

DANIEL BISHOP

*Lead Pastor*

# RN WITH THE HORSES

Jeremiah 11:18 - 12:17

## Idealism vs Realism



BROOKLYN  
11

BROOKLYN

KLYN

CLUTCHPOINTS





God's Calling on Your Life

### JEREMIAH 11:18-23 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> The Lord made it known to me and I knew; then you showed me their deeds. <sup>19</sup> But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.



## JEREMIAH 11:18-23 (ESV)

I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying,

### JEREMIAH 11:18-23 (ESV)

"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more."

### JEREMIAH 11:18-23 (ESV)

20 But, O Lord of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them,

**JEREMIAH 11:18-23 (ESV)**

for to you have I committed my cause.

### JEREMIAH 11:18-23 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the men of Anathoth, who seek your life, and say,

### JEREMIAH 11:18-23 (ESV)

"Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord, or you will die by our hand"— 22 therefore thus says the Lord of hosts:

### JEREMIAH 11:18-23 (ESV)

"Behold, I will punish them. The young men shall die by the sword,  
their sons and their daughters shall die by famine,

### JEREMIAH 11:18-23 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> and none of them shall be left. For I will bring disaster upon the men of Anathoth, the year of their punishment."



JOHN 15:18-20 (NIV)

18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.  
19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own.

**JOHN 15:18-20 (NIV)**

As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

### JOHN 15:18-20 (NIV)

20 Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

JOHN 15:18-20 (NIV)

If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

1

Jeremiah was **persecuted** by the world  
and **preserved** by God.

You will experience opposition in this life,  
but God will preserve you in what He has called you to do.

## APPLICATION QUESTION

How have you seen God preserve you  
in what He has called you to?

**ECCLESIASTES 3:1-2 (ESV)**

For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven:



### ECCLESIASTES 3:1-2 (ESV)

2 a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

### JEREMIAH 12:1-4 (ESV)

Righteous are you, O Lord, when I complain to you;  
yet I would plead my case before you.

**JEREMIAH 12:1-4 (ESV)**

Why does the way of the wicked prosper?  
Why do all who are treacherous thrive?

### JEREMIAH 12:1-4 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> You plant them, and they take root; they grow and produce fruit;  
you are near in their mouth and far from their heart.

### JEREMIAH 12:1-4 (ESV)

3 But you, O Lord, know me; you see me,  
and test my heart toward you.

**JEREMIAH 12:1-4 (ESV)**

Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter,  
and set them apart for the day of slaughter.

JEREMIAH 12:1-4 (ESV)

4 How long will the land mourn and the grass of every field wither?

### JEREMIAH 12:1-4 (ESV)

For the evil of those who dwell in it the beasts and the birds are swept away, because they said, "He will not see our latter end."



2

Jeremiah **complained** to God **honorably**  
and **honestly**.

PSALM 142:1-2 (ESV)

With my voice I cry out to the Lord;  
with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord.

PSALM 142:1-2 (ESV)

2 I pour out my complaint before him;  
I tell my trouble before him.

"Jeremiah had good reasons to complain. A lot of people don't. Some people major in complaining and they have no reason for it."

## PASTOR TOM LANCE

"Jeremiah had good reasons to complain. A lot of people don't. Some people major in complaining and they have no reason for it."

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COMPLAINING**

**UNHEALTHY  
COMPLAINING/GRUMBLING**

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- Complaining to God shows we trust in Him.
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*(Righteous are You, God.)*

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- Complaining to everyone but God shows distrust.
- Complaints are made to bring attention to yourself.  
*(Poor me. Everyone feel bad for me.)*

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- Complaints are made to bring attention to yourself.  
*(Poor me. Everyone feel bad for me.)*
- Complaints are overdramatic, false, and scripted.
- The goal of the complaint is you are mad, upset, and don't want any resolution from God or anyone.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What is something you are complaining about to others that could show your distrust in God?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Is there anything you need to complain and lament before God showing you need Him?



### JEREMIAH 1:17-19 (ESV)

17 But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you.

**JEREMIAH 1:17-19 (ESV)**

Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them.

