

RUN WITH THE HORSES

Jeremiah Series Guide
Part 7



WEEK 7

Sermon Notes:

But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

Jeremiah 1:7 NKJV

"For twenty-three years, from the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, to this day, the word of the Lord has come to me, and I have spoken persistently to you, but you have not listened. 4 You have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear, although the Lord persistently sent to you all his servants the prophets, 5 saying, 'Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and evil deeds, and dwell upon the land that the Lord has given to you and your fathers from of old and forever.

Jeremiah 25:3-5 ESV

For 23 years, Jeremiah suffered an enormous amount of abuse, rejection and opposition yet he remained faithful to God's call for his life. For 23 years, he faithfully got up every morning and listened to God's word and spoke God's word faithfully to the people. For twenty-three years the people listened but did not give heed to God's message.

What was the source of Jeremiah's persistence? How could he remain steadfast in the midst of mocking, complaining and even threats?

"But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:42 NKJV

"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,"

Philippians 3:13 NKJV

Commentary

A Ready Heart

The word hashkem (“persistently”) has a sunrise in it. Jeremiah is up before the sun to do his work. He is no reluctant, bored drudge. There is an early morning lightness in him. Every day there is the anticipation of listening to God’s word and then speaking God’s word.

Eugene Peterson, Run with the Horses, (Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2009), p.110.

Tough Sledding

“We know that Jeremiah suffered an enormous amount of abuse across those years. He faced mockery and rejection and imprisonment. He wrestled with stretchers of discouragement and pits of despair and thoughts of quitting.

At one of those times God confronted Jeremiah: “IF you’re tired from running a foot race, how will you race against horses?” (Jer 12:5 Bright’s translation).

Eugene Peterson, Run with the Horses, (Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2009), p.109.

Jeremiah did not resolve to stick it out for twenty-three years, no matter what; he got up every morning with the sun. The day was God’s day, not the people’s. He didn’t get up to face rejection, he got up to meet with God. He didn’t rise to put up with another round of mockery, he rose to be with his Lord. That’s the secret of his preserving pilgrimage – not thinking with dread about the long road ahead but greeting the present moment, every present moment, with obedient delight, with expectant hope. “My heart is ready!”

Eugene Peterson, Run with the Horses, (Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2009), p.110.

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 distracts you from spending time with God?

How are you responding to God's word to you?

How could Jeremiah remain consistent and faithful when it looked like no one was hearing his message or changing?

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 31, 32, 34, and 35



Series inspired by "Run With The Horses"

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