

the Venues

Go Deep

Beauty and the Beast

October 8, 2017

It's hard to look past someone's faults and into their heart.

Sometimes the fault is just so blaringly ugly! It's hard to see them as anything more than the hurt they cause.

The beast had anger issues, depression, lashed out, overreacted, said and did hurtful things. We've all been like the beast.

Who is your beast? Who is the person you feel you could never learn to love? Who hurt you?

Proverbs 12:16

Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult.

Proverbs 29:11

Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.

When someone responds with anger, that's all we usually see. Here's the thing. Anger isn't their primary emotion. Anger is the symptom of something else.

Anger is a costume hiding deeper emotions of hurt and pain. There's a popular response to anger in our society.

Luke 6:27-31

Jesus got angry, not when his own ego was attacked, but when he saw the weak, poor, and disenfranchised being attacked and taken advantage of. That made him angry. He knew when and why to get angry. I don't usually have that same wisdom.

Anger is the painkiller that masks the pain. When it wears off, the pain is still there. Love is the medicine that actually heals the root cause of the pain.

Proverbs 14:29

Slowness to anger makes for *DEEP UNDERSTANDING*;
a quick-tempered person stockpiles stupidity.

Look beyond the ugly appearance.

1 Samuel 16:7

"The Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

Look deeper than the ugly behavior, the mean word, the anger, the insult.

Romans 14:1

Everyone has a story. Everyone is dealing with their own past, so treat them gently.

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.” - Rev John Watson 1850-1907

October is domestic violence awareness month. 1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men will experience violence from their partner. You don't know the hurt people are going through, so be kind. Do you see someone irritated, frustrated, angry, using words or behavior to attack someone? They're hurting.

Maybe there are people in our lives who seem like a Beast on the outside with their words and behavior. Maybe there's more to the story. The good news, is we can choose to see past the anger.

See the beauty.

John 3:18-20

Next time we feel angry, ask, “What am I afraid of?”

2 Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

When we see others acting in anger, ask, what are they afraid of? Have compassion, for they are vulnerable, afraid, insecure. Look at others and see the beauty. Look in the mirror and see the beauty. There's beauty in every beast.