



Faith Hope Love & Laughter

Christian Teaching and Entertainment

Laugh Learn and Grow with GOD

“SPARED FOR A PURPOSE”

Written by Joe Rieger

CAST

Azalia: (teenage daughter)

Alice: (mother)

Paul : (father)

SETTING: Living room

AZALIA:

(Reads Psalm 139:13-16 from offstage)

¹³For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,

I know that full well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

¹⁶your eyes saw my unformed body.

All the days ordained for me

were written in your book

before one of them came to be.

After this passage from Psalm 139 is quoted, the lights come up and we see a living room where a mother and father are seated. The mother is crocheting and the father is reading the newspaper. Enter Azalia, their teenage daughter.

AZALIA:

Here mom, I got the mail *(waves the stack of mail in her hand)*.

MOTHER:

Oh thank you Azalia. *(motions that her hands are busy crocheting)* ...Please put it on the table next to me while I finish this row.

AZALIA:

(Drops off the mail as instructed and looks toward her father). Oh dad, can I have the crossword puzzle?

FATHER:

Sure, go ahead and take it.

AZALIA:

(She flips through the newspaper, removes the section with the crossword puzzle, takes it to a chair and sits down. She folds the paper into a smaller section and begins to work on the puzzle).

Oh dad ...

FATHER:

(Puts down his paper) Yes?

AZALIA:
Youth Group is taking a field trip to Boston next Saturday ... mom already said it was okay to go. I'll need \$35 to cover the bus and meals.

FATHER:
Since mom said it was okay to go, maybe mom can cough up the \$35.
(Both Azalia and her mother give him a disapproving look)

FATHER:
Okay, okay ... I'll pay you later *(Picks up his paper and resumes reading)*.

AZALIA:
And dad?

FATHER:
(Puts down the paper again, this time a little annoyed) Yes Azalia?

AZALIA:
Can I get \$20 or \$30 for spending money? We'll be stopping at Quincy Market.

FATHER:
What about your allowance?

AZALIA:
Dad, you know ... I'm saving up for a laptop. Most of my allowance money is going towards that.

FATHER:
(Shakes his head in disbelief and chuckles). Okay, \$25.

AZALIA:
(She goes back to her crossword puzzle).
Hey dad ...

FATHER:
(Her father lowers the paper again, this time very annoyed) What do you need now?

AZALIA:
... what's an eight letter word for a bloodsucking irritant?

FATHER:

TEENAGER!

MOTHER:

Why Paul Ames, what a horrible thing to say to our daughter.

AZALIA:

(Totally oblivious to her mother and father's last exchange of words).
Oh, never mind. I got it - "mosquito." Duh!

(Dad shakes his head, laughs to himself and picks up his paper again)

AZALIA:

Yeah, like I'll know this one *(said sarcastically)*. "Characterized by elaborate scheming and intrigue."

FATHER:

Honey, would you like me to stop reading the newspaper and join you in the crossword puzzle?

AZALIA:

Would you dad?

FATHER:

Sure, I'm not getting much reading done anyway. I'll finish this article later, when the house is quieter.

(He walks over to his daughter and stands behind, placing his hands on her shoulders).

AZALIA:

You mean when I'm asleep.

FATHER:

Precisely.

AZALIA:

Okay, the second clue is "relating to or characteristic of the Eastern Roman Empire." It's a nine letter word that starts with the letter "B". Any ideas, dad?

FATHER:

Piece of cake. BYZANTINE, *(points to the puzzle and corrects her)*..it's B-Y-Z.

(Azalia erases her first entry and puts in the correct spelling. Dad launches into lecture mode)

You see, the Byzantine Empire, or Eastern Roman Empire whichever you prefer, was the successor to the Roman Empire.

(Paul's wife Alice pretends to fall asleep out of sheer boredom)

In fact Constantine, the first supposed Christian emperor, moved the capital from Rome to Constantinople in the year 324.

(Alice begins to snore).

Very funny Alice. Just for that, I'm not going to tell you how the Ottoman Turks conquered Constantinople in 1453.

MOTHER:

Now, you're breaking my heart *(more sarcasm)*.

AZALIA:

(Sensing that conflict is imminent, she tactfully redirects her parents to the crossword).

I need an eight letter word that means "making needless display of one's trivial knowledge." It starts with "P."

MOTHER:

That's easy. "PAUL AMES."

FATHER:

(In a Ralph Cramden voice) Oh you're a riot Alice, a regular riot. The word you're looking for honey is "PEDANTIC" *(Sticks his tongue out at his wife)*.

MOTHER:

I'm just kidding Paul. Where's your sense of humor? Someday all of your "PEDANTICS" if that's even a word, will pay off should you become a contestant on Jeopardy *(begins to look through the mail)*. Oh look, "A Better Choice Women's Center" is having their annual banquet and fundraiser! I definitely want to go to that.

FATHER:

Absolutely, you know how I feel about ABC.

MOTHER:

This year, let's bring some friends along. We can buy a table for eight and it includes dinner, music, testimonies and entertainment.

FATHER:

Good idea! We can help ABC raise money and have a nice evening all rolled into one.

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AZALIA:

Isn't "ABC" an anti-abortion group? I'm no supporter of abortion, but doesn't a woman have the right to choose what she does with her own body?

(Both parents give their daughter a startled look)

MOTHER:

First of all, "A Better Choice" is a "PRO LIFE" women's center that helps people make better decisions during crisis periods ... like unplanned pregnancy.

FATHER:

And secondly, since when did a human being created in God's image become a "choice?" We're not talking about having a mole removed or ridding oneself of unwanted fat through liposuction. We're talking about the killing of an unborn child *(last sentence spoken with great emotion)*.

