

Cinderella's Stepsisters: A Digital Children's Sermon

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Boys and girls, I have always liked the story of *Cinderella*. Do you remember this story? It starts:

Once [upon a time] there was girl who was as good as she was beautiful. She lived with her stepmother and two stepsisters. They were cruel to her, because she was more beautiful than they were. They made her scrub and clean all day long, and gave her only rags to wear. At night she slept in the chimney corner. Because she was always covered with ashes they called her "Cinder-wench," or Cinderella.¹

I always liked Cinderella and disliked her two stepsisters; however, the other day I was thinking about Cinderella's stepsisters and decided that I needed to re-evaluate my opinions of them.

I thought, Marsha, no wonder that Cinderella's stepsisters were mean spirited! They had a lot a problems. The story tells us that they were not pretty, and yet they had a very beautiful stepsister. They had a mean mother, who set a bad example for them. Their father was dead. They had awkward and unusual first names: Drucilla and Anastasia.² They had big feet. Do you remember when the sisters attempted to try on the glass slipper? The slipper would not fit their big feet. The story says: "But she [Drucilla, the older step sister] could not even squeeze her toes into the tiny slipper. The younger stepsister Anastasia had no better luck when she tried the slipper on her foot."³

As I thought about the stepsisters, I began to understand why they were the way they were. They had lots of problems and many strikes against them. I began to understand what motivated the stepsisters' mean-spirited actions. Well, boys and girls, throughout your life you are going to meet people like Cinderella's stepsisters. You are going to meet people who are hard to like. You are going to meet people who are mean-spirited. You are going to meet people who have had difficult childhoods. You are going to meet people who are cruel to others, just like the stepsisters were cruel to Cinderella. Yes, you are even going to meet people with big feet!

In addition, you will also learn a Bible verse in which Jesus says: "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." (*John 15.12*) I think that Jesus is saying that we need to love all people—even people like Cinderella's stepsisters. It is very hard to love some people, but I do think that you can at least try to understand them. In fact, I think that Jesus would have loved not only Cinderella but also her stepsisters, Drucilla and Anastasia. What do you think?

Prayer: Dear God, help us to learn to love all people. We need to learn to love not only people like Cinderella, but also people like Drucilla and Anastasia. Amen



¹ *Cinderella: An Old Favorite with New Pictures* (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1954) [1].

² In another version of the satyr the names of the sisters are Hester and Kate. See: Adele Thane, "Cinderella: The Traditional Fairy Tale," *Plays from Famous Stories and Fairy Tales: Royalty-Free Dramatizations of Favorite Children's Stories* (Boston: Plays, Inc., 1967) 430.

³ *Cinderella* [18].