



sermon notes

The Gospel Story in Aladdin

May 6, 2018

Pastor John Speight

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I Corinthians 1:26–28 (GW)

Brothers and sisters, consider what you were when God called you to be Christians. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view. You were not in powerful positions or in the upper social classes. But God chose what the world considers nonsense to put wise people to shame. God chose what the world considers weak to put what is strong to shame. God chose what the world considers ordinary and what it despises—what it considers to be nothing—in order to destroy what it considers to be something.

Brief History of the Film

- Premiered in 1992—26 years ago.
- Highest grossing film in 1992.
- Won two Oscars for the song, “A Whole New World.”

More than Meets the Eye

When we first meet Aladdin he is dressed in worn clothes, steals a loaf of bread, and runs to evade the police. He is portrayed as a menace to society. Just when you are ready to believe that he is nothing more than a “street rat,” Aladdin sees two starving street children, and he responds by giving them his food, and saves them from injury or death by defending them from the hoofs of the horse being ridden by a haughty, arrogant prince. Clearly, there is more to Aladdin than meets the eye.

TRUTH: God looks past our outward appearance and sees our _____.

The Prophet Samuel Anoints Israel’s New King

I Samuel 16

God sends the Prophet Samuel on a mission to anoint a new king for Israel. So Samuel travels to Bethlehem to the home of a man named Jesse. When Samuel arrives, he asks Jesse to introduce him to all of his sons so that he can anoint one of them to be the next king of Israel. Jesse’s oldest son comes in first. He looks very kingly. He’s strong, handsome and quite skilled, so Samuel is ready to anoint him as the new king, when he hears the still small voice of God saying, **“Samuel, don’t think he is the one just because he’s tall and handsome. He isn’t the one I’ve chosen. People judge others by what they look like, but I judge people by what is in their hearts.”**

I Samuel 16:7 (CEV)

TRUTH: God sees the _____ in you.

Aladdin loves Jasmine. He wants to marry her, but he knows that in order to do so, he must become a prince. He uses one of his wishes and gets all the trappings of a prince: clothing, riches and servants. Jasmine is not impressed by Aladdin's princely show. She already has all of those things. What she wants is someone who sees past "the stuff" and sees her heart. Unfortunately, Aladdin doesn't understand that and keeps trying to impress Jasmine in all the wrong ways.

- In the Bible, Jesus has a word for people who are constantly trying to impress others:

It means

Be careful not to do your good works in public in order to attract attention.

If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you. So when you give to the poor, don't announce it with trumpet fanfare. This is what hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets in order to be praised by people. I can guarantee this truth: That will be their only reward.

Matthew 6:1-2 (GW)

In the same way let your light shine in front of people. Then they will see the good that you do and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 (GW)

- Are you trying to **impress** people or **influence** people?
- The difference: _____.
- The "WHY" behind what you do makes all the difference.

Jafar is Defeated

Aladdin keeps his promise. He takes great risks and uses his resources to defeat the evil Jafar, even though he knows that by using his last wish he will be unable to marry Jasmine.

- It is an example of _____.
- Selfless, Sacrificial Love.
- It is setting someone free, even when it comes at a cost to you.

That is exactly how Jesus showed his love for you!