

Everyone Has A Story

Who We Are - Part 1

October 4, 2026

“Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always.” - Robin Williams

Mission gives us direction. Values shape our culture.

Mission answers: What are we trying to accomplish?

Values answer: What kind of people are we going to be while we accomplish it?

The Bayou Church Values:

- Everyone Has a Story
- Life is Better Together
- Rescued People Reach People
- The Best is Ahead!

Everyone has a story but very few people know the whole story.

“So God created man *in His own image*; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.” Genesis 1:27 (CSB)

Our dignity begins with the God who made us, not the opinions people have formed about us.

¹He entered Jericho and was passing through. ²There was a man named *Zacchaeus* who was a *chief tax collector*, and he was rich. ³He was *trying to see who Jesus was*, but he was not able *because of the crowd*, since he was a short man. ⁴So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree *to see Jesus*, since he was about to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, *He looked up* and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because *today* it is *necessary* for me to stay at your house.’ ⁶So he quickly came down and welcomed Him joyfully. ⁷All who saw it began to complain, ‘*He’s gone to stay with a sinful man.*’ ⁸But Zacchaeus stood there and *said to the Lord*, ‘Look, I’ll *give* half of my possessions to the poor, Lord. And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I’ll *pay back* four times as much.’ ⁹‘*Today salvation has come to this house,*’ Jesus told him, ‘because he too is a *son of Abraham.*’ ¹⁰For the Son of Man has come *to seek and to save the lost.*” Luke 19:1-10 (CSB)

The Five S’s of the Savior Who Seeks And Saves:

- Jesus **saw** Zacchaeus - Luke 19:5
- Jesus **sought** Zacchaeus - Luke 19:5; 10
- Jesus **stayed** with Zacchaeus - Luke 19:5-7
- Jesus **saved** Zacchaeus - Luke 19:8-10
- Jesus redeemed Zacchaeus’ **story** - Luke 19:7, 9

People may judge you by your worst chapter. Jesus still sees the whole story.

*“²³For **all have sinned** and **fall short** of the glory of God; ²⁴they are justified freely **by His grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23-24 (CSB)*

“Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.” - Oscar Wilde

The Two Trees

- **Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus.**
- **Jesus died on a tree to save Zacchaeus.**
- **One tree lifted a sinner to see the Savior. The other lifted the Savior to save the sinner.**

Zacchaeus’ story reminds us that grace refuses to let your past have the final word.

What the value of Everyone Has a Story teaches us:

- 1. See the people everyone else passes by.**
- 2. Let the place you limp become the place you testify.**
- 3. Grace reaches farther than anyone has fallen.**
- 4. Give people the dignity God gave them.**

Everyone has a story—and no story is beyond the reach of Jesus.