

KEEP RUNNING

Pastor Chad Gilligan | October 30, 2022

I. THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 12:1 You are always righteous, LORD,
when I bring a case before you.
Yet I would speak with you about your justice:
Why does the way of the wicked prosper?
Why do all the faithless live at ease?

Jeremiah 12:2 You have planted them, and they have taken root;
they grow and bear fruit.
You are always on their lips
but far from their hearts.

Jeremiah 12:3 Yet you know me, LORD;
you see me and test my thoughts about you.
Drag them off like sheep to be butchered!
Set them apart for the day of slaughter!

Jeremiah 12:4 How long will the land lie parched
and the grass in every field be withered?
Because those who live in it are wicked,
the animals and birds have perished.
Moreover, the people are saying,
“He will not see what happens to us.”

Jeremiah 1:6-8 “Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

II. HOW GOD ANSWERS QUESTIONS

A. Sometimes God answers our questions with encouragement.

Psalms 29:11 The LORD gives strength to His people;
the LORD blesses His people with peace.

Jeremiah 11:21-22 Therefore this is what the LORD says about the people of Anathoth who are threatening to kill you, saying, "Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD or you will die by our hands"—therefore this is what the LORD Almighty says: "I will punish them. Their young men will die by the sword, their sons and daughters by famine.

B. Sometimes God answers our questions with a promise.

Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

C. Sometimes God answers our questions with His questions.

Jeremiah 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?"

III. KEEP RUNNING!

A. Keep running today's race.

Colossians 1:11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

- **You will not be victorious tomorrow if you do not keep running today.**

B. Keep running in tough times.

Jeremiah 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?"

**Good news: Life is not promised to get easier.
More Good News: God will give you grace.**

2 Corinthians 12:9 But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

C. Keep running and don't give up.

Proverbs 24:10 If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength!

- **Your strength is not small!**

D. Keep running in the Lord's strength.

Isaiah 40:28-31 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.