

"BELLE'S" GOSPEL

By Tamarée Goertzen

Tale as old as time, and true as it can be.

Yet, this is not a tale simply about a beast and a beauty.

This is tale of the heart - of your heart.

A tale so beautiful and love-filled that it is almost too good to be true.

And yet, it is. You see, just as the Beast was cursed because of his cruel cold heart, so we are just as cursed, just as doomed because of sin.

We are like the Beast -

lost in all of our ugly brokenness and helpless to change it on our own.

And then the Beast meets someone who calls him to account for his beastly nature - Belle. She sees him. She sees the hideousness of the curse and she does not turn away. Instead, she loves him, and that love changes him from the inside out.

It redeems him, transforms him and makes him new.

In the same way, Jesus loves us just as we are.

He sees our hearts, as cold and barren as the cursed winter that surrounded the Beast's castle. And he loves those hearts, deeply.

In fact, His love for us is so great that he even suffered death, on a cross, as the perfect payment for our sins. And it doesn't stop there. **JESUS DEFEATED DEATH** and **ROSE FROM THE GRAVE**, forever breaking the cursed power of sin and death over us. And

that kind of curse-breaking, heart-changing love can transform even the coldest heart.

Just as Belle transformed the Beast with her love, Jesus transforms us eternally with His redeeming love.

It is truly a tale as old as time - the story of the gospel, of God's love coming to us and changing us from the inside out.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:6-7)

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