

# RUN WITH THE HORSES

Jeremiah Series Guide  
Part 4





# WEEK 4

## **Sermon Notes:**

“The Message from God to Jeremiah: “Stand in the gate of God’s Temple and preach this Message. “Say, ‘Listen, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship God. God-of-the-Angel-Armies, Israel’s God, has this to say to you: “Clean up your act—the way you live, the things you do—so I can make my home with you in this place. Don’t for a minute believe the lies being spoken here—“This is God’s Temple, God’s Temple, God’s Temple!”

### **Jeremiah 7:1-4 The Message**

“Go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for my Name, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel.

While you were doing all these things, declares the LORD, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer.

### **Jeremiah 7:12-13 NIV**

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’ ? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’

### **Mark 11:15-17 NIV**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

### **Romans 12:1 NIV**

# Commentary

The muck of a half century of corruption was shoveled out of the city, out of the land. The place had been a religious zoo. At the old places of worship you could get any loathsome desire gratified, any murderous ambition licensed. There was a ritual and god or goddess for every whim. Under Manasseh religion was... a supernatural assistance to do whatever you wished: make money, insure a good harvest, feel good, murder the person you hate, get ahead of your neighbor.

Now under Josiah, religion centered on one holy God.

Religion became what it must be but often is not - a way of discovering the meaning of life, of ordering justice in society, of finding direction towards goals of excellence, of acquiring the discipline to live with integrity, of realizing how God loves and learning how to love God in return.

**Eugene Peterson, *Run with the Horses*, (Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2009), pgs. 61-62.**

The reform was accomplished. Everything that a king's commands could do was done: conspicuous crime was stopped, superstitious religions were sent packing; immoral worship was banned. But getting rid of evil does not make people good. It didn't take Jeremiah long to realize the reform was only skin-deep. Everything had changed, but nothing had changed. The outward changes had been enormous; the inward changes were imperceptible.

**Eugene Peterson, *Run with the Horses*, (Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2009), p. 63.**

And what is Jeremiah saying? This: "Don't for a minute believe the lies being spoken here- "This is GOD's Temple, GOD's Temple, GOD's Temple." The people stood in the holy place and spoke the current religious cliché and supposed that everything was just fine. They were in the right place, and they said the right words - but they were not right. The reform was necessary, but it was not enough. For religion is not a matter of arrangements or places or words, but of life and love, of mercy and obedience, of persons in a passion of faith.

**Eugene Peterson, *Run with the Horses*, (Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2009), pgs. 63-64.**



# Small Group Guide

This section is to be used to turn the message into a small group. Gather up some people, find a space to meet, and use this as a guide.

**Connect** with each other, introduce yourself and share a bit about who you are. Each week you are together, go a little deeper and more personal. Everyone wants to belong somewhere.

**Summarize.** Take turns summarizing the message in your own words. allow everyone to participate in summarizing the message. not a personal application yet, just take turns summarizing the message and build it in its entirety. Make sure you as a small group leader are filling in any gaps, the main point, scripture, and the end of the message.

**Personal.** This section will allow you to go deeper and be sensitive to God's activity in people's lives. Ask questions and facilitate conversation as it pertains to the message of Jeremiah. What did you get out of the message and why? Go over the main scriptures from the message. How will this influence your soul (mind, will, heart, emotions), your work, and your life?

**Application.** Take this time to ask what everyone will be doing with what they heard from the message.

Discuss the similarities in Jeremiah's day and what you are experiencing today?

If you have received Jesus as your savior, what evidence is showing from the renewing of your mind?

Romans 12:1-2

What areas of your life do you need to surrender?

What will you do with what you heard?

**Pray.** Take some time to pray with each other.

## **Jeremiah Reading Plan:**

Join our entire church family in reading through the book of Jeremiah together. Jeremiah 16-20





Series inspired by "Run With The Horses".

Peterson, Eugene. *Run With The Horses*. Illinois: Intersity Press, 2009.