

Judge Not Lest You Be Judged

Week Eleven The Invitation

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Returning to campus on Monday, during the early afternoon, Ed calls Rodney to collect the money for the tires that he slashed. Meeting Rodney between classes, Ed asks Rodney, “did you have a good weekend?” Hoping to get some sympathy, Rodney replies, “no. I’m falling behind in all my classes. I can’t think straight since the accident.” Ed points out to Rodney, “you demonstrated that on Friday when you slashed my tires.” Ed’s candid response was not exactly what Rodney was looking for. Ed hands Rodney a copy of the bill, and bluntly tells him, “it’s time to pay up, Steele.”

Rodney examines the bill, and exclaims, “why are you making me pay for five tires?” Ed explains, “because all four tires have to match. You can’t just replace three of them. And, the spare tire has to match the other four. So, where’s my money, Steele?” Rodney boldly informs Ed, “I’m not paying for any of this!” Ed replies, “yeah, you are, Steele.” Rodney flips Ed a bird and tells him, “up yours. You can’t make me pay for them.” Not playing games with Rodney, Ed replies, “fine. Have it your way. I’m headed to the dean’s office right now. You can deal with him. Good luck.” Ed walks away, heading straight to the dean’s office.

Weighing his options, Rodney quickly concludes that he has none. Rodney runs after Ed, yelling out, “okay! Okay! Hold up! I’ll pay for them.” Ed stops, and firmly tells Rodney, “okay. Good. Now, we’re getting somewhere, Steele. You can pay for the tires, like right now.” Sincerely hoping that the answer is “no”, Rodney asks Ed, “can I transfer the money to you with my phone?” Ed replies, “sure. No problem, Steele.” Rodney grudgingly performs the transaction, but Ed doesn’t care about Rodney’s attitude. Ed just wants his money.

Once he verifies the money has been transferred to his account, Ed tells Rodney, “I’ll see you Friday at the fellowship meeting. Have a good

week. And, I suggest you stay away from my Jeep, junior, if you know what I mean. The next time you won't be so lucky." Rodney admonishes Ed, exclaiming, "that was uncalled for! And, you know, you could have acted a little more like a Christian in the way you handled this." Ed laughs, telling Rodney, "really, Steele? I wonder how stealing money from the fellowship and slashing tires fits in with your theology. And, besides, Steele, I don't 'act' like a Christian. I am one. You're the one who seems to be 'acting' like a Christian," placing great emphasis on the word "acting". Ed walks away, leaving Rodney stewing over having to pay for Ed's five new tires.

Later that week, the Interdenominational Campus Fellowship meets at the same time in the same place. Arriving early since they have no classes, Ed and Amy hang out in the public area adjacent to the meeting room. Jenny and Pete walk over, joining them. Jenny asks Ed and Amy, "are you guys headed to the beach again this weekend?" Amy replies, "no. Not this weekend. We got a lot of stuff to do around here." Jenny asks, "really, girl? Like what?" Amy replies, "stuff for our wedding and things like buying a bed to sleep in." Jenny replies, "oh yeah. A bed would be like really nice. It would sure beat sleeping on the floor, girl."

Ed asks Pete, "who's giving the talk tonight?" Pete replies, "I don't know. Rodney still has the sign-up sheet. I'm not sure if anyone even signed up for tonight." Amy comments, "I guess it will be a surprise." Jenny tells Amy, "hopefully it won't be Rodney. Last week, he showed up like really late, and was a total space case." Amy reminds Jenny, "that's because we caught him slashing Ed's tires, and the police took him away." Jenny exclaims, "that's right! How come I couldn't put two and two together?"

Joe walks up with Brittany, asking, "how's everyone doing?" Jenny exclaims, "great! I'm sleeping so well now! Thank you again for finding my problem for me!" Amy tells Joe, "I'm doing really good too! I like normal. Thank you so much, Joe." Joe tells Jenny and Amy, "that sounds really great! I'm so happy for both of you." Amy asks Joe, "you're coming with us to get pizza later, right?" Joe replies, "sure. We'd really like to do that. You know, I had a really light lunch today. So, I am really looking forward to pizza tonight."

Ed asks Joe, "have you talked to your dad yet about the author of *Eddie, The Mechanic*?" Joe replies, "I did. He's going to look into it for me." Ed tells Joe, "hopefully, he'll find something out before me and Amy leave." Joe replies, "well, if he doesn't find out soon, I could always email you what I find out." Ed suggests, "or, you can take a trip down to the beach and visit us."

