

**Y.A. Belle:** *(moves to the bench, sits with Ebenezer)* Ebenezer, how could you do this to me? Why have you let money come between us? *(pause, turns right semi-facing to old Scrooge, wiping away a tear)* I am no longer your first love. *(sobbing...old Scrooge trying to comfort her, turning to the angel for help. Angel doesn't respond)*

**Y. A. Scrooge:** *(Scrooge yells from back stage...)* Belle! *(pause)* Belle! *(Belle enters, stage left, walking fast...Scrooge following close behind her.)* Why did you run off like that??? Why won't you talk to me? *(Y.A. Scrooge runs to the bench. Out of breath)*

**Y. A. Scrooge:** Belle, what is it? Have I hurt you?

**Y. A. Belle:** In a manner of speaking, yes! You, Ebenezer and your whole manner. *(Y.A. Belle gets up and walks to Grid 4 -- center stage)*

**Y. A. Scrooge:** I don't understand. *(Y.A. Scrooge follows Y.A. Belle)*

**Y. A. Belle:** Well, I know that it's not lack of sleep you display or poor health; I'm afraid I know what troubles you.

**Y. A. Scrooge:** *(sarcastically)* And what might that be?

**Y. A. Belle:** I suppose I should have seen this all along, but I just didn't want to.

**Y. A. Scrooge:** Please, Belle, no riddles. What is it you wish to say?

**Y. A. Belle:** Ebenezer, it seems I've been displayed by an idol.

**Y. A. Scrooge:** What idol?

**Y. A. Belle:** A golden one, money and greed.

**Y. A. Scrooge:** You don't understand, that is the way of the world, Belle.

**Old Scrooge:** *(in the background)* It forces poverty on the weak and condemns the strong who seek wealth. *(covers his face with his hands)*

**Y. A. Belle:** Yes, Ebenezer, I agree. It's the way of the world, but those are not

the ways I wish to pursue.

**Y. A. Scrooge:** You have never known poverty as I have, Belle. It crushes the weak and infirmed and binds them forever.

**Y. A. Belle:** Many of the poor are much happier than the rich, for God comforts them in their suffering. If you seek happiness in money, I'm afraid you'll not find it.

**Y. A. Scrooge:** Oh yes, we can go on blinded by faith, but God shall not put clothes on our backs and a roof over our heads or food in our stomachs

**Y. A. Belle:** Won't He? My God will! His word says... He will never leave us nor forsake us. He provides for all our needs. I don't fear poverty as you do.

**Y. A. Scrooge:** That was for your father's generation, Belle. We must find our own way.

**Y. A. Belle:** True, Ebenezer. *(Y. A. Belle walks away from Y. A. Scrooge, goes to center of platform.)* I make my way through prayer and you, evidently, make your way through other means.

**Y. A. Scrooge:** What are you saying, then? *(Scrooge follow her to center of platform)* Is it that you no longer love me?

**Y. A. Belle:** My love for you has grown each day. It's you who has ceased to love.

**Y. A. Scrooge:** I have never stopped loving you, Belle!

**Y. A. Belle:** Oh, I suppose in your own way, you think you love me but I love you in a different way...with the love Jesus gives me. Without Him, our love will cease to exist. He needs to be your first love, Ebenezer.

**Y. A. Scrooge:** Belle, we can still believe in God. That doesn't have to change.

**Y. A. Belle:** No Ebenezer, believing isn't enough! (*Scrooge moves to the right side of the platform.*) You must love Him as well. Money is your love and your god! I may always love you. Rather, I should say, I love what you were...what I thought you were. But God wont share you with greed (*pauses, moves to the left of the platform*) and neither will I.