# PANIEL BISHOP Lead Pastor

## RUN WITH THE HORSES

Jeremiah 11:18 - 12:17

# Idealism vs Realism







# God's Calling on Your Life

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

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

"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."

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

for to you have I committed my cause.

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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."

#### 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)

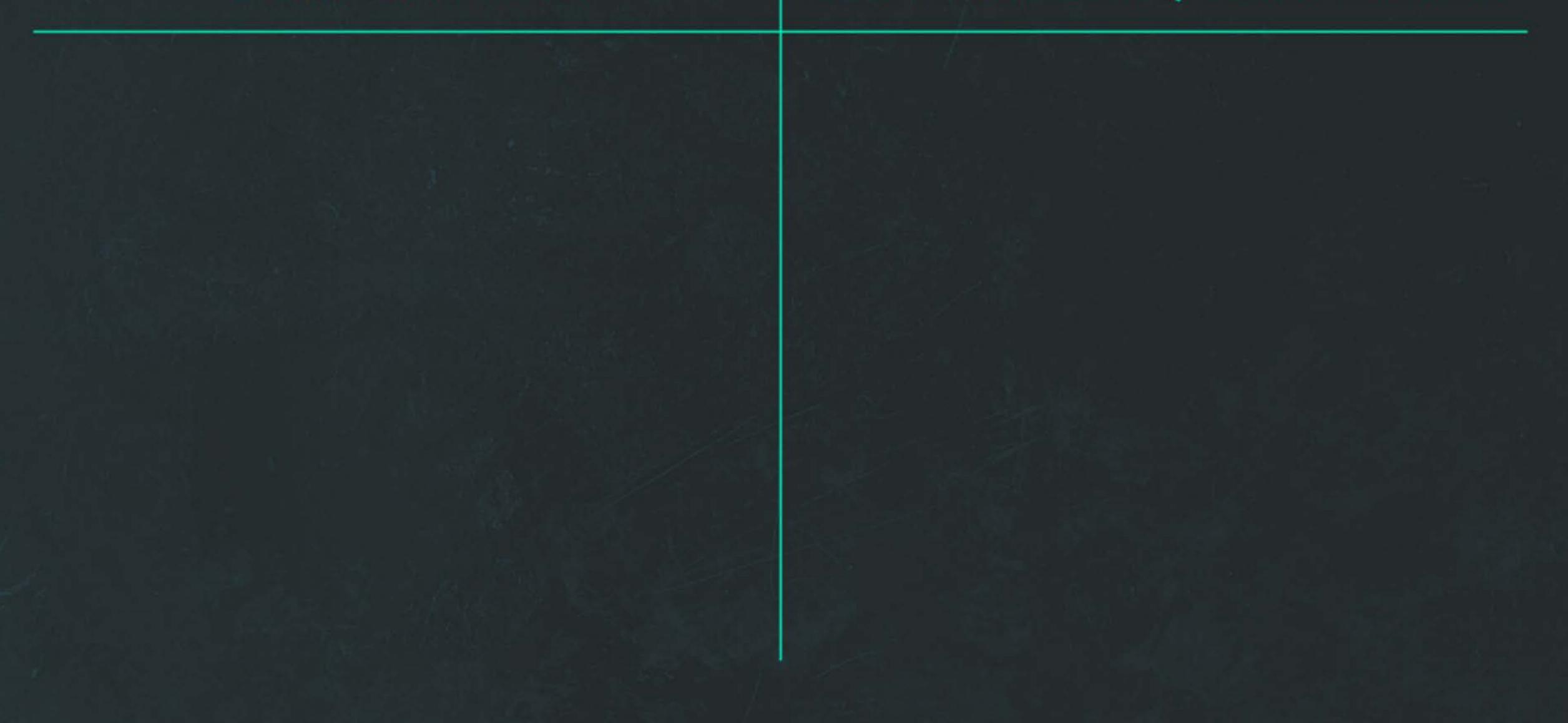
2 I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.

"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

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- 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?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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?

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

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

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

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.

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#### 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?"



#### 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.

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?"

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

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?

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

than in living at risk to the Glory of God.

Are you going to live cautiously or courageously?

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

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

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

Easier, but not more fulfilling.

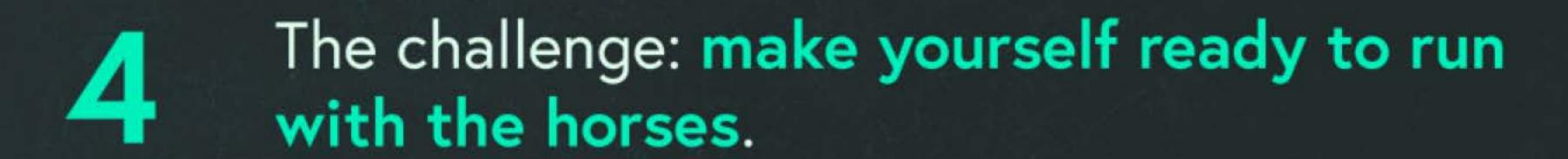
I called you to a life of purpose far beyond what you think yourself capable of living

and promised you adequate strength to fulfill your destiny.

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,

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

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



#### PASTOR TOM LANCE

"It's not that thing 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.

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

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