

Running with the Horses

Jeremiah 12:1-6

3/02/03

Intro

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Jeremiah has now been ministering for a number of years and has seen some difficult times. In chapter 11, it tells us that there were people from his hometown that were seeking his life. Josiah is no longer king, but most likely Jehoaahaz (Jehoiakim) is now king and the nation is going downhill fast.

At this point, Jeremiah has become weary and in his weariness he asks God about what he sees as injustice, "Why do the wicked prosper?"

It bothers Jeremiah that there are people who have God on their lips, but far from their mind and heart.

God answers him with a few questions of His own; and that is where we gain the greatest insight for our lives now.

"If you have run with the footmen and they weary you,
how will you run with the horses?"

"If you fall down in a time of peace what will you do
in the thicket of the Jordon?"

Here are some insights that will help us in times of trouble from these words that God said to Jeremiah.

I. The horses are coming (whether we want them or not)

A. In this Christian walk there will be troubles

- Many people are confused on this point. They are disappointed because they truly believe that God should protect them from trouble.
- In fact, God predicted it.

Psalm 34:19 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him from them all."

John 16:33 - "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

B. What difference does Jesus make?

- We often have the same troubles as the people in the world.
- The question is, "**What difference does Jesus make?**"
- People want to see how we handle our problems.

C. In the future the problems will be greater

- they would overwhelm is if we faced them today

Illus – When I gave my first sermon

- **I was scared when the church had 35 people**

Illus – When we first had kids, I thought we would never get a full night's sleep.

- **Now we have five children either in or entering into their teens!!!**

- Even the troubles we create ourselves will be greater, because our responsibilities are greater.

Illus – What we drive; from a push toy, to a trick, to a bike, to a motorcycle, car, car with people, van, bus, etc.

II. God is preparing us for greater things

- A. God allows us to run with the footmen first
- God has even selected our troubles knowing what we need to correct our character.
 - The battles of today prepare us for the battles of tomorrow.

Illus – The size of a man can be measured by the size of the problem that he can handle.

- B. You will be able to run with the horses
- God won't bring the horses until we have run with the footmen
 - God does not give us more than we can handle

I Corinthians 10:13 – No temptation has overtaken you but such is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

- C. Keep running, don't stop now
- One thing about horses, then can run a long time
 - You will need all the endurance you can get

Illus – Some troubles are like arm wrestling, they are over in a few minutes,

Other troubles are like a marathon and last for years.

Illus – Walter Payton, of the Chicago Bears, had just made another great run and the announcer said, “He has now ran

over 9 miles while carrying the ball.” And knocked down every 4.6 yards...

III. Insights into running with horses

- A. God is not trying to destroy you!
- **God believes in you, “Nothing can separate us from the love of God...”**
 - **Phil 1:6** For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you, will be faithful to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.
- B. Stay steady
- Don't overreact.
 - Don't react too quickly.
 - Don't kick against the goads
 - Don't sprint if you don't have to
- C. God is running with you
- **God does not promise to prevent problems, but He does promise to be with us in the problems.**

Isaiah 41:10, “Do not fear. For I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Conclusion

A revived soul is a refreshed soul.

Isaiah 40: 31; “Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount with wings like eagle. They will run and not be weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

The one thing that God desire more than anything else is simply a heart for Him that is sincere.