### JEREMIAH 1:17-19 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land,

**JEREMIAH 1:17-19 (ESV)**

against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests,  
and the people of the land.

### JEREMIAH 1:17-19 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the Lord, to deliver you."

## PSALM 13 (ESV)

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?

## PSALM 13 (ESV)

2 How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

## PSALM 13 (ESV)

3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;  
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,



## PSALM 13 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"  
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

## PSALM 13 (ESV)

5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

## PSALM 13 (ESV)

6 I will sing to the Lord,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.





**ROMANS 16:5 (ESV)**

Greet my beloved Epaenetus,  
who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.

## Runners 16

Epaphroditus who was the first convert  
in Asia,

pretty cool to be the first of many.  
Would help me to lead some one to

The ones that will be the first of many  
in their family. Help me to do this

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What's something you have waited a long time for where you feel like giving up?



**JEREMIAH 12:5 (ESV)**

"If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you,  
how will you compete with horses?"

**JEREMIAH 12:5 (ESV)**

And if in a safe land you are so trusting,  
what will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?"



3

God **challenged** Jeremiah after hearing his **complaints**.

**MATTHEW 5:4 (ESV)**

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

**MATTHEW 11:28 (ESV)**

Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest.

1 PETER 5:7 (NIV)

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

3

God **challenged** Jeremiah after hearing his **complaints**.



God challenges us because He loves us  
and wants us ready for what's next.

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

RUN

WITH

EUGENE H. PETERSON

THE

HORSES

THE QUEST FOR  
LIFE AT ITS BEST

**JEREMIAH 12:6 (ESV)**

"For even your brothers and the house of your father,  
even they have dealt treacherously with you;

**JEREMIAH 12:6 (ESV)**

they are in full cry after you; do not believe them,  
though they speak friendly words to you."

## JEREMIAH 12:5 (THE MESSAGE)

"So, Jeremiah, if you're worn out in this footrace with men, what makes you think you can race against horses?"

## JEREMIAH 12:5 (THE MESSAGE)

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?"

**EUGENE PETERSON**

"Life is difficult Jeremiah,  
are you going to quit at the first wave of opposition?"

## EUGENE PETERSON

Are you going to retreat when you find that there is more to life than finding three meals a day and a dry place to sleep at night?



## EUGENE PETERSON

Are you going to run home the minute you find that the mass of men and women are more interested in keeping their feet warm

**EUGENE PETERSON**

than in living at risk to the Glory of God.  
Are you going to live cautiously or courageously?

## EUGENE PETERSON

I called you to live at your best, to pursue righteousness,  
to sustain a drive toward excellence...

**EUGENE PETERSON**

It is easier to relax in the embracing arms of The Average.

## EUGENE PETERSON

Easier, but not better. Easier, but not more significant.  
Easier, but not more fulfilling.

## EUGENE PETERSON

I called you to a life of purpose far beyond  
what you think yourself capable of living

**EUGENE PETERSON**

and promised you adequate strength  
to fulfill your destiny.

## EUGENE PETERSON

Now at the first sign of difficulty you are ready to quit. If you are fatigued by this run-of-the-mill-crowd of apathetic mediocrities,



## EUGENE PETERSON

what will you do when the real race starts, the race  
with the swift and determined horses of excellence?

## EUGENE PETERSON

What is it you really want Jeremiah? Do you want to shuffle along with this crowd, or run with the horses?

**4**

The challenge: **make yourself ready to run with the horses.**

## PASTOR TOM LANCE

"It's not that things are going to get worse,  
but He has bigger things for us to take on."

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Is there an area of your life where you are weary and God is preparing you for what's next?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How is God challenging you to run with the horses?

**JEREMIAH 12:15 (ESV)**

And after I have plucked them up,  
I will again have compassion on them,

**JEREMIAH 12:15 (ESV)**  
and I will bring them again  
each to his heritage and each to his land.



**PROVERBS 21:31 (NLT)**

The horse is prepared for the day of battle,  
but the victory belongs to the LORD.

## EUGENE PETERSON

"He weighed the options. He counted the cost.  
He tossed and turned in hesitation.

## EUGENE PETERSON

The response when it came was not verbal but biographical.  
His life became his answer, "I'll run with the horses."