

Running with Horses

*“If you have raced with men on foot
and they have worn you out,
how can you run with horses?”*

(Jeremiah 12:5)

These are God’s words to Jeremiah after Jeremiah has complained bitterly about the way things have been going. Jeremiah is discouraged. He’s been preaching prophetically about how God’s people have broken their divine covenant. Instead of returning to God, the people have turned upon Jeremiah and threatened to kill him. So, he chastised God, advising God on how to destroy his enemies.

Have you ever felt that your life should be going better? One thing we can do is shake our fist and cry out to God, telling God how to fix things. I’m sure God gets that sort of thing a lot, and will no doubt understand our outburst. Or, we might look to the Bible—specifically to Jeremiah—and see that he has been in our shoes and done the fist-shaking-and-crying-out thing already. I guess you could say we are in good company.

I like God’s reply to Jeremiah. There’s more going on here than meets the eye. I think that God is OK with our cry for justice, and probably with our advice on how God can correct the situation. It looks to me like God is more upset with the fact that Jeremiah has become discouraged. God has even bigger challenges for Jeremiah to face. I figure it may be the same with us and our discouraging moments.

Sunday, we went 4wheeling in the foothills of the Pine Nut Mountains, and we saw a group of wild horses. It reminded me of the scripture in Jeremiah. I want to run with horses! And, I believe that is the promise to all of us who wait patiently upon the Lord—a promise that is both exciting and a bit frightening. See you in church, –pastor tony