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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Beyond the "Good Life" Jeremiah 12:1-6

Series: Run with the Horses: Faithful Living in a Fearful World

Central Passage

Jeremiah 12:5–6 (ESV) — **5** "If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses? And if in a safe land you are so trusting, what will you do in the thicket of the Jordan? **6** For even your brothers and the house of your father, even they have dealt treacherously with you; they are in full cry after you; do not believe them, though they speak friendly words to you."

Central Thought: Jesus calls us to turn away from the pursuit of the "good life," and to turn towards him and the way of the cross – living deeply meaningful lives based on Jesus prayer, "Not my will, but they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

- ❖ We should not envy nor be distracted from God's purposes for us by the success of the self-satisfied and self-righteous.

Jeremiah 12:1–2 (ESV) — **1** 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.**

Psalm 73:1–3 (ESV) — **1** Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. **2** But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. **3 For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.**

Psalm 73:16–19 (ESV) — **16** But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, **17** until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end. **18** Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. **19** How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors! (See also all of Psalm 73)

- ❖ We should prepare ourselves for the hard, holy work of living, not for temporary comfort or convenience, but for the eternal, high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 16:24–25 (ESV) — **24** Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **25** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 5:2–12 (ESV) — **2** And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: **3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **4** "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. **5** "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. **6** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. **7** "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. **8** "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. **9** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. **10** "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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