Joe mentions, “it looks like we’re ready to get started. I’m giving the talk tonight, so I don’t want to be too late.” Amy tells Joe, “we were wondering who was going to give the talk tonight.” Amy is glad that Joe is giving the talk this evening, as opposed to Rodney speaking to the group. The group heads into the room, taking their usual place along the back wall.

Mike Collins stands on the stage, and announces, “good evening. It’s time for us to get started. Someone, please tell those outside that we’re ready to begin.” Everyone in the room stands up, waiting for those outside to come in and join the group. Once everyone gets settled, Mike opens the meeting with a prayer. The praise band takes the stage, playing a few numbers before today’s talk is given.

This evening, as the praise band plays, Rodney is not on stage. Instead, Rodney stands off to the side, taking a place against the side wall with Donna, Theresa, and a few others. As opposed to walking around the room seeking out the scent of alcohol or tobacco, Rodney stands quietly, not saying a word. Rodney is secretly hoping that Ed did not make public knowledge of the incident that occurred last Friday when Rodney got caught slashing Ed’s tires.

After the band is finished playing, Mike takes the stage and announces, “tonight, we’ll be hearing from Joe Sugarman, who I hear has a very important message for all of us. Joe, please come on up.” Hearing that Joe is giving the talk tonight, the members of the fellowship clap and cheer. It is not hard to figure out that they all love Joe.

Joe walks up to the stage, thanking his audience for the warm welcome, telling them, “thank you. Thank you. Good evening all of my friends and thank you for having me again today. Don’t worry. You can relax. There will be no biochemistry lesson today. There will be a biology lesson instead. Today, I will be talking about fruit.” The group laughs, always glad to hear Joe’s sense of humor.

Joe, who is accustomed to speaking in front of a group, asks his audience, “by a show of hands, how many of you here are going to Heaven because you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?” Nearly everyone in the room raises their hand, with five people in the back of the room as the notable exception. Rodney, holding his hand up high, looks toward the back of the room seeing Ed, Amy, Pete, Jenny, and Brittany being the lone holdouts. Ed looks at Brittany and smiles. Brittany nods her head, signaling to Ed that Joe is really going to address the issue that has been weighing on his heart.

Referring to the five people at the back of the room who did not raise their hand, Rodney whispers to Dana, “see? I knew there was something

wrong with those guys.” Dana whispers back to Rodney, “I knew it! I just knew it.” What Rodney does not know is that Ed and the four other people at the back of the room have had the discussion of “accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior” with Joe on several occasions. They know exactly what Joe is going to address tonight.

Joe continues, “well, I have some bad news for some of you. Nowhere in the Bible is it mentioned that the way to Heaven is by accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. If someone is aware of the passage that says that, please let me know. I’ve never been able to find it.” A few students frantically search through their Bible for an applicable verse, but come up with nothing.

Joe moves on to explain, “it seems that, in the modern day church in America, when a person gets saved, the scenario is always the same. The person walks down an aisle, answers a few questions posed by the pastor, fills out a card, and they’re on their way to glory land. Occasionally, the new convert will meet with a deacon of the church and pray. That, my friends, is a very watered-down version of what salvation really is. In fact, what I just described will likely get you nowhere. Countless people who have walked the aisle and filled out the card are not on their way to Heaven.”

Joe then boldly exclaims, “the creation does not tell the Creator what to do! The Creator tells the creation what to do! The creation does not make the rules! The Creator makes the rules!” Joe then explains, “if we want to be on the path to Heaven, we might want to carefully listen to what God has to say regarding the issue, not what man, the modern church in America, or tradition has to say.”

Now having everyone’s attention, Joe explains, “to some people, salvation is viewed as analogous to receiving a free ticket to a concert. When you arrive at the concert, the ticket gets you in the door. With salvation, it’s not quite the same. While salvation is a free gift, there are certain prerequisites to receiving that free gift. But, before I address that issue, please allow me to address a few other important issues.”

Joe explains, “first, let me say this. If you are in the process of being saved, God picked you. You did not pick God. There is nothing in man or woman that would move them toward seeking God or to follow Jesus. God extended an offer to you and, if you respond in the proper way, God will graciously grant you eternal life. If you do not respond in the right way, you might just end up in the eternal fire.”

