



Pastor Scott Archer 07.23.2017\*  
Central Congregational Church  
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"  
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### Get Your Act Together Jeremiah 7:1-15

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

#### Central Passage

**Jeremiah 7:1–7 (ESV)** — **1** The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: **2** "Stand in the gate of the LORD's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the LORD. **3** Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: **Amend your ways and your deeds**, and I will let you dwell in this place. **4** Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.' **5** "For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly **execute justice** one with another, **6** if you **do not oppress** the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or **shed innocent blood** in this place, and if you **do not go after other gods** to your own harm, **7** then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.

**Central Thought:** God is calling us out of safe, self-serving, self-deluding religious ritual into a life of holiness and self-sacrificing acts of love and justice in the name of Jesus for his glory and the good of our neighbors.

#### Truly Religious (Righteous) Acts

**James 1:27 (NLT)** — **27** Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means **caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.**

- ❖ Justice – courageous and compassionate action on behalf of the oppressed and powerless.

**Amos 5:21–24 (ESV)** — **21** "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. **22** Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. **23** Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. **24** **But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

- ❖ Holiness – living in daily dependence on God and walking in the way of Jesus.

**Genesis 15:1–6 (ESV)** — **1** After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." **2** But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" **3** And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." **4** And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." **5** And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." **6** **And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.**

**Matthew 5:20 (ESV)** — **20** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 5:21–22 (ESV)** — **21** "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' **22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

**See also – All of Matthew chapters 5-7 – The Sermon on the Mount**