



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.

COMMITTED TO HOPE! - Psalm 119:32; Jeremiah 32:6-19; 24-30; 42-44.

Highland Colony Men’s Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

A Man must have hope to reach manhood.

August 01, 2019

Bible Verses: Jeremiah 12:5; Psalm 119:32; Jeremiah 32:6-19; 24-30; 42-44; Jeremiah 3:21-22; Jeremiah 30:5-7; 16,17; Jeremiah 31:2-6; 15-17; 20
Music: Florida farm helps traumatized children heal and find hope
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQa2wmDaFmo>

Resources: *Run with the Horses – The Quest for Life at Its Best* by Eugene H. Peterson
Videos: Horses For Heroes Cowboy Up! by Hope in the Saddle
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWJgEPetitY>

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.
- _____ → The late Francis Schaeffer once identified Jeremiah as the quintessential prophet for the postmodern age. "Jeremiah," he wrote, "provides us with an extended study of an era like our own, where men have turned away from God, and society has become post-Christian" (Schaeffer: *Death in the City*). The rabbis called him the "Weeping Prophet," and not without reason. His entire mission was to herald sorrow, destruction, and hardship for the people of God... As he finally saw the Holy Temple burn to the ground, it surely must have seemed as if his entire ministry had failed...

Jeremiah – Is it Practical

- _____ → These words are essentially synonymous. If it is practical, it is biblical; if it is biblical, it is practical. Biblical faith rejects, fiercely and unhesitatingly, any conduct or thinking that diminishes our ability to function as human beings in time and space. Ideas that drive a wedge between God and creation are false. BUT, there can be disagreement, confusion, and ignorance about what is biblical and what is practical.
- _____ → Jeremiah was one of the most practical men who ever lived. Jeremiah believed that he lived in a creation that was made to work and work well—a **practical** creation. He believed that every person is made for relationship with God, and without that relationship acknowledged and nurtured we live falsely and therefore impractically. People try to be good without God and it doesn’t work. Listen to reality (Jer. 3:21-22).
- _____ → Jeremiah was shut up in prison. He had been accused of collaboration with the enemy, a false charge, but in the war hysteria it stuck. Jeremiah did what at the time appeared absolutely crazy; he bought a field for \$17—a field that in all probability he would never even see.

Jeremiah – The Message of Hope

- _____ → Why did Jeremiah buy the field? He did it because he was convinced that the troubles everyone was experiencing were at that very moment being used by God in what would eventually turn out to be the salvation of the land. He bought the field as an investment in God’s next project for Israel, an investment that paid off admirably.
- _____ → At the moment that judgment is at hand Jeremiah speaks the word that evokes hope. There is more here than Babylonians at the gate; there is God in your midst. Judgment is here. But don’t despair; it is God’s judgment. Face it. Accept the suffering. Experience the correction of God. He is not against you (Jer. 30:5-7; 16-17).
- _____ → Judgment is necessary because of hardness of heart and is needed to crack the wall of self-sufficiency so that we can experience the inrushing grace of the healing, merciful, forgiving God (Jer. 31:2-6; 15-17; 20).

Jeremiah – Living in HOPE!

- _____ → Jeremiah knew that buying that field looked impractical and foolish. It was against history, against reason, against public opinion. He bought the field by the leading of God (Jer. 32:26-30; 42-44).
- _____ → Buying the field in Anathoth was a deliberate act of hope. All acts of hope expose themselves to ridicule because they seem impractical, failing to conform to visible reality. Hope commits us to actions that connect with God’s promises.
- _____ → What we call hoping is often only wishing. Biblical hope is an act—like buying a field in Anathoth. Hope acts on the conviction that God will complete the work that He has begun even when the appearances, especially when the appearances, oppose it.
- _____ → Hope is buying into what we believe. OR, we live as victims by suffering in despair, live lazily, take no risk, protect ourselves with cynicism. If we live in hope, we go against the stream. By buying a field, Jeremiah made the word of God visible, made a foothold of it for anyone who wanted to make a way out of chaotic despair into the ordered wholeness of salvation. There is a BETTER WAY, BUT IT TAKES COURAGE!

ACTION: Journal This!

1. What are 3 words you would use to describe a practical person?
2. What are 3 words you would use to describe an impractical person?
3. What's the best investment decision you ever made?

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 32:6-19; 24-30; 42-44 - ⁶ Jeremiah said, "God's Message came to me like this: ⁷ Prepare yourself! Hanamel, your uncle Shallum's son, is on his way to see you. He is going to say, 'Buy my field in Anathoth. You have the legal right to buy it.' ⁸ "And sure enough, just as God had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me while I was in jail and said, 'Buy my field in Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin, for you have the legal right to keep it in the family. Buy it. Take it over.' "That did it. I knew it was God's Message. ⁹ "So I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel. I paid him seventeen silver shekels. ¹⁰ I followed all the proper procedures: In the presence of witnesses I wrote out the bill of sale, sealed it, and weighed out the money on the scales. ¹¹ Then I took the deed of purchase - the sealed copy that contained the contract and its conditions and also the open copy - ¹² and gave them to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah. All this took place in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and the witnesses who had signed the deed, as the Jews who were at the jail that day looked on. ¹³ "Then, in front of all of them, I told Baruch, ¹⁴ 'These are orders from God-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel: Take these documents - both the sealed and the open deeds - and put them for safekeeping in a pottery jar. ¹⁵ For God-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel, says, "Life is going to return to normal. Homes and fields and vineyards are again going to be bought in this country." ¹⁶ "And then, having handed over the legal documents to Baruch son of Neriah, I prayed to God, ¹⁷ 'Dear God, my Master, you created earth and sky by your great power - by merely stretching out your arm! There is nothing you can't do. ¹⁸ You're loyal in your steadfast love to thousands upon thousands - but you also make children live with the fallout from their parents' sins. Great and powerful God, named God-of-the-Angel-Armies, ¹⁹ determined in purpose and relentless in following through, you see everything that men and women do and respond appropriately to the way they live, to the things they do

