Video #1: How Your Story Changes

Outline

Cheri’s shares a personal anecdote regarding self-help books, plans, and the search for how to change her story
 **Thought:** *Can my story really change?*

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Biblical story of a woman asking the same questions Cheri asked.

 Scripture story read: **Matthew 9:18-26**
(Note: The same story in the other gospels: **Mark 5:22-43 and Luke 8:41-56**)

**Matthew 9:18-26** is the story when Jesus was on his way to heal Jairus’ daughter and in the crowd a woman who had been subject to bleeding for 12 years touches the hem of Jesus’ garment and is healed.

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Cheri shares two contrasting childhood memories. One is a very positive memory of her father, another is of an aunt who is focused on her own suffering and discusses it frequently.

Comparison of Cheri’s story with the Bible story: an adored daughter vs. a suffering old woman.

* Jairus pleads EARNESTLY for his daughter’s healing
* Jairus is BOLD in his request
* Jesus drops everything to go and grant his request
* The story is INTERRUPTED by a woman known for her suffering
* This woman had no advocate and she approaches Jesus from behind- quietly- not face-to-face
* She risks disappointment

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Cheri talks about what it is like to be defined -NAMED- by our own issues. She briefly names some of her own. She relates to the SUFFERING WOMAN.
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*We all understand suffering.*

How does Jesus respond to someone who is:

* Named by suffering?
* Afraid to risk?

Jesus does NOT act like the suffering woman is an interruption. Jesus turns and sees Her and speaks with her. *And He calls her Daughter.*

Jesus changes her entire identity with one word. HIS name for her is DAUGHTER. This story is not about an adored daughter vs. a suffering woman, it is about two adored daughters in need of healing.

To Jesus there is no difference. He does the same thing both times.
*Jesus calls her by her true name.* ***And that’s how the story changes****.*

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**Application Point:**
 *How can OUR stories change?*
 When our name changes, our story changes.
 This isn’t about “additional” identity, Christ wants to give us a NEW identity.

**What we need to do:**
Give up our stale old suffering. Stop reinforcing our identity as a suffering woman, and receive Christ’s new identity as healded Daughter.

**Reinforcing thought:** Giving up our old suffering is called SURRENDER. The only one who can change our story of suffering is Jesus Christ.

**What this looks like:**
We surrender…and we receive ADORED DAUGHTER.
***When your name changes, your story changes.***

**Question to ask the group:**
What identity, or identities, are you ready to surrender?

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