



Pursuing Kingdom Excellence

When we struggle with God

Jeremiah 12

Learning from Jeremiah's
complaint to God, and from
God's response to Jeremiah.





Jeremiah 12:1–2

“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?

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.”

Struggling with God

“**1** Why, Lord, do
you stand far off?
Why do you hide
yourself in times
of trouble?”



Psalms 10:1

Struggling with God

“**7** Why do the wicked live on, growing old and increasing in power?”



Job 21:7

Struggling with God

“**2** How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen?

Or cry out to you, ‘Violence!’ but you do not save?

3 Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.”



***Habakkuk
1:2-3***

*It's OK to bring our
questions to God*



Kingdom Excellence
is not having no
doubts or questions.
It's bringing our
struggles before God
like Jeremiah.



God's Answer

Part 1

To Jeremiah

**A tough-love
warning, v5-6**

**A call to kingdom
excellence, v5**

Part 2

About the wicked

**The destiny of
the wicked, v7-14**

**Compassion & hope
for the wicked, v15-17**

A tough-love warning



**“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?
6 Your relatives, members of your own family – even they have betrayed you; they have raised a loud cry against you. Do not trust them, though they speak well of you.”** **Jeremiah 12:5-6**

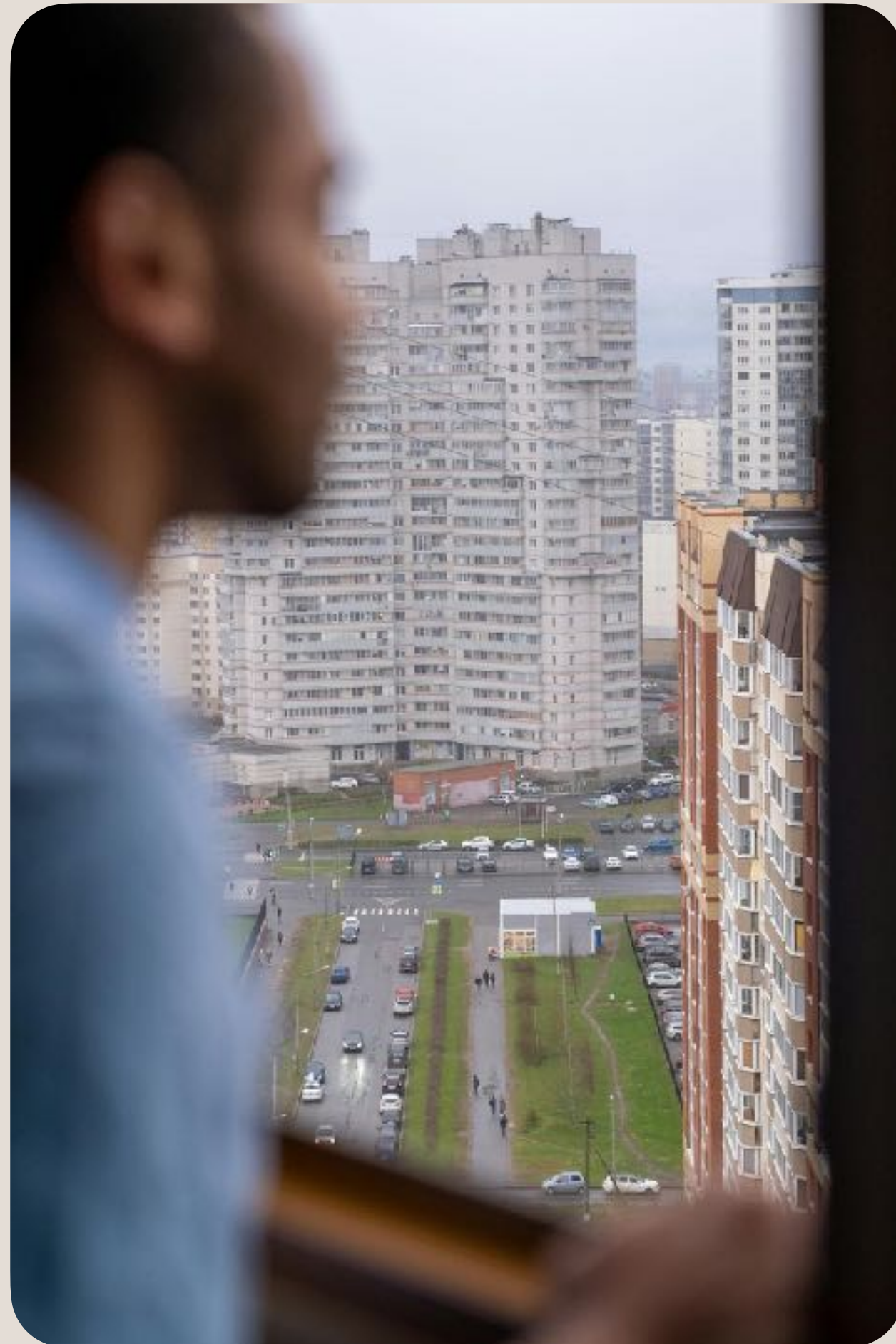
A call to Kingdom Excellence

Jeremiah

**“5 If you have raced
with men on foot
and they have worn
you out, how can
you compete with
horses?” Jer. 12:5**

Run with the Horses!

God's Answer



Part 2

About the wicked

The destiny of
the wicked, v7-14

Compassion & hope
for the wicked, v15-17

The question

“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?

The answer

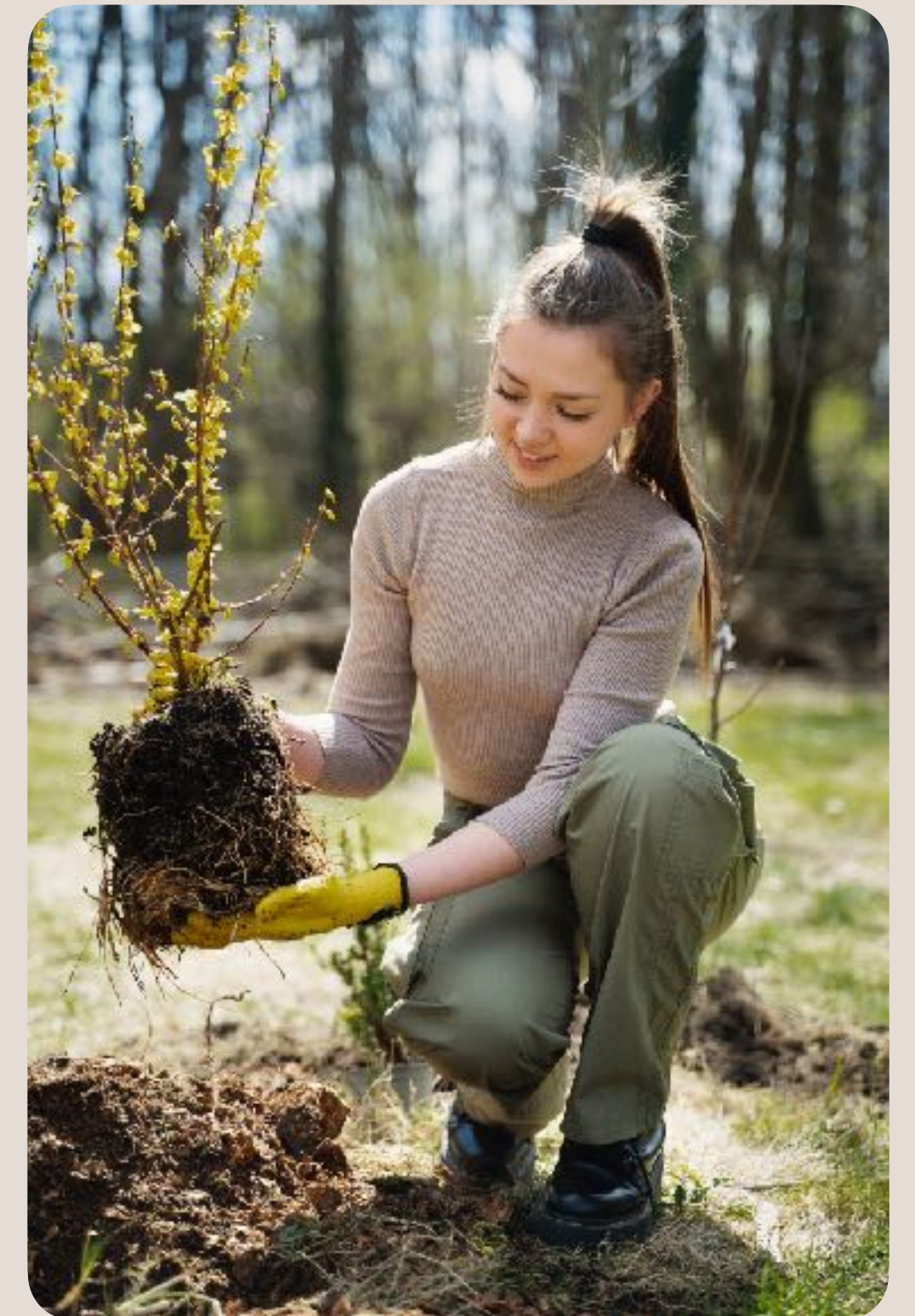
“7 I will forsake my house,
abandon my inheritance; I will
give the one I love into the
hands of her enemies.
14 This is what the Lord says:
‘As for all my wicked
neighbours who seize the
inheritance I gave to my
people Israel, I will uproot
them from their lands...”