²⁴ "Oh, look at the siege ramps already set in place to take the city. Killing and starvation and disease are on our doorstep. The Babylonians are attacking! The Word you spoke is coming to pass - it's daily news! ²⁵ And yet you, God, the Master, even though it is certain that the city will be turned over to the Babylonians, also told me, Buy the field. Pay for it in cash. And make sure there are witnesses." ²⁶ Then God's Message came again to Jeremiah: ²⁷ "Stay alert! I am God, the God of everything living. Is there anything I can't do? ²⁸ So listen to God's Message: No doubt about it, I'm handing this city over to the Babylonians and Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. He'll take it. ²⁹ The attacking Chaldeans will break through and burn the city down: All those houses whose roofs were used as altars for offerings to Baal and the worship of who knows how many other gods provoked me. ³⁰ It isn't as if this were the first time they had provoked me. The people of Israel and Judah have been doing this for a long time - doing what I hate, making me angry by the way they live." God's Decree.

⁴² "Yes, this is God's Message: 'I will certainly bring this huge catastrophe on this people, but I will also usher in a wonderful life of prosperity. I promise. ⁴³ Fields are going to be bought here again, yes, in this very country that you assume is going to end up desolate - gone to the dogs, unlivable, wrecked by the Babylonians. ⁴⁴ Yes, people will buy farms again, and legally, with deeds of purchase, sealed documents, proper witnesses - and right here in the territory of Benjamin, and in the area around Jerusalem, around the villages of Judah and the hill country, the Shephelah and the Negev. I will restore everything that was lost.' God's Decree."

Jeremiah 3:21-22 - ²¹ The sound of voices comes drifting out of the hills, the unhappy sound of Israel's crying, Israel lamenting the wasted years, never once giving her God a thought. ²² "Come back, wandering children! I can heal your wanderlust!" "We're here! We've come back to you. You're our own true God!"

Jeremiah 30:5-7; 16,17 - ⁵ "God's Message: "Cries of panic are being heard. The peace has been shattered. ⁶ Ask around! Look around! Can men bear babies? So why do I see all these he-men holding their bellies like women in labor, Faces contorted, pale as death? ⁷ The blackest of days, no day like it ever! A time of deep trouble for Jacob - but he'll come out of it alive.

¹⁶ "Everyone who hurt you will be hurt; your enemies will end up as slaves. Your plunderers will be plundered; your looters will become loot. ¹⁷ As for you, I'll come with healing, curing the incurable, Because they all gave up on you and dismissed you as hopeless - that good-for-nothing Zion."

Jeremiah 31:2-6; 15-17; 20 - ² This is the way God put it: "They found grace out in the desert, these people who survived the killing. Israel, out looking for a place to rest, ³ met God out looking for them!" God told them, "I've never quit loving you and never will. Expect love, love, and more love! ⁴ And so now I'll start over with you and build you up again, dear virgin Israel. You'll resume your singing, grabbing tambourines and joining the dance. ⁵ You'll go back to your old work of planting vineyards on the Samaritan hillsides, And sit back and enjoy the fruit - oh, how you'll enjoy those harvests! ⁶ The time's coming when watchmen will call out from the hilltops of Ephraim: 'On your feet! Let's go to Zion, go to meet our God!'"

¹⁵ Again, God's Message: "Listen to this! Laments coming out of Ramah, wild and bitter weeping. It's Rachel weeping for her children, Rachel refusing all solace. Her children are gone, gone - long gone into exile."

¹⁶ But God says, "Stop your incessant weeping, hold back your tears. Collect wages from your grief work." God's Decree. "They'll be coming back home! ¹⁷ There's hope for your children." God's Decree.

²⁰ "Oh! Ephraim is my dear, dear son, my child in whom I take pleasure! Every time I mention his name, my heart bursts with longing for him! Everything in me cries out for him. Softly and tenderly I wait for him." God's Decree.

Philip K. Hardin, M.A., M.Div.

Director of Business & Professional Outreach, Intl. - Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Certified Life Coach
563 Johnson Avenue – Fairhope, Alabama 36532
Phone: 601-925-0707

Email: phil@bpointl.org

Webpage: www.bpointl.org

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. **"Weeping Prophet"** → The late Francis Schaeffer once identified Jeremiah as the quintessential prophet for the postmodern age. "Jeremiah," he wrote, "provides us with an extended study of an era like our own, where men have turned away from God, and society has become post-Christian" (Schaeffer: Death in the City). The rabbis called him the "Weeping Prophet," and not without reason. His entire mission was to herald sorrow, destruction, and hardship for the people of God... As he finally saw the Holy Temple burn to the ground, it surely must have seemed as if his entire ministry had failed...

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Jeremiah – Living in HOPE!

1. **LED BY GOD** → Jeremiah knew that buying that field looked impractical and foolish. It was against history, against reason, against public opinion. He bought the field by the leading of God (Jer. 32:26-30; 42-44).
2. **TAKE ACTION** → Buying the field in Anathoth was a deliberate act of hope. All acts of hope expose themselves to ridicule because they seem impractical, failing to conform to visible reality. Hope commits us to actions that connect with God's promises.
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