

Beauty and the Beast

By John Vansloten

March 18, 2001

Note: this service used children as narrators for each clip

[Opening Clip... Intro Scene/Belle singing... 6:25 – 9:29 freeze on first sight of geese in sky (before one gets shot!)]

Child1

[Crawls up onto stool w/book/notes] “Good morning and welcome to New Hope Church. Today’s service is for kids, and it’s all about the movie, Beauty and the Beast. It’s a neat movie that teaches us the truth about love and true beauty. The story teaches us what real love is like... and it also shows us what it’s not like! Some parts of the movie are a little bit scary... like the Beast at first... but in the end he’s not scary at all. The story has a happy ending... and it also has a lesson for all of our lives today... PAUSE.... if we can see it.

So, sit back, get comfortable and listen to this old, old tale... see if you can learn true love’s lesson again....”

[CLIP #2 - Fable explained... 3:54 – 6:15 “Who could ever learn to love a beast?” Freeze on movie title]

Child2

“The story of Beauty and the Beast begins as we meet a truly lovely girl named Belle. She’s beautiful on the outside, and on the inside too! She’s a very smart girl because she reads lots of books. Some people think she’s kind of weird, but she’s not. She’s just different! And she has a dream, of one day falling in love with a handsome prince. PAUSE... but first she needs to get by **Gaston!** Gaston is not at all like Belle. While she cares a lot about others, he cares for no one but himself. He’s proud... and rude... and full of himself! All that matters to Gaston is looks... all he cares about is what’s on the outside. Belle doesn’t like Gaston much... but he’s convinced that she should! He wants Belle to marry him! But for Belle, this could never be.... PAUSE... Anybody but Gaston....”

[Clip #3 - Gaston’s Pomp and Pride Scene - 30:04 – 32:40]

Child3 “Belle could never marry a man like that. Even her Father agreed that she could do better. PAUSE... And, strangely enough, it was her Father who ended up leading her to that better man. Belle’s dad was a bit of an eccentric scientist. He invented neat things, but sometimes he seemed pretty lost. One day while he was traveling to a town fair with his latest contraption, he got lost in a dark and scary forest. Soon he could hear the growl of wolves. He needed to find shelter fast! Just in the nick of time he found safety in an old, old castle. He thought he was safe and sound... but there he met the **Beast!**

The beast wasn’t very nice at all. He did not like visitors... he didn’t like anyone at all. He was angry and loud... and when Belle’s Father asked him if he could stay for the night, he threw him into a prison cell. Not very nice at all. PAUSE... The beast was angry because of the terrible curse that was placed on him and his castle. Many years earlier, he met a very old and very ugly woman. He did not treat her very kindly. He was very superficial and cared only about how things looked. A bit like Gaston in fact. And because of his nasty attitude, the woman cursed him and his house. He became a beast, his servants turned into furniture pieces and dishware, and his castle became a dark and evil place. Everything was affected by his bad choice! Everything was impacted by the curse. Life was not the way it was supposed to be! And the only way the old woman said the curse could be broken was if someone would fall in love with the Beast..... Fall in love before the last petal of a magical rose fell to the ground... If this happened he would remain a beast forever

3 SECOND PAUSE...

When Belle discovered that her Father was in trouble she immediately left for the castle to try and set him free. As she entered the castle she soon found her father, cold and sick, locked in his prison cell. She had to set him free. But just then the Beast roars onto the scene... He loudly confronts Belle and tries to scare her away. But she won’t go. She would not leave until her father was free. And so she offers the Beast a deal.

[CLIP #4 - Belle offers to take his place... 26:00ff -]

Child4

“At first castle life with the Beast was pretty tough on Belle. He was always bossing her around... and he continued to be very impatient and angry. And the longer she stayed there, the more she missed her father. The Beast didn't even let her say good bye.

PAUSE... Eventually though, relations did seem to thaw a bit. The beast, even though his manners were poor, did start to try and be nice to Belle. Deep inside he wondered if she would be the one who would one day love him... and set him free from his curse. He wanted to hope for this, but he struggled with it, wondering how a girl as beautiful as Belle, could ever love a horrible, ugly beast like him. But as the story progressed, he kept on trying and soon he began to change. He started to become more and more loveable. And Belle began to notice. It seems he had a tender side... a softer edge... PAUSE... and his eyes... his eyes were really quite beautiful.

Soon Belle's heart began to soften as well. Life at the castle was on the upswing. But then Belle did something that angered the Beast greatly. She went to the forbidden west wing and discovered his wilting magical rose. When the Beast caught her there he yelled at her loudly, and this caused Belle to run away. She ran from the castle into the dark, dark forest. And there found herself in even deeper trouble. Wolves! A whole pack of them... and no refuge in sight! As they were creeping in on their prey, Belle thought she was done for. But then the Beast showed up and fought off those nasty predators. He risked his own life to save Belle's! And don't think Belle didn't notice this act of love.

When she got the injured beast back to the castle, she tended his wounds.... PAUSE... and in this scene you can see their love begin to grow...

[CLIP #5 – 52:36 – 53:07

]

Child5

Soon they were enjoying their meals with one another... going for walks... and even dancing. No Question... they were in love. But in order for the curse to be broken, Belle needed to say the words... and the Beast needed to hear them.

And just when you thought the moment was there, disaster strikes! Belle discovers that her father has been kidnapped by the people of the town and that they were planning to put him into an insane asylum! She had to go and help him, but she had promised the beast she would never leave.

That was the deal. What would she do? PAUSE... But then, the beast shows us another side of love... and he tells her that she is free to go. Knowing that sending her away might leave him a beast forever, he offers her freedom.

