

Six Shades of Purple

by Dean Nadasy

Lent 3: What About the Plant?

For Lent 3, based on Luke 13:1-9

Focus:

God is patient with us. He doesn't discard us for our shortcomings, but nurtures us to spiritual wholeness.

Characters:

Scott - anxious to get out of the old house; hurried; pushing

Linda - willing to take time for a "friend"

Setting:

Scott and Linda are moving. Everything is out of the house except the last box and a large drooping plant that looks near death. For staging, be sure to find a really large and really sick plant that is obvious to the audience.

Linda: *(packs up and closes last carton; Scott enters stage left)* That's it, Scott. The last one! I thought we'd never see the day!

Scott: *(looks around)* Aren't you forgetting something? *(points to sick plant)* Shall I just set it out with the garbage or what?

Linda: No, don't do that!

Scott: *(facetiously)* Well, how about sending it to Aunt Gertrude? *(lifts drooping plant and lets it drop)* A suitable gift, wouldn't you say?

Linda: Scott!

Scott: *(getting impatient; wants to move on)* I'll carry the last box out, and while I'm outside, you say your good-byes to "Old Limpy" here. *(lifts box and exits)*

Linda: *(checks to be sure that she is completely alone; then stoops down to address plant)* You and I have been through a lot together, you know. We came to this place together. I watched you grow. I tried my best to keep you healthy. I even started my one-way conversations with you when Susan said it worked for their weeping fig...although after all her talk her weeping fig is still weeping. But you have no excuse. Now I have to decide what to do with you.

Scott: *(breathless)* What's it gonna be, Linda? It doesn't look any better than when I left! Tell you what. Here's some advice. Keep the pot and dump the plant. It's an embarrassment anyway. After all those horticulture classes, I had hoped to see the greening of your thumb. But look at it. *(points to plant)* Tell me that's going to add to the decor of our new home.

Linda: Okay, Scott, take it. Set it out with the garbage. I tried, but it just won't come back. Go ahead. *(Scott lifts pot and starts to exit stage left.)* Scott!

Scott: *(stops dead in his tracks)* What now?

Linda: I've changed my mind.

Scott: To Aunt Gertrude with love?

Linda: No. I want to give it more time.

Scott: How much time?

Linda: As long as it takes.

Scott: Too long. I don't want that sad excuse for a living thing looking at me every day for the next 10 years. Did it ever occur to you that the thing might be used to being sick and likes it?

Linda: Give me six months, Scott, to nurse it back to health.

Scott: And then? What happens if it doesn't get any better?

Linda: Then it's the garbage can. Okay?

Scott: *(both begin to exit)* We make a good team, we three. *(points to Linda)* The good, *(points to himself)* the bad, *(points to plant)* and the ugly. *(to plant)* I'll never know what she sees in you, buddy, but you have a new home and another chance.

Linda: Be careful with it, Scott. *(exit stage left)*

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