

SERIES GRAPHIC

Jeremiah 12:5a (NLT)

“If racing against mere men makes you tired, how will you **race against horses**?”

Snail to Noah’s Ark image

<https://www.epm.org/static/uploads/images/blog/snail-ark-eden.jpg>

Steph Curry basketball

[https://cdn.vox-cdn.com/thumbor/j-K4nck1-sT_nwp1GwoyDcGoaxw=/0x0:4710x3238/1400x1400/filters:focal\(1791x614:2543x1366\):format\(jpeg\)/cdn.vox-cdn.com/uploads/chorus_image/image/52882113/631436472.0.jpg](https://cdn.vox-cdn.com/thumbor/j-K4nck1-sT_nwp1GwoyDcGoaxw=/0x0:4710x3238/1400x1400/filters:focal(1791x614:2543x1366):format(jpeg)/cdn.vox-cdn.com/uploads/chorus_image/image/52882113/631436472.0.jpg)

Charles Simeon: show picture on one side and **2 quotes** on the other =one slide

<https://www-images.christianitytoday.com/images/67451.jpg?w=1200>

“We must not mind a little suffering for Christ’s sake.

“In this state of things I saw no remedy but faith and patience ...”

Rosie Ruiz image

<https://cdn.grove.wgbh.org/dims4/default/f7b6092/2147483647/strip/true/crop/1528x863+0+165/resize/960x542!/quality/90/?url=https:%2F%2Fk1-prod-gbh.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com%2Fbrightspot%2F17%2Fae%2F212a8e6b5384cfbe7945d112b4ec%2Fap-735423493459.jpg>

Persistence.

Endurance.

Jeremiah 25:1-2

This is the **word that came to** Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah (which was the first year of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon). ²The prophet Jeremiah spoke concerning all the people of Judah and all the residents of Jerusalem as follows ...

Jeremiah 25:3

“From the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah, until this very day—**twenty-three years**—the word of the Lord has come to me, and I have spoken to you **time and time again**, but you have not obeyed.

{one slide; all together}

Key Phrase: “time and again” for 23 years

- x11 times
- = to rise early ... to start early

Jeremiah 1:4-5

The word of the Lord came to me: ⁵I **chose you** before I formed you in the womb; I **set you apart** before you were born. I **appointed you** a prophet to the nations.

God gave Jeremiah a **future** and he **stuck** with it.

→ **Persistence** in our God-appointed **purpose**.

2 Part Purpose:

1) Live in a **special** (personal & community) relationship with **God** (*love God*)

Acts 17:28a

For in Him we live and move and have our being ...

2) Do **good** for the glory of God (*love others, live sent*)

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared **ahead of time** for us to do.

{bullet points come up one at a time; same slide}

Doing Good:

- Spontaneous vs. Steadfast
- Gets our best energy & focus
- Flows from “being”
- Conviction over convenience & comfort

Cultivating Persistence in Purpose:

1) By faith, believe in the **maximum** of “life in Christ.”

Titus 3:14

Let our people **learn** to devote themselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be **unfruitful**.

Acts 20:24 (NLT)

But my life is worth nothing to me **unless** I use it for finishing the work **assigned** me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

2) Quickly recognize and say “No” to **“less than”** living

{one slide but bullets come up one at a time}

Say No:

- To triviality
- To emotional fragility

- To complacency
- To drift
- To toxic emotions

3) Know and stay vitally connected to the **Source = God!**

Insufficient Sources:

- This **life** (or horizontal) sources
- Within** ourselves
- Dutiful** vs. **Delightful** faith

Jeremiah: *“time and again” = rose early ... start early*

Lamentations 3:21-23

This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope.

²² The Lord’s loving kindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.

²³ They are **new every morning**; Great is Your faithfulness.

Life and the “race” guarantee we will be poured out.

How will we be “filled” up?

Ephesians 3:19 (JB Ph)

May you be **filled** though all your being with God himself!

{one slide; come up one at a time}

Questions:

- Am I living **stuck**?
- Have I neglected God’s **means of grace**?
- What fills my **mind** daily?
- Does “this” help me **run**?

{same slide: verse on one side, bullet point on the other side}

God never runs out.

Psalm 87:7b

“All my fountains are in you.”