PAUSE... When Belle gets to the village, the people are in an uproar. They thought her dad was crazy... talking about some dangerous beast. And when Belle confirmed that the beast really did exist, the crowd got even more hostile. Led by Gaston, they decided to storm the castle and kill the Beast. Belle tried to stop them but it was no use.

Soon there was a big battle happening at the castle. And eventually it came down to Gaston versus the Beast. The fight got to the point where the beast was holding Gaston out over the edge of the castle. All he had to do was drop him and the battle would be won. But instead the beast spared his life and let him go. His love had grown so much that he could even love his enemies. His choice was a noble one, but it ended up proving itself fatal! PAUSE...

Gaston, in response, mortally wounded the Beast... PAUSE... That poor beast was so close to hearing Belle's words of love... his heart had changed so much... and then this...

But the story did not end there! As the beast lay dying on the ground, this magical scene unfolds...

[CLIP #6 - 1:17:40 – Resurrection scene - freeze on scene change]

JVS Conclusion... speaking directly to 4-5 kids (one per point)

Neat ending eh? Did you like the story?... Me too. And you know what? It reminds me of the story of this book (BIBLE)... It reminds me of God's love for me and for you... There were a whole bunch of scenes that pointed me to the love of God...

[to a YOUNG GIRL] Remember early on... at the very beginning of the story... when the old ugly lady told the handsome prince that Beauty is found within? That's so true. The whole story makes the point that a person's beauty is found inside, not outside. That reminded me of a verse in the bible that teaches that you were created in God's image. That means that God made you like him... That give you great value... You are beautiful to him... You're his little girl... and he sees beauty inside of you... you are very special to him... just the way you are.... Just the way he made you. And its not your hair, or clothes, or smile that make him feel that way. Sure he loves those parts of you a lot... but most importantly it's in your heart that he sees beauty... deep inside of you.

[BOY]... Another way I saw God's love in the story was through all the sacrifices. Did you see them? Belle sacrificed herself so here dad could be freed from prison. The beast sacrificed himself twice! When he risked it fighting the wolves and when he let Belle go to help her father. True love sacrifices itself for others. God's love is exactly like that. Do you know that God sacrificed a part of himself for you?... When Jesus died he fought the pack of wolves for you... so that you wouldn't have to.... To save your life. God loved you so much that he couldn't bear to see you die... so instead he took your place. Isn't it amazing that God would love a person like you so much?

Its amazing to me. Because sometimes I think I'm not very loveable. I do bad things sometimes.... I make a lot of mistakes... too often I'm like a Beast ... Angry... Growling... not the way I'm supposed to be. Ever act that way? Fighting with your parents, or brother or sister? The Bible says that I act this way because I have a spiritual sickness called sin. Are you like that sometimes? [OLDER GIRL] We all are.

But that's not a hopeless place though... God does not leave us there... to die in our sinfulness... to die as a beast... no, **“While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”** Romans 5:8 To me this is the most amazing part of God's love. That he loved us while we were yet sinners.... That he loved us even though we were like beasts before him... Now you may think, “I'm not a beast... that's a bit hard isn't it?” I think we think this way because we have no idea how awful sin looks to a perfect God. God thinks its really ugly... and he hates it. But he doesn't hate us... he see past the sin... and sees someone worth saving... he see you...

Just like Belle's love led to the transformation of that Beast into a new man, so too God's love transforms you into a new young man.
 (VERSE?????) God's love can make you new. Into someone you never thought you could be... back to the way it was supposed to be! The love of Christ renewing you, remaking you into his image, restoring you to rightness. A new person, a new life, filled with hope and joy and peace.

It happened in the fable... it happens in real life...

PRAYER

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST - MESSAGE SCRIPT		
ELEMENT	SPEAKER	CUES
1. CLIP #1	VIDEO #1	[Intro Scene/Belle singing... 6:15 – 9:29 - freeze on first sight of geese in sky (before one gets shot!)]
2. First Reading	Child1	Welcomes everyone... <i>End with</i> >> “So sit back and listen to this old, old tale... See if you can learn love’s true lesson again...”
3. CLIP #2	VIDEO #1	Fable explained... 3:52 – 6:10 “Who could ever learn to love a beast?” Freeze on movie title
4. Second Reading	Child2	ends with>> “Anyone but Gaston...”
5. CLIP #3	VIDEO #2	Gaston’s Pomp and Pride Scene - 0:00 – 2:43 Freeze on Gaston with his arms raised in the air.
6. Third Reading	Child3	Ends with>> “And so she offers the Beast a deal...”

7. CLIP #4	VIDEO #2	Belle's sacrificial offer>> <i>REWIND!!!!</i> '- 3:42' - '- 2:27' End on>> "Take him to the village..."
8. Fourth Reading	Child4	Ends with>> "and in this scene you see their love begin to grow..."
9. CLIP #5	VIDEO #2	Wound scene - 22:19 - 23:11 Freeze at scene change...
10. Fifth Reading	Child5	ends with>> "And in this scene you can see their love begin to grow...."
11. CLIP #6	VIDEO #2	Resurrection Scene - 47:44 - 50:37 end on>> "Belle, its me..." Freeze on face...
12. CONCLUSION/ APPLICATION	JVS	n/a....

© 2001 John VanSloten

Feel free to use sermons, ideas and illustrations but acknowledge the source of these.

If you know the source of a quote or illustration that is incorrectly acknowledged here, please email me <johnvs@newhopechurch.ca>

Unless otherwise stated scripture references are taken from The Message® or The New International Version®.