

Six Shades of Purple

by Dean Nadasdy

Lent 4: Every Party has a Pooper

For Lent 4, based on Luke 15:1-3, 11:32

Focus:

Some people miss the partying nature of God. They are the people for whom the Lord is but a judge.

Characters:

E.S. - the Elder Son; proud, confident; uncompromising

Josh - a friend of E.S. who knows the father better than E.S.; fun-loving

Setting:

The two guys sit under a tree or on a stack of straw, "shooting the breeze."

Josh: Haven't seen much of your little brother, E.S. What's he up to?

E.S.: No good, I'm sure. The guy's a loser.

Josh: Where are you hiding him away?

E.S.: You mean you haven't heard? The guy took off, took his inheritance and ran off.

Josh: With the blond he was seeing in town?

E.S.: Nope. Alone.

Josh: He always was a restless one.

E.S.: Stupid, too. I'd rather keep my money in the bank earning interest, what with inflation and all. You can't buy anything cheap anymore. The kid has to learn some patience. After all, Dad isn't going to be around forever.

Josh: You're a crass man, E.S.

E.S.: Just honest, Josh...and practical. The old man's not looking too good these days. He mopes around as if there were nothing to live for.

Josh: He probably misses your little brother.

E.S.: Maybe.

Josh: Why don't we head out and look for the guy and surprise your dad? Wouldn't that be something! The look on his face when he sees us coming down the road together, all three of us!

E.S.: Forget it, Josh. When Dad sees him, he is not going to be smiling. The kid's a drop-out, a lush! He's an embarrassment to the whole family. Dad won't even give him the time of day.

Josh: You're awfully sure of yourself.

E.S. I am the eldest son around here, you know. The only son right now. For all we know, my brother is dead by now. Anyway, he chose his rode. Let him walk it alone. The guy's a loser.

Josh: I still say, if he ever does come back...

E.S.: The old man will have his hide! End of story. Meanwhile, it sure is nice being a one-and-only. (proudly settles back) Josh, I have it made. Dad demands little of me, but to keep him happy, I do just as he says, and I can't help but think it will pay off in the end. If only little brother could see me now! (rises to exit) Josh, I'd like to wile away the afternoon with you, but we gentlemen farmers do have a few chores to do, you know, to humor the man at the top. Stop by when you get a chance. (struts an exit)

Josh: (to audience) "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what it meant. And he

said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound."

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