

## SERMON NOTES

Week 4 August 30, 2023

### "Beauty and the Beast"

Philippians 2:3-8; John 15:13; Matthew 16:24-25

Matthew 25:34-40; 1 Samuel 16:7; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a  
2 Corinthians 5:17



#### I. Introduction

- A. The movie *Beauty and the Beast* is based on the \_\_\_\_\_ French fairy tale of the same name.
- B. In 1991, *Beauty and the Beast* became the first \_\_\_\_\_ film to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture.

#### II. Becoming a Beast

- A. The prince is \_\_\_\_\_ by the enchantress disguised as a beggar woman because of his self-centeredness.
- B. While most of us would like to think that we will never be as incapable of love and compassion as the prince, it can happen to any of us if we don't learn to put the needs of \_\_\_\_\_ ahead of our own.

#### III. Sacrificial Love

- a. Belle agrees to take Maurice's place as the Beast's \_\_\_\_\_ in exchange for her father's freedom.
- b. Jesus would die for us, and that should motivate us to love each other \_\_\_\_\_.

#### IV. Be Our Guest

- a. The household \_\_\_\_\_ go above and beyond to prepare Belle a meal.
- b. Biblical hospitality is the ability to welcome a complete \_\_\_\_\_ and make them feel at home away from home.

#### V. More Than Outward Appearance

- a. Belle says "True, that he's no Prince Charming. But there's something in him that I simply didn't \_\_\_\_\_."
- b. 1 Samuel 16:7 tells us that "People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the \_\_\_\_\_."

#### VI. Agape Love

- a. Although the Beast does not physically transform until the end of the story, the beast is \_\_\_\_\_ transformed when Belle wants to leave to see her father.
- b. 1 Corinthians 13 is not describing a \_\_\_\_\_ love, but instead a selfless love that is willing to lay down its own needs and desires for the other person.

#### VII. A Life Transformed

- a. Through his love for Belle, and Belle's love for him, the curse of his past sins was broken and the prince was given a \_\_\_\_\_ chance at life.
- b. If you are a Christian who has surrendered his life to Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:17 should \_\_\_\_\_ you.

# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *July 31 - August 5, 2023*

## INTRODUCTION

*Beauty and the Beast* is a 1991 animated Disney movie based on a 1740 French fairy tale of the same name. The movie focuses on the relationship between the Beast, a prince who is magically transformed into a monster and his servants into household objects as punishment for his arrogance, and Belle, a young woman who lives in a small French village. So where does this movie point us toward scripture?

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### Monday: Philippians 2:3-8

The prince is cursed by the enchantress disguised as a beggar woman because of his self-centeredness. Some of us run the risk of becoming like the beast. While we may not physically transform into an animal, we may make ourselves into self-centered ugly people. How does looking at Christ's example help us to look beyond ourselves?

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### Tuesday: Matthew 16:24-25, John 15:13

Belle agrees to take Maurice's place as the Beast's prisoner in exchange for her father's freedom. Jesus says there is no greater love than to lay one's life down for a friend. Do you think you would have made the same choice as Belle if you were in her shoes? Why or why not? Do you think that you are prepared to sacrificially love others if the situation demanded it?

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### Wednesday: Matthew 25:34-40

The household servants go above and beyond to prepare Belle a meal. This is a picture of Biblical hospitality which means "love of strangers." According to this scripture passage, in what ways can we demonstrate a love for strangers? Can you think of additional ways?

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### Thursday: I Corinthians 13:4-8

The Beast decides to let Belle to go so she can be with her father, even though this would almost certainly seal his fate that he would remain a Beast forever. This is a demonstration of agape love. 1 Corinthians 13 is not describing a romantic love, but instead a selfless love that is willing to lay down its own needs and desires for the other person. Does this passage describe the agape you have for others? Or does it highlight areas where your agape needs to improve?

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### Friday: II Corinthians 5:17

Through the Beast's love for Belle, and Belle's love for him, the curse of his past sins was broken and the prince was given a second chance at life. Jesus gives us a second chance at life through his death on the cross. Do you feel that this scripture passage describes your life? Why or why not?

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## MOVING FORWARD

Like the Beast, we are all people in need of transformation. We may not have turned away an old lady on a stormy night, but each one of us, at some point, has chosen hate over compassion and selfishness where love is called for. Like the Beast, we need to learn humility and love. Through the Beast's love for Belle, and Belle's love for him, the curse of his past sins was broken and the prince was given a second chance at life. We have been given a second chance at life through the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ and when we surrender to Him, our lives are transformed.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) 1740, B) animated. IIA) cursed, B) others. IIIA) prisoner, IIIB) sacrificially. IVA) servants, B) stranger. VA) see, B) heart. VIA) emotionally, VIB) romantic. VIIA) second, B) describe.*