



The Story Houston - 8|4|19 - Sermon Study Guide - Part 1: *Mama's Boy*

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Welcome to The Story...

and to our brand new sermon series called ***Knowing Her Place***. Throughout the month of 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...

Prior to hearing today's message, what is your general impression of the Bible's teachings about "a woman's place" (compared to a man's place) in the home, church, and society? How does your impression of Biblical gender roles differ from your own, personal beliefs about the roles of men and women?

Is the Bible Misogynistic?

What evidence do critics point out when they argue that the Bible is misogynistic?

What are the ***contextual problems*** with their evidence?

1. ***Historical Context:*** What was life for women like when and where the Bible was written?
2. ***Literary Context:*** How do the roles and expectations of women evolve in the Bible itself?
3. ***Theological Context:*** Even after Jesus changed everything regarding women and the Word of God, the more ancient, "backwards" teachings about women weren't removed from the biblical record. Why is this significant?

Thou Shalt Honor Thy Father and Yo Mama

What is significant about these Old Testament commands?

Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you."
Leviticus 19:3 "Each of you must respect your mother and father...I am the LORD your God."

This is how Jesus responded when religious leaders created a loophole encouraging people to *break God's law* by giving more money to the Temple (or synagogue) instead of taking care of mom and dad in their old age:

Mark 7:9-13 (Jesus, speaking to the religious leaders) "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is *Corban* (that is, *devoted to God*) - then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down."

Why was honoring your mother and father so important to Jesus?

The Women Jesus Loved

What was so different about the way Jesus treated women?



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The Mama's Boy

Describe Jesus' relationship with his mother, Mary.

What are we missing when we accept the common portrayal of Mary as simple, sweet, and serene?

Mama Said Make Some Wine

One of the first signs that Mary was playing a large role in Jesus' adult life and ministry comes from John 2, when Jesus and his brand-new disciples attend a wedding together. Mary is also there. This is what happened.

John 2:1-18 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "**They have no more wine.**" "**Woman, why do you involve me?**" Jesus replied. "**My hour has not yet come.**"

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "**Fill the jars with water**"; so they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

What does this story - as well as others in the gospels - say about Mary's role in Jesus' life? How does it change your understanding of Jesus and/or the Bible to learn that Jesus - the ultimate hero, the savior of us all, God incarnate - honored his mother and even surrendered to her will?

What do you think this means for Christians and churches today?

Your Notes: