

## Building your Life for the Storm

### **Message #2: A Prayerful Spirit**

#### **Matthew 7:7-12**

Warren and Pam Adams live in Gilchrist TX which is essentially in Galveston. They love living within steps of the ocean. The sand, the sun, the seashore make everyday a joy. They found one major problem with some of the highest priced real estate in all of Texas, the storms. In 2006 Hurricane Rita devastated their home and many others.

Show before picture(s)

The warrens decided to build a house that could endure the storm. Warren hired a contractor and carefully supervised the construction from planning to completion of a house that could endure the storm.

The night of September 11, 2009 hurricane Ike came ashore. Warren and Pam almost waited too late to leave - they were the last off the island.

The next morning the devastation was overwhelming. Virtually every home was totally destroyed. Only one home in the regions survived. It was the Warren House. The storm surge did incredible damage but the house stood because it was built for the storm.

Show after picture(s)

The most valuable lives are often in venues that endure the most horrific of storms. A Christian life will be the most valuable and influential, like a city upon a hill. But the hill gets the wind and the lightning and rain. Like a home on the ocean but the ocean gets the hurricane storm surge.

Build your life for the storm and it will last.

Last week Jesus taught us that we needed a discerning spirit to build a life that lasts. This week our Lord says that we need a Prayerful Spirit.

The topic of the message today is a Prayerful Spirit.

Prayer is conversing and communicating with God. Talking with God. Mainly prayer is when we talk to God and ask Him for things in our lives. Jesus taught us how to do it in the previous chapter in what we call the Lord's Prayer. He told us that we are not heard for our many words. Vain repetition does not move the heart of God. Rather authentic asking realizing that our Heavenly Father knows what we need before we even ask Him.

A life built for the storm has a robust, regular, relational conversation with God.

Read the text:

## 1. A Prayerful spirit expresses your faith

any type of worship is characterized by prayer -

Our bodies trust physicians

Our minds trust education

Our safety we trust the police

Our nation we trust the gov't and our president, our men and women in uniform

Our finances we trust our employer or the economy

Our weather we trust the weather man or mankind

Our children we trust the system

Our church we trust our pastor and staff and leaders to create the blessings

Our skills we trust to our coaches, our team members

We have such a self centeredness that we factor God right out.

God is the source of blessings.

**James 1:16-17: “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”**

### **\*Your prayers reveal your faith**

who are you trusting in

the one you invite into your personal space

all of us realize that our lives are private but we also recognize that someone is watching us all the time and engaged in our every moment, situation

If our Lord is not in your personal space - if the Lord is not the audience of your private thoughts, fears, dreams, frustrations, & flaws then He is not in the place that He deserves & demands

*Tweet this: If the Lord is not the audience of your private thoughts, fears, dreams, frustrations, & flaws then He is not in the place that He deserves*

### **\*Your prayers reveal your focus**

your prayer life expresses the focus of your life - what is it that you want - what goals are you driving towards

Solomon became the king and God said to him what Jesus says to us in this text: Ask. Solomon asked God for wisdom - God was moved. He came to Solomon and said:

**1 Kings 3:11-12: “Then God said to him: “Because you have asked this thing,**

**and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice,<sup>12</sup> behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.”**

pray for wisdom

**James 1:5: “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”**

discernment

Colossians 1

Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and He will direct your paths

ask for revelation - for vision and a changed mind about life and direction

so much more powerful to live out of the desire life than the do life

live out of desire instead of duty

when your duty become your desire then your

You can not beat the heart of a volunteer

## **2. A Prayerful spirit experiences your Father**

### **\*Experience the Father’s power**

God answers prayer

Mark Carpenter and Amy and babies

The Hebrews called upon the false gods - wanted their power -

**Isaiah 46:5-7: “To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal And compare Me, that we should be alike? They lavish gold out of the bag, And weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship. They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it And set it in its place, and it stands; From its place it shall not move. Though *one* cries out to it, yet it cannot answer Nor save him out of his trouble.**

Some cry out to a god who is no god

Some cry out to themselves - they pursue the inner

Elijah prayed - the prophets of Baal

**2 Chronicles 16:9: “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.”**

**\*Experience the Father’s providence**

-when God delays His answer - God answers in way you did not expect

God may withhold your request because it is the wrong thing

**James 4:2: “You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.”**

normally we pray for convenience

**\*Experience the Father’s personality**

He is involved - He knows what you need before you ask Him - what a contrast between the false gods that have to be attracted by child sacrifice

He is interested - He wants to answer you

He is invested in you like a Father and a child - like a father - he will not mock you and give you a stone instead of the bread for which you asked

He invites you to ask Him for what you need - what a statement of trust

**3. A Prayerful spirit expands your future**

you have not because you ask not

you get the attitude of Christ and begin to express your faith by praying then experiencing the Father - all the while you are praying for the will of God in your life

a turtle on a fence post

“Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

how did you get that great job

how did you get that great marriage

how did you get that great ministry

how did you get through that great storm

how did you get such a vision from the Lord