

The Story Houston - 8|11|19 - Sermon Study Guide - Part 2: *Pride and Prejudice*

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Welcome to The Story...

and to our new sermon series called ***Knowing Her Place***. Throughout August, we'll explore every detail of several personal encounters Jesus had with women from all walks of life. You might be surprised to learn how Jesus understood the role of women in his life and ministry, and what that might mean for us today.

Before We Begin...

Today we'll be thinking about the problem of PRIDE. Before hearing today's message, would you have said you have a problem with pride? Why or why not?

God Calls Women (and Men) to Serve, Teach, and Lead the Church

Think of at least one woman who has led you toward a stronger faith and a deeper relationship with God. Simply honor her (or them) by writing her name (or their names) here:

The Bent-Over Woman Who Stood Tall

Today's scripture focus tells about the time Jesus healed a woman who struggled with severe arthritis of the spine.

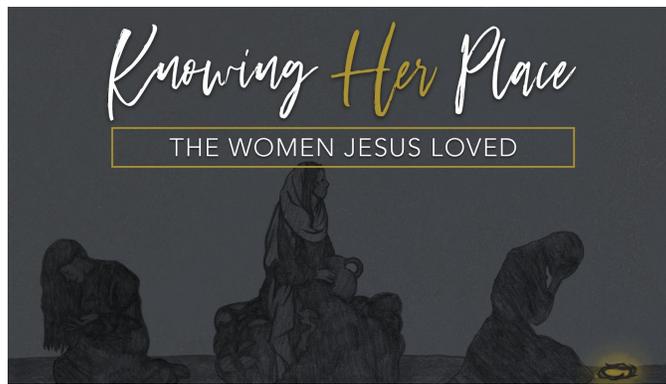
Mark 13:10-17 On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath." The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?" When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

Think about this woman's life. Beyond her physical condition, what other challenges did she likely face?

Given these challenges, why did she make the trip to the synagogue?

Jesus and the Calculated Risk

Why did Jesus choose to heal the woman in public, in the synagogue, in front of all those religious leaders, on the Sabbath?



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The Problem of Pride

What is it about pride that makes it uniquely dangerous and insidious compared to other kinds of sin?

“When it comes to diagnosing our hearts, those of us who have the disease of pride have a challenging time identifying our sickness...Pride will paint even our ugliness in sin as beautiful and commendable.” - Fabienne Harford

The Seven Marks of Proud People

Pride is devastating to our relationships with God and other people because it allows entitlement and resentment to fester in us. 250 years ago, the great preacher Jonathan Edwards shared his seven marks of proud people. They:

1. find fault in everyone else but themselves, refusing to admit or own up to their sin.
2. harshly critique others and refuse to offer kindness or sympathy, or they offer it falsely, still seeking their own advantage.
3. are more worried about appearances than what's in their hearts.
4. hunger for attention and affirmation.
5. are defensive, resentful, and refuse to forgive.
6. have no confidence in God; their trust is in their own strength.
7. prefer “the strong” and avoid “the weak”

Let's be honest. How many of these describe something you struggle with on a regular basis?

How do these seven marks of pride perfectly describe the religious guys who opposed Jesus?

The Daughter of Abraham

Why was it such a big deal that Jesus called this woman a daughter of Abraham...especially in front of all those proud “sons of Abraham”?

What was keeping the religious guys from being saved by Jesus, and how did Jesus' actions in this story demonstrate his concern - not only for the woman - but also for the men who criticized him?

How has pride put your soul at risk? What's keeping you from confessing your need for a savior?