(Mother gestures to father to ease up a bit. He walks over and joins his wife)

AZALIA:

Well the people who visited our school today from "The Women's Health Clinic" talked about women's "reproductive rights" and how the U.S. Supreme Court guarantees women the right to choose what's best for their own body and their own life. They made a lot of sense.

MOTHER:

Oh I'm sure they had many convincing arguments and I bet they came across as champions for teenage rights ... but they have their self-serving motives let me tell you.

AZALIA:

Oh mom, you're so paranoid. Like there's some kind of conspiracy going on.

FATHER:

Call it what you like, but they have quite the racket going on here. I mean they get invited into the schools under the guise of "safe sex" and "pregnancy prevention." Then they pass out all this irresponsible literature that actually encourages kids to have sex outside of marriage. And of course you're told, "Be responsible, use protection." So next comes their pitch on all the protection and contraceptive devices they can sell you.

MOTHER:

Yeah, and what kills me is they know that these products aren't foolproof – people still contract STDs and they can still get pregnant.

FATHER:

And bingo, when these young people do get pregnant – and many do – this organization is right there offering its services as the largest abortion provider in America.

AZALIA:

Where are you getting all this stuff?

MOTHER:

We read honey (*holds up a small stack of literature and begins to read from a pamphlet*). Since Roe versus Wade, there have been over 30 million abortions in our country. The National Right to Life puts the figure closer to 45 million. (*Shakes her head sadly*) All those precious lives that never had a chance.

FATHER:

(*Picks up another pamphlet*) Not to mention the emotional and physical toll women have to pay after those abortions (*holds up the pamphlet and points to a statement*) – like being at higher risk for breast cancer. I bet they didn't cover any of that in school today.

AZALIA:

Why are you getting on my case about this? I was just expressing my opinion that a woman has the right to choose. I've never seen you two get worked up like this. What's going on here?

(*Father and mother look at each other with troubled expressions*)

FATHER:

Tell her Alice.

MOTHER:

What ... me? Are you sure Paul?

FATHER:

Go ahead. It's time she knew the truth.

AZALIA:

What? What is it mom? You two are freaking me out, tell me!

MOTHER:

Oh boy. (*Looks up and prays out loud*) Please Lord, help me get through this (*pauses*). When your father and I were dating in college – grad school. We weren't exactly walking with the Lord back then.

FATHER:

We worked hard and we played hard. Jesus was the furthest thing from our minds.

MOTHER:

Well, there was a mix up with my birth control pills. Let's just say I missed taking them a few days. Anyway, I got pregnant.

AZALIA:

(Covers her mouth in disbelief)

FATHER:

And we both had over a year of school left and no real job to support a family. *(He can barely utter the next words)* I asked your mother to go for an abortion. No, I demanded that she get one. We weren't ready for a family. I wasn't about to let this child ruin our lives!

MOTHER:

So we went to the abortion clinic near campus and the people there were all very nice and they said the same things to us that they said to you at school. We scheduled a follow up appointment to have the "procedure" done. When we went back, there was a mix up with my insurance. My card had expired and they said I'd have to pay cash. We didn't have that much money on us, so we had to cancel.

FATHER:

We scrounged up enough money over the next few days and headed back to the clinic.

MOTHER:

This time our car died half way there. We missed that appointment needless to say, so I had to schedule yet another appointment. I was too embarrassed to call the same clinic, so I looked in the Yellow Pages and called a different place.

FATHER:

That different place that she called though, it wasn't an abortion clinic at all ... far from it. She "accidentally" called "A Better Choice Women's Center."

MOTHER:

They were absolutely wonderful! The woman on the phone sympathized with our situation and she wasn't judgmental at all. She invited us to come down to the center to discuss ALL of our options and to just pray. For once during that awful period, I began to feel some peace.

FATHER:

After weighing all the consequences of abortion ...

MOTHER:

(She finishes his sentence) ... and a whole lot of counsel and prayer - we decided to not to abort the baby. We got married too.

FATHER:

(He walks up to his daughter and speaks tenderly to her) By the grace of God and His intervention through “A Better Choice”, that baby is alive and well today. Intelligent, beautiful, passionate *(pause)* ... that baby is you.

AZALIA:

(Expression of shock) Daddy, mom ... I had no idea! *(She begins to cry out loud and mom and dad embrace her).*

MOTHER:

Now you know why we feel this way about “A Better Choice.” They were there for us in our time of need. They helped us in so many ways. Like when they gave us a crib, a car seat, baby clothes and all kinds of things to get a young family started.

FATHER:

(He places his hands on each side of her head and tearfully speaks) You can't begin to know how much we love you and how much joy you've brought into our lives. I can't even fathom what life would be like without you. I thank Almighty God every waking day for stepping in and keeping us from making the biggest mistake of our lives.

MOTHER:

(Joins her husband and daughter and puts her arms around them) You, my precious darling are not a “choice” - you're a child of God. You're our little Azalia, growing up to be the woman God created you to be.

FATHER:

Do you know why your name ends with an “ia” instead of the “ea”?

AZALIA:

I just figured you named me after a pretty shrub and didn't know how to spell it.

FATHER:

Hey, I'm a good speller. Besides, we wouldn't name you after shrubbery – give us SOME credit. We chose a very special Hebrew name for you: Azalia with an “ia”. It means “spared by Jehovah.”

MOTHER:

“Before He formed you in the womb, He knew you. Before you were born, He set you apart.” *(Pause)* You my dear, were spared for a purpose. Thank You Jesus!

(All three embrace and scene fades to black)

THE END