Joe explains, “let’s take a closer look at this warped theology of today. You walk an aisle, say a prayer, and fill out a card. Monday morning comes, and you cheat on an exam. You steal someone else’s homework

assignment, copy it, and turn it in. You covet another person's girlfriend, boyfriend, automobile, or lifestyle. You post gossip or repeat gossip on social media. You lie to get what you want. When you don't get what you want, you destroy what someone else has. You remain sexually immoral. You continue to take recreational drugs without any intent to stop. You harbor bitterness and an unforgiving spirit. I could go on, but you probably get the picture."

Specifically addressing the topic of unforgiveness, Joe explains, "an unforgiving spirit is, by the way, stark evidence that a person is not on their way to Heaven. But, don't take my word for it. In Matthew, chapter 6, verse 15, Jesus said, 'But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.' If you do not forgive others, it is evidence that you are not saved and therefore not on the path to Heaven! It's right there in God's Word, in black and white. What can be clearer?"

Joe instructs the group, "please take a look at the Book of Revelation, chapter 22, verse 15. That verse lists a few practices that will also exclude a person from entering the Kingdom of Heaven. Included in that list are the dogs, which refers to those who are impure. Also, included in that list, are sorcerers. The original Greek word, by the way, that we translate to 'sorcerer' is *pharmakeia*, which is where we get the word 'pharmacy' today. Pharmakeia refers to drugs, specifically using drugs to obtain a distorted perception of reality. Murderers are also excluded from the Kingdom of Heaven, as are idolaters, and everyone who practices lying."

Without looking up the scripture, Joe then quotes Matthew chapter 7, verse 21, telling the group, "Jesus said, 'Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.'" Joe asks his audience, "just exactly what is the will of the Father?" Answering his own question, Joe continues, "the will of the Father is that we bear fruit. We can start by bearing the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. But, we have a little problem here. That is not your fruit. That fruit is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. You can't bear that kind of fruit on your own. In The Gospel of John, at the beginning of chapter 15, it clearly states that, in order for you to bear fruit, you must abide in the vine. That vine is Jesus Christ. If you don't abide in the vine, you will be gathered up and tossed into the eternal fire. What could be clearer?"

Joe then asks the group, "can you bear fruit outside the Spirit?" Five seconds go by, and Joe, answering his own question, tells the group, "of course you can!" Joe then asks his audience, "do you want to know what kind of fruit you can bear outside the Holy Spirit?" A few students reply, "yes," and Joe moves on to answering his question. But, before he gives

the answer, Joe informs the group, “we must remember that there are only two kinds of fruit. The first is the fruit of the Spirit. The other kind of fruit is the fruit of the flesh. You and I can bear the fruit of the flesh quite well on our own. We don’t need God’s help to do that.”

Now with everyone’s attention, Joe explains, “if you turn in your Bible to Romans, chapter 1, verses 28 through 32, you’ll find a description of the fruit of the flesh. Let me read it to you right from the text. The fruit Paul is talking about here is, and I quote, ‘And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.’ Now, how does that contrast with the fruit of the Spirit?” Joe pauses for a moment, then summarizes, “so, there are only two kinds of fruit, the fruit of the Spirit, and the fruit of the flesh. In order for you to bear the fruit of the Spirit, you must abide in the vine.”

Hearing what Joe has to say, a few people in the fellowship suddenly have a grave look of concern on their faces. Among them is Rodney, who is staring at the wall across from him, concluding that Joe’s words are directed specifically at him. Dana, about to have another emotional breakdown, manages to hold her composure at least for the moment. And, Donna appears calm, justifying to herself that Dana is the one who generally starts the gossip within her social circle. But Donna, propagating the sin of gossip, is equally as guilty.

Joe then asks, “what else is the will of the Father? High on the list is that we, who claim to be Christians, love each other.” Again, quoting scripture without referencing his Bible, Joe states, “in First John, chapter 3, verse 14, it states, ‘We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.’ That’s also pretty clear, my friends, isn’t it?”

