

GROWING THROUGH ADVERSITY
Lesson #2

Matthew 7:24-29

- Wise & foolish builders
 - Pursued different _____
 - Had different _____
- Life is like the weather.
 - Unpredictable & changes in an instant
 - Some storms provide much-needed rain which brings _____ & fosters _____.
 - Other storms leave a path of destruction, cause collateral damage & necessitate _____.

_____ is ultimately what enables us to weather life's storms.

- Matthew 8:23-27
 - Lack of faith manifests itself as _____ & _____.
 - How natural it is, even with Jesus present in our lives, to:
 - Become _____
 - _____ the worst
 - Wait until things are dire before crying out to the LORD for help
 - Jesus did not calm the wind & waves by:
 - Changing the disciples' _____
 - Diverting the boat in another _____
 - Jesus brought calm by:
 - Revealing His _____
 - Jesus used the storm to establish His:
 - _____
 - _____
- Matthew 14:22-33
 - Distinguishes between what happens when we:
 - _____ on the LORD & trust Him
 - _____ on our hopeless circumstances
 - With God, _____ is impossible!
 - Our natural human tendency is to:
 - Trust in ourselves
 - Hope we have what it takes to manage our circumstances & achieve our desired outcome
 - However, God uses life circumstances to:
 - _____ our routine
 - Get our _____
 - _____ our faith
 - _____ Himself
 - _____ us

CORE PRINCIPLE: _____.

- Shift from a life characterized by self-sufficiency to one of _____.
- Independent of circumstances, we begin to experience true:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- Psalm 46:1
“No one ever said that they learned their deepest lessons of life, or had their sweetest encounters with God, on sunny days. people go deep with God when the drought comes.”
~ John Piper, *Don't Waste Your Life*
- Storms/Trials are when we:
 - Normally _____ out to God
 - _____ our lives
 - _____ our beliefs
 - Are most open & eager to _____ the love of Christ

CARE CONSIDERATIONS

- My plan:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- God's plan: (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - A _____ plan
 - For our _____
 - A _____
 - A _____
- God desires us to be fixated on the _____, not the plan. (Jeremiah 29:12-13)
- Self-confidence
 - We are more _____ than we realize.
 - God is more _____ than we know.
- Faith converts conflict:
 - Darkness into _____
 - Disbelief into _____
 - Hope is the love we find in Christ that:
 - _____ our hearts
 - _____ the flames
 - Promises _____
 - Enables us to _____
 - Excites us to _____, _____, _____

- Only _____ can satisfy.
 - Ephesians 4:14-16
 - Being anchored spiritually & trusting the LORD is what enables us to weather life's storms.

KEY POINTS

- Storms serve an _____ .
 - A _____ for forging deeper relationships & fostering spiritual growth.
 - Used by God to:
 - _____ us near Him
 - _____ Himself
 - _____ us
- Storms present _____ .
 - Think about deeper aspects of life:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - Our expressions of care & prayer are an important reminder to people that they matter to God & to you.
- Storms are often _____ in disguise.
 - God uses storms to:
 - Get our _____
 - _____ us
 - Increase our _____