

RUN WITH THE HORSES

Jeremiah Series Guide
Part 5



WEEK 5

Sermon Notes:

Intimacy

“You know where I am, God!”

Jeremiah 15:15

Loneliness

“Led by you, I went off by myself.”

Jeremiah 15:15

Hurt

“Why this chronic pain. This ever worsening wound and no healing in sight?”

Jeremiah 15:18

Honesty

“You’re nothing, God, but a mirage, a lovely oasis in the distance - and then nothing.”

Jeremiah 15:18

Repentance

“Take back those words, and I’ll take you back. Then you’ll stand tall before me. “Use words truly and well. Don’t stoop to cheap whining. Then, but only then, you’ll speak for me. Let your words change them. Don’t change your words to suit them.”

Jeremiah 15:19

Renewal

“And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD.”

Jeremiah 15:20

Wholeness only follows when we face our woundedness.

Commentary

Indisputably great persons arouse curiosity. What are they like on the inside? What do they do when they are not being watched? What goes on in their private lives? Our appetite for gossip, for confessions, for inside information is insatiable. For every person who reads the front page story on a politician's speech there are twenty who will read the gossip column that describes in delicious detail his companion at dinner the night before. We want, we say, to know what a person is really like. We are not content with the public image, the outer event, the external happening. We pounce on any detail, however insignificant, that might reveal what goes on behind the scenes in the heart.

Often this curiosity is sniping pettiness that wants to cut people down to our size so that we will not be embarrassed in our own littleness.

What was Jeremiah really like? What did he do when he was alone? When no one was watching, how did he conduct himself?

There is a single, clear, straightforward answer to these questions: he prayed. Seven passages in the book of Jeremiah are labeled "confessional." In each of these Jeremiah speaks in the first person. He opens his heart. He reveals what is going on inside while the fireworks are going off outside. We hold our breath on the brink of these most private revelations. We have been so often disappointed, even disillusioned, when we have gained access to the diaries, letters, and tapes of great and admired people. How many public reputations can survive a thorough exposure of the inner life?

Jeremiah's inner life is revealed in these confessions. We are surprised, but we are not disillusioned. When Jeremiah was out of the public eye he was passionate with God, he prayed. Jeremiah's secret life is a prayer life. The cellar reality of Jeremiah's towering humanity is prayer.

What we find is Jeremiah praying: addressing God, listening to God.

That is a picture of prayer. The person with whom we set aside time for intimacy, for this deepest and most personal conversation, is God.

Eugene Peterson, *Run With The Horses*, (Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2009), p. 91-94.

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 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.

What will you do with what you heard?

What is God asking you to be or do from 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.

Read - Jeremiah chapters 21-25



Series inspired by "Run With The Horses"

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