

Theme: From Wikipedia: In social philosophy, objectification is the act of treating a person, or sometimes an animal, as an object or a thing. It is part of dehumanization, the act of disavowing the humanity of others. Typically we limit discussions of objectification to reducing women to objects of sexual desire. This sermon could expand the way we see this idea to challenge people to consider how they reduce the humanity of those around them to how those people are “of use” to them.

Scripture: Luke 16:19 - 31 - The Rich Man and Lazarus

Movie Source: Beauty and the Beast - works for both animated and live action

Clip 1 - Belle entering Beast’s castle for the first time

Animated 21:30 - 22:30

Live Action 26:30 - 28:00

- Do some imagining about the servants.
 - What could their roles in the Beast’s life been before the curse?
 - What would it be like to have someone else’s perception of you literally transform your body?
- Notice how quickly Lumiere jumps to Belle fixing things for him.
 - How might our own pain and suffering cause us to see others as objects?
 - Have we ever looked to another person to save us without really knowing them?
 - Have we ever felt the pressure of being expected to be a savior?
- **Scripture Connection:** In what ways has the Rich Man attempted to dehumanize Lazarus? Was he “successful”? What was the long term effect of objectification of Lazarus?

Clip 2 - The Evolving Relationship

Animated 52:00 - 56:30

Live Action 1:08:35 - 1:14:30

- What changes in behavior are there between Belle and the Beast?
- There is a good chance this is the first time in his life that the Beast perceives another person as a potential equal or as someone he values more than himself. When have you experienced a similar feeling? Have you ever been aware of someone feeling that way about you?
- Christianity calls us to expand our love so that we view ALL people as whole people and equal in value to ourselves. How might our experiences above help us extend the feelings outward?
- **Scripture Connection:** In the movie, it is crisis+empathy that breaks the objectification cycle. What is lacking in the Rich Man’s experiences that keep him in the cycle?