Compassion and hope for the wicked

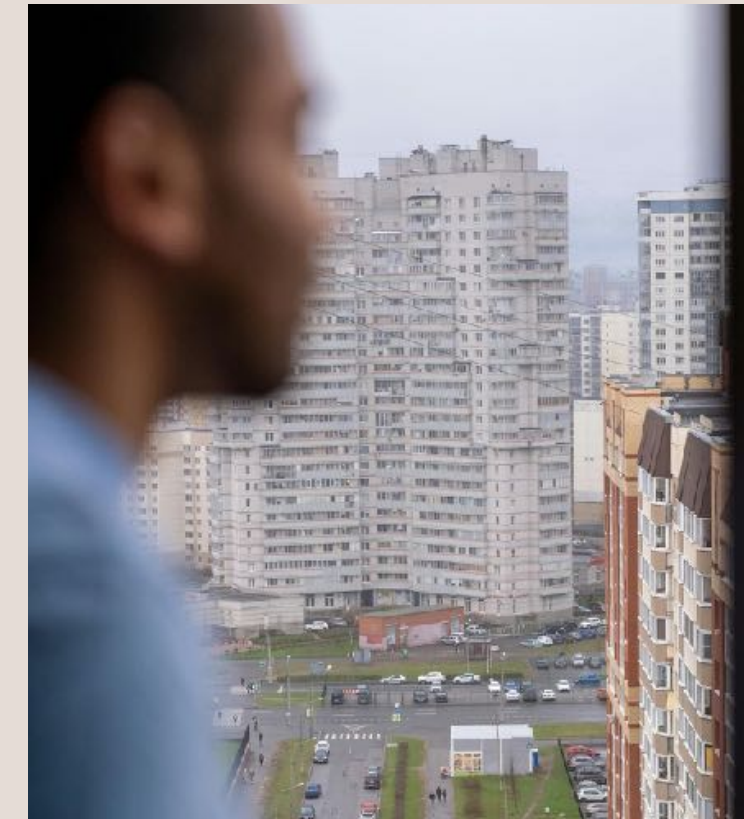
“**15** But after I uproot them, I will again have compassion and will bring each of them back to their own inheritance and their own country. **16** And if they learn well the ways of my people and swear by my name, [not by Baal] – then they will be established among my people.”

Jeremiah 12:15—16



Time of reflection

Jeremiah



**A tough-
love
warning**

**A call to
kingdom
excellence**

**The destiny
of the
wicked**

**Compassion
and
hope**