

July 23 | Sunday

Rebels & Roses Series: Beauty & the Beast

Read [Philippians 1:3-11](#)



**24 | Mon – “He fell into despair and lost all hope”** | Read [Mark 4:41 - 5:9](#)

In *Beauty and the Beast*, the arrogant prince’s cruel choices brought about his accursed existence. Mark does not explain what made the man in this story the way he was but he lived literally like a beast, terrifyingly strong, unstable, isolated, howling and physically hurting himself. Unlike most people, Jesus was not deterred by the man’s bizarre appearance and behavior. Can you look past appearances to the heart of those who have lost hope?

**25 | Tue – “We don’t like what we don’t understand!”** | Read [Mark 5:10-20](#)

Transformation is one of the themes of the gospels. Everywhere Jesus went, people were changed. Psychologists have observed how even positive change can make others nervous. As the villagers in the movie sang “We don’t like what we don’t understand,” it sadly makes sense that the townspeople in this story begged Jesus to leave them. What positive changes would you like to see in your life? What fears might keep you from moving forward?

**26 | Wed – Things are not always as they seem...** | Read [John 3:17-21](#)

The Beast’s monstrous exterior covered a man yearning to be free while, ironically, Gaston’s handsome profile hid an ugly, hate-filled soul. In his words to Nicodemus, Jesus affirmed that, like Gaston, we condemn *ourselves* when choices show that we love darkness rather than light. Do these words apply to something in your life? Jesus invites you to experience the antidote found in verse 21. Difficult as it may be, you can choose to find freedom.

**27 | Thu – A change of heart** | Read [Acts 26:9-19](#)

At one point, the Beast sadly admits Belle could not see past his appearance to his heart. Paul paints a similar picture when he describes his experience to King Agrippa. At first, Paul saw Jesus and his followers as a terrible threat to his spiritual heritage and violently fought to exterminate them. When he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul “saw past all that” to the heart of Jesus and His purpose. Obeying God’s call on your life might not always be easy but can you “see past all that” to the glorious end result?

**28 | Fri – “Is she the one?”** | Read [2 Corinthians 5:14-20](#)

When Belle first came to the castle, everyone wondered if she was “the one” who could break the spell. At their roadside meeting, Paul realized that Jesus was “the one” who not only broke the curse of sin but could transform anyone into a new creation. Have the challenges of life made you give up hope for change? Remember, it is *God* who came looking for you; it was *God* who provided the way to reconnect your relationship; and it is God’s power through the Holy Spirit that can transform you. Give God permission to do what is necessary and you will be amazed at the final results!

**29 | Sat – “You came back!”** | Read [Romans 12:1-3, 9-21](#)

The Beast loved Belle enough to let her go. It was counter-intuitive but Belle loved the Beast enough to come back. It is also difficult to believe good can overcome evil. Writing to the Christian believers in Rome who daily faced people who acted like “beasts,” Paul said it starts by *not* conforming to the culture and instead being *transformed* by a renewed mind, which then translates into action. Look at the practical ways in verses 9-21 by which you can have a profound effect on those around you. Is your mind being renewed by God’s word?