they haven't touched a drop to this very day. They honored and obeyed their ancestor's command. But look at you! I have gone to a lot of trouble to get your attention, and you've ignored me. ¹⁵ I sent prophet after prophet to you, all of them my servants, to tell you from early morning to late at night to change your life, make a clean break with your evil past and do what is right, to not take up with every Tom, Dick, and Harry of a god that comes down the pike, but settle down and be faithful in this country I gave your ancestors.¹⁶ The descendants of Jonadab son of Recab carried out to the letter what their ancestor commanded them, but this people ignores me.'

Jeremiah 20:9 - ⁹ 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!

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RUN WITH HORSES



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what makes you think you can race against horses?”
– Jeremiah 12:5 (The Message)*

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Why Don’t You Live Like That?

Psalm 119:32; Jeremiah 35:1-16

Meet Jeremiah

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. **Suffered for the Truth** → It was a sad day for Judah when Jehoiakim ascended to power. He reigned 11 years, and after his death his son, Jehoiachin, a youth 18, came to the throne. He only reigned for 3 months because Nebuchadnezzar's army captured the city. Jeremiah's mission was to endeavor to turn his people back to God. Jeremiah stood in the Temple and told the people that the Temple would be destroyed and Jerusalem itself would become a desolation. They called his words blasphemy. Jeremiah was charged with being unpatriotic. The priests and prophets threatened to kill Jeremiah.

Jeremiah – Fire in the Belly (Jeremiah 20:9)

1. **Word of God** → Everything Jeremiah lived and spoke came from his heart for God's word. He mediated long and passionately on the word of God. He spoke words that were intense and personal to him.
2. **Set Apart** -> Jeremiah wanted everything God promises. He wanted to participate in all that God does. His spiritual intensity and passion set him apart.
3. **Inspired to Excellence** → An artist, the athlete, and the saint inspire us. We observe a person live with courage and zest and decide that we also will pursue the very best that is in us. But other times we respond by being intimidated. The artist, the athlete, and the saint are rejected as evidence and proof of what is possible and treated as diversions and entertainments for lazy spectators and bored consumers.
4. **Created for God** → There are no special aptitudes for life with God—no required level of intelligence or degree of morality, no particular spiritual experience. There are only human beings, every one created for a relationship with God that is personal and eternal.

Jeremiah – Where is Your Distinctiveness?

1. **Pay Attention** → Jeremiah was the expert in using metaphors to get the people to hear and see the ways of God.
2. **Serve Wine!** → God told Jeremiah to invite the Recabite community to the Temple and serve them wine. But Recabites don't drink wine. Why invite them to a wine party that they can't enjoy?
3. **Disciplined Distinctiveness** → The Recabites were evidence that everyday, ordinary people could live their entire lives directed by a personal command (and not the impersonal pressures of the crowd) and to maintain persistently a distinctive way of life (and not assimilate to the fashions of the crowd).
4. **Anchored in Identity** → The discipline that made it possible for the Recabites to maintain their craft as metalworkers was far more important to them than making the commonsense adaptations that would have given them an easy rapport with their new neighbors.

Jeremiah – Live with Integrity

1. **Committed** → Jeremiah was not suggesting the specific details of the Recabite life to be held up but that they lived in obedience to a command and lived with integrity in a discipline. “Your problem is not that you are incapable but that you are lazy.
2. **Live in Total Relationship** → God has commanded you to live set apart for a life of love. The Recabites are ordinary, mortal human beings, and they have been doing it for 250 years. You also have a way of life that requires certain disciplines to maintain its character.
3. **Disciplines of Life** → Don’t just talk about being righteous, but be engaged in regular worship, faithful prayer, tithing, caring for the poor, moral conduct, and the pursuit of righteousness.
4. **God’s Call** → We are much more ourselves, more human when we respond to God’s call than the moral level of the culture. We become a little more alive every time we reject the habits of the crowd and practice the disciplines of the faith.

ACTION: Journal This!

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