

To Run With Horses

Jer.12:5

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Jeremiah preached and prophesied to Jerusalem and Judah during its destruction and its being carried off into its Babylonian captivity. He stood resolute on the fundamental truths of God's word in practice and proclamation. And all the while his countrymen, kinsmen and coworker rejected, assaulted and abused him. Why? The answer is a simple one, because God told him to.

In the several passages surrounding verse 5 of chapter 12 Jeremiah is questioning God's reasoning and His actions towards Judah. It seems they are living in great blessings even though they only give lip service towards God with hearts far from Him. God's answer is troubling. 'If you think your life is already difficult to endure, you have only just begun to experience hardship.' (paraphrased loosely)

Jer 12:5 "If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?..."

I am not a Jeremiah nor do I compare well next to him and we as a people of God are not equal to Judah and Jerusalem but there is comparison. Christianity in America is compromised. The Word of God has been diluted, its truths rejected, the God of its pages praised with lying lips. America has been living in great prosperity and security and peace all the while rejecting the truth of His existence.

If we think being a true child of God has become unpopular and even detrimental then hang on to your hats the journey is not yet finished. Jesus has called us into a relationship with Himself, with the Heavenly Father and with the Holy Spirit. This relationship is like God's and

Jeremiah's. We are called to be resolute in our devotion to Him and in our service to and for Him. Genuine! It is important that we each make distinction in our lives that God and His Word are true and everything else suspect.

God and His Word are the base line from which everything must be measured. In the world around us the Bible is only a book of fables and stories. We will be told by the world that believing the Bible to true is naive and foolish and downright stupid. To their own destruction they heap up insults against God's Holiness and against His elect whom we are called to be.

Jeremiah spoke of a time coming when things would be different, when God would do different. (31:31-36; also Heb.8:8-13) Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman about a time coming that would be different, (Jn.4:23-24) There have been many "times" to come such as that which the Apostles had to endure in the establishment of the Church, the Kingdom on Earth. (Jn.16:1-4) Even now we are living in a 'time' that has come and is coming. (1Pet.1:3-9)

Paul's words to Timothy are finding fulfillment once again in this generation where men and woman no longer endure truth and sound doctrine. (2Tim.4:1-5) The sad testimony is that this is not even in the world; this is within the churches of America.

There is a time coming yet, the time when all our life's choices will be examined. A time of reckoning, a time of judgment and it begins with the Church. (1Pet.4:12-19) My encouragement rests in the security that God holds my life in His capable hands and so I strive to maintain the integrity of my walk with Him according to His word. Your encouragement is to be found in the same place.

Serve Jesus in faithfulness and truth!