Joe continues, “there is another requirement that is grossly overlooked by the walk an aisle and fill out a card theologians of the modern-day American church. That requirement is repentance. Repentance is turning away from sin. If someone claims to be saved, and yet continues in their same sinful lifestyle, you have the right to suspect that they may not have truly been converted. If someone claims to follow Jesus and doesn’t repent of their sins, how is that congruent with what the Bible teaches? It’s not! Now, I’m sure someone is going to say, ‘Joe! You’re judging people!’ No, I’m not. As I mentioned before, the Bible states, ‘you will

know them by their fruits.’ If you shall know them by their fruits, you should be looking at a person’s fruit!” Joe then summarizes, “it is the will of God that you come to repentance, love the brethren, and bear much fruit.”

Joe then digresses, and tells the group, “I mentioned earlier that salvation is a free gift, but there are certain prerequisites that must be met to receive that free gift. God called you. The proper response to God’s call is getting sorry for your sins, repenting of your sins, abiding in the vine, that is Christ, which will lead to loving the brethren and bearing much fruit.”

Joe then asks, “let me ask you this. How does that compare to the theology of walking an aisle and filling out a card? The only thing that walking an aisle and filling out a card will get you is your name entered into a computer somewhere. Walking an aisle and filling out a card won’t get your name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. On the contrary, perseverance in abiding in the vine, repenting of your sins, bearing fruit, and following Jesus will get your name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”

Joe quotes Matthew, chapter 7, verse 13, orating, “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.” Joe asks the group, “what is the sign over the narrow gate?” Nearly everyone in the fellowship answers, “Heaven.” Joe smiles, and replies, “good! You all got that right.” Joe then asks the group, “what is the sign over the wide gate?” Nearly everyone answers, “Hell.” Joe smiles and chuckles, then tells the group, “no. The sign over the wide gate says Heaven. It just doesn’t go there.” Many in the group laugh, surprised that Joe caught them off guard. Joe then tells everyone, “get on the narrow path and walk through the narrow gate.”

Joe then gives quite an unusual invitation, telling the group, “this is where your pastor would usually give an invitation, and tell you to come forward if you would like to join the church or accept God’s offer of salvation. If you haven’t already guessed, I’m not going to do that. If you feel convicted by anything I said today, your job is to get right with the Lord, and repent of any and all sin in your life. And, you must follow Jesus. And, if there is anyone here who is not currently following Jesus and wants to know how, please speak with me, or anyone else here after the meeting, and we will help guide you in your path.”

Finished with his talk, Joe tells the group, “thank you for listening to me this evening. I sincerely hope I said something to encourage someone here tonight.” Joe steps down from the stage and waves to the audience, receiving a standing ovation from the group. Joe walks to the back of the room where he receives hugs from his closest friends.

Not everyone, however, participates in giving Joe a standing ovation. Briskly walking to the rear of the room, hastily brushing up against those whom he passes by, Rodney storms out of the room, slamming the door hard on his way out. Showing her concern, Dana also leaves, chasing after Rodney. Ed looks out the door into the common area, and tells Amy, "Rodney is having a breakdown. Dana is trying to calm him down." Amy laughs, telling Ed, "as if Dana is going to be any help!"

Mike then takes the stage, and asks the group, "does anyone know what's wrong with Rodney?" Leesa Iron, one of Rodney's close friends, stating the obvious, replies, "he got kind of upset, and left." Knowing that Dana will not be much help, Mike asks Leesa, "will you check and see if he's okay, please?" Leesa replies, "sure." Leesa goes out and checks on Rodney. The praise band takes the stage, and begins their first number.

Outside the meeting room, Leesa finds Rodney and Dana both having a major league breakdown, where Rodney is angry and Dana is in tears. Leesa suggests to Rodney, "hey. Why don't you come back in and join the group?" Rodney exclaims, "I've had it with those guys! They're all out to get me! I'm never going back in there again!" Rodney errantly has come to the conclusion that Joe's talk this evening was directed specifically at him. Maintaining a level head, Leesa assures Rodney, "I really don't think anyone is out to get you." Earlier in the semester, Rodney preferred that Joe give a presentation that is more of a spiritual nature. This evening, Rodney got his wish. Apparently, the truth was a bit too difficult for Rodney to swallow.

Dana, quite self centered in thinking Rodney's problem has something to do with her, cries as she tells Leesa, "he's right! They're out to get us. They all know that I really wanted to go out with Ed, and now look at what they've been posting online!" Dana shows Leesa the pictures that Amy posted of Ed and Amy when they were at the beach, telling Leesa, "see?" Leesa reminds Dana, "Ed and Amy are getting married. They're not posting pics of them together to hurt you." Hearing Leesa say that Ed and Amy are getting married, Dana breaks out into a bigger crying fit. Realizing that she is not getting anywhere in consoling either Rodney or Dana, Leesa heads back in to join the fellowship.

As the praise band plays their last number, Mike walks over to Leesa, and asks, "what's going on with Rodney?" Leesa explains, "Rodney thinks everyone is out to get him, and said he's never coming back to the fellowship. And, Dana is having another pity party." Mike tells Leesa, "I'll ask the group to pray for them in just a moment." Leesa, who knows Rodney extremely well, whispers to Mike, "after listening to Joe tonight, I really don't think Rodney is saved." Showing his concern, Mike nods his head, fully understanding what Leesa is saying.

Mike closes the meeting with prayer and afterwards requests of the group, “if anyone knows Rodney and Dana well, please check on them sometime this weekend. Apparently, tonight, they’re both very upset about something.” Ed whispers to Amy, “I can’t imagine what Rodney is upset about.” Amy replies, “we see this all the time on the beach. Someone goes through a traumatic situation, and they’re not quite the same afterwards. Maybe Rodney should see a doctor.” Ed replies, “I agree. But, I’m not the one to tell him. I’m the last person he’d ever listen to.”

Joe walks up to Ed, and asks, “are we ready?” Ed replies, “I’m ready. Let’s go and get some dinner.” Ed looks around, then asks, “where’s Pete and Jenny?” Joe replies, “they’re up in the front, filling Mike in on a few things he should know, such as Rodney’s appearance of adhering to strict legalism and enforcing his beliefs upon others, and, on the other hand, living a lifestyle completely to the contrary.”

Amy tells Ed, “you were right.” Ed asks, “about what?” Amy reminds Ed, “when I first met you, you told me that Rodney was a Pharisee.” Joe tells Amy, “that about sums it up.” Over the years, Rodney, with his outward appearance of righteousness, has apparently fooled Mike as well. Joe, Ed, Jenny, and a few others, however, clearly see what has been going on.

Walking into the pizzeria, Ed and his group quickly find out that they are not the first ones from the fellowship who have arrived. Rodney, Dana, and Donna, waiting for their dinner to come out of the oven, are sitting at a booth sharing a pitcher of beer. Shocked at the anomaly in Rodney’s behavior, Jenny whispers to Amy, jokingly asking, “should I like take a pic of him and post it online?” Amy laughs, and replies, “um, no. That’s exactly what they want you to do. So don’t do it.” Jenny tells Amy, “I think you’re right about that, girl.”

Ed, Pete, and Joe go up to the counter, place the group’s order, and return to the table with the drinks. Still a Pharisee of sorts, Rodney glances over at Jenny, seeing if she is having a glass of wine. Looking straight at Rodney, Jenny runs her tongue along the rim of her wine glass and takes a sip.

While they are waiting for the pizza to come out of the oven, Joe asks Ed and Amy, “so, how long are you guys going to be around?” Ed informs Joe, “the plan is to leave right before Thanksgiving break. Amy is going to start her job sometime around Christmas, when the snowbirds come down from the Northeast and Canada. And, I start on January 2, right when all the New Year’s Resolution people storm into the gyms.” Amy adds, “and, our wedding is right after Thanksgiving. So, mark the date on

your calender, Joe.” Joe tells Amy, “I got my invitation. The date has already been reserved. We’ll definitely be there.”

Jenny tells Amy, “I like can’t wait for your wedding!” Amy laughs, and tells Jenny, “you like can’t wait? Like?” Jenny laughs, and replies, “I do say ‘like’ all the time, don’t I?” Pete replies, “you like say ‘like’ a lot.” Amy laughs, and tells Jenny, “I can’t imagine you any other way. You did that ever since middle school.”

Jenny then tells the story, “I remember the first time I walked into the pizzeria here. It was right before the semester started, and the place was like really deserted. I saw Tony come out from the back, and I asked him, ‘are you guys like open?’ Tony looked at me and said, ‘no. We’re not ‘like’ open. We are open.’” The group laughs and, as somewhat expected, catches the attention of Rodney who is sitting in a booth a few tables over.

The pizza arrives and Ed and the group dig in. Over dinner, Brittany asks Amy, “so, tell us about your wedding. What do you have planned?” Amy explains, “it’s going to be really simple. We’re getting married on my beach. Then, we’re going down to the Keys for our honeymoon.” Quite puzzled, Brittany asks, “your beach?” Amy smiles, and replies, “yeah. My beach. The beach that I’ll be working at when we get back from our honeymoon.”

All excited, Amy adds, “oh! And we’ll be living a few blocks from where I work. So, I can walk to work or ride my bicycle.” Jenny asks Amy, “are you like going to buy the Jeep that you always wanted?” Amy replies, “no. Not right now. Honestly, I’ve survived in that town for two years with just my bicycle. That’s all I really need.”

Interrupting the conversation, Rodney walks toward Ed’s table, telling Ed, “hey! I want my money back.” Raising his voice, Ed tells Rodney, “junior! I’m eating dinner! Get out of here.” Making a scene, Rodney tells Ed, “no! I want my money back for two of those tires.” Ed replies, “sorry, junior. You’re out of luck.” Tony, the pizza shop owner, tells Rodney, “hey, you! Stop harassing my customers!” Rodney pays Tony no attention and continues to harass Ed.

Boldly crossing the line, Rodney grabs Ed’s phone from the table, and tells Ed, “fine, then! I’ll just keep this until you give me my money back.” Ed grabs Rodney’s arm, squeezing it like a vice. Rodney relinquishes Ed’s phone, which falls onto the floor. Jenny whispers to Amy, “he’s definitely drunk.” Amy replies, “yeah. I’d say so.” Seeing the commotion, Tony walks over to Ed’s table, telling Rodney, “I’m going to have to ask you to leave!”

As Ed bends over to pick up his phone, Rodney jams his knee into Ed's face. Now angry with Rodney, Tony again tells Rodney, "I told you! You're going to have to leave!" Ed stands up and tells Tony, "I'll help you with that, Tony." Picking up Rodney and throwing him over his shoulder, Ed tells Tony, "open the door for me." Tony gladly opens the door for Ed, who hurls Rodney out onto the sidewalk. Tony yells out at Rodney, "if you come back in, I'm going to call the police on you, and let them cart you away in a wagon!"

Now that Rodney is out on the street, Tony tells Ed, "thanks for taking out the trash for me. You don't know how much I appreciate it." Ed replies, "no problem, boss." Tony informs Ed, "you know, that guy comes in here for lunch a lot during the week. He orders two slices of pizza and a beer, and sits alone in the back. He's usually very quiet. I really don't know what got into him today." Ed informs Tony, "I can tell you what got into him. He slashed my tires, and I made him pay for them. So, he's really ticked off at me." Tony shakes his head, and replies, "that would explain a lot. He hasn't been the same in the last few weeks." Ed informs Tony, "well, a few weeks ago, he hit his head on a diving board and got a concussion." Tony replies, "no wonder he's been acting a little strange recently."

Ed returns to his table, where Amy shows him the video of the altercation. Ed comments, "I don't know what's wrong with Steele. What did he expect me to do? Let him steal my phone?" Amy tells Ed, "he's just a self-righteous little brat." Joe tells Ed, "all you can do is give him the truth. What he does with it is his responsibility." Ed finishes his dinner, wondering why Dana and Donna have not left with Rodney.

Walking back to campus after dinner, Ed sees no sign of Rodney anywhere. Amy asks Ed, "can we go diving, please?" Ed replies, "sure." Amy explains, "we're out of here soon, and we won't get a chance to go diving for a while." Ed asks, "is the pool down at the beach open all year round?" Amy replies, "it is. But, in the Winter, the water can get a bit on the cool side." Ed tells Amy, "that's okay. We can take it."

At the University, the pool temperature is carefully kept between 77 and 82 degrees, for that is the regulation temperature range for competition. The temperature of the outdoor pool near the beach depends completely on the weather. A few cool overcast days can significantly drop the temperature of the water.

Ed and Amy arrive at the dorms, get their swimsuits, and head to the pool. On the way, Ed tells Amy, "guess what I found out." Amy asks, "what's that?" Ed explains, "Tony, at the pizzeria, told me that Rodney comes into the pizzeria for lunch during the week. For lunch, he orders two slices of pizza and a beer, and sits all by himself in the back." Quite

surprised, Amy replies, “really? Rodney totally makes no sense.” Ed tells Amy, “I didn’t want to say anything back there to start any rumors. But, you’re right. Rodney doesn’t make any sense.” Ed and Amy walk into the athletic center, confident that they will not run into Rodney at the diving area tonight.