

***Lunch***  
“So Much More”- GENERATE 2022  
Night 3- So Much More Planed for You

By  
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**At Rise:** We are in a Highschool Cafeteria, it is loud. Two students entering - JOSH and NATALIE. They are friends and go to Church together.

In the class before JOSH made an offensive “joke” in his history class directed toward Muslims. The “joke” was inferring that all Muslims are dangerous and do not belong in the United States. MARIE, who is a Muslim student, was deeply hurt by this joke. It is important to note that this “joke” didn’t just superficially offend or “trigger” MARIE but truly hurt her in a way that caused other students to take note and defend her in class.

Entering the cafeteria, NATALIE rushes up and meets JOSH as he heads towards a table

**Natalie:** Hey! You’re moving pretty quick for somebody about to meet their doom via school cafeteria food.

**Josh:** (gestures lunch box/bag) Brought stuff in from home today. It’s lasagna day, AKA “anything we have left over we’ll cook it in marinara and see how long it takes ‘til we get sued”. Not worth risking it.

**Natalie:** Smart man. I guess I’m just used to walking with you and Abby, but then I saw you fly down the hall right when I got out of Calculus. I waited for Abby, but I never saw her come out of Ms. Ross’ classroom. Everything okay?

**Josh:** History was just weird today.

**Natalie:** How so?

**Josh:** I dunno, people are just sensitive. I don’t really wanna get into it.

**Natalie:** Ah I gotcha... If it helps, I got stuck trying to explain to the rest of my class that an algorithm doesn’t necessarily relate to TikTok.

**Josh:** Mhm.

*(They sit in silence for a second)*

**Natalie:** (fishing for something to talk about) Are you going to be at church tonight?

**Josh:** (lighting up) Yeah... Pastor Ed asked me to talk a little bit about the mission trip we’re taking this summer, because we’re going back to Haiti so that’s pretty cool.

**Natalie:** Yeah...

**Josh:** Do you think that you’ll be able to go this year?

**Natalie:** I mean I really want to...

**Josh:** I can't wait to be back at that orphanage, those kids were so fun...

**Natalie:** They looked really happy in the pictures from last summer! I just don't know if I can afford it...

**Josh:** You gotta go... Maybe we can help set up a fundraiser for you at church! Or maybe we can set up a GoFundMe. You would love it, Natalie. And the kids would love you.

**Natalie:** You think?

**Josh:** Of course... Someone like you who is so nice; you're exactly what those kids need. I'm so ready to go back. I just feel like I grew so much being over there... like I almost feel like I got more out of it than the kids did.

**Natalie:** What do you mean?

**Josh:** Just being someplace where everything that we did was for Jesus... I felt really connected and purposeful. I really hope I can get that again.

**Natalie:** I mean... what's stopping you from doing that right now?

ABBY Enters

**Abby:** What the heck Josh...

**Josh:** What?

**Abby:** What do you mean "what," why would you say something like that?!?

**Josh:** Here we go again -

**Abby:** Josh/

**Josh:** Can't you just let it go, Abby? / I'm tired of talking about this

**Abby:** /No, I can't!

**Natalie:** Wait, what are you talking about?

**Abby:** I just spent the last 15 minutes with Marie crying in the bathroom...

**Natalie:** What?

**Josh:** It was just a joke...

**Abby:** Jokes don't make people cry... you need to go apologize to her right now...

**Natalie:** Josh, what did you say?

**Josh:** Oh my gosh... Abby, you're blowing this way out of proportion

**Abby:** I don't understand why you would say something like that...

**Josh:** What are you going to "cancel" me now?

**Natalie:** Josh.

**Abby:** You're not listening to me....

**Josh:** I am hearing you just fine.

**Abby:** Then what am I saying?

**Josh:** That you would rather just go along with everyone else from class than your friend. You guys are making me out to be some sort of villain...

**Abby:** Josh... I am not trying to attack you... I am trying to be your friend. Saying things like that is not a good look...

**Natalie:** What did he say to Marie?

**Josh:** I didn't say anything to Marie. (to Abby) Look, I am not going to apologize for making one joke...

**Abby:** One "joke" that was pretty offensive.

**Josh:** I mean was it really that offensive...?

**Abby:** You made Muslims seem like they were some sort of cartoon villain, not really people... real people who need Jesus just as much as anyone else.

**Natalie:** How did that even come up?

**Josh:** They were just talking so much in class about how bad the Christians were in the Crusades... I wanted to defend us...

**Abby:** We were studying history Josh... those people are dead. They don't need our defending. Anyway, all you did was really hurt Marie.

**Josh:** Well I didn't \*mean\* to hurt her feelings, I was just –

**Natalie:** Did you know that she was thinking about coming to Church with us?

(beat)

**Josh:** Really?

**Natalie:** Yeah, we have been inviting her for a couple of weeks now... she seemed like she might come to the game night next week

**Abby:** Probably not now...

**Josh:** (*confused*) Why would you... I mean, she's a Muslim, isn't she?

**Abby:** Yes... why would that stop me from inviting her to church with us?

**Natalie:** You were just talking about how excited you were to go back to Haiti... how is this any different?

**Josh:** I am excited... I don't know it's just different...

**Abby:** Why does it have to be...you were so excited about telling those kids about Jesus when we were in Haiti together... You talked so much about wanting to do that when you came home.

**Natalie:** And you have a huge influence here. I mean, you're the president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, everyone knows you as the Jesus guy...

**Abby:** What we did in Haiti was awesome, and I want to be back there with you, but don't you think that what we do every day here at school matters just as much?

**Josh:** I mean of course it matters...

**Natalie:** Like, Maria is someone you have the opportunity to talk to everyday. You don't only have just 10 days with her. Day by day, you have that opportunity to show her what the character of Jesus looks like... Do you really think what you said in History is a reflection of that?

(beat)

**Josh:** You really think that what I said was that bad?

**Abby:** I think you need to take a real look at the impact of what you said...

**Natalie:** Look, I know it's really easy to be defensive right now, but I really think you need to go apologize to her...

INTERCOM: "Josh Cromwell please come to the front office, Josh Cromwell make your way to the front office"

**Josh:** You have to be KIDDING me

**Natalie:** Josh, relax... this is your chance to do the right thing...

**Josh:** Apologizing is just going to be so embarrassing...

**Abby:** Why does saying you're sorry have to be embarrassing... I actually think it's really a brave thing, to admit when you were wrong.

**Josh:** (burying face) I don't wanna think about what happens when Coach Matthews finds out. Our biggest tournament of the season is next weekend.

**Abby:** Your words have consequences... and taking responsibility for your actions is the right thing, regardless of the outcome.

**Josh:** [sighs] I guess I had better head up...

**Natalie:** We'll see you at church tonight.

**Josh:** Yeah, see ya...

*JOSH exits*

**Abby:** Can you try to check on him if you see him between classes today... I think he would take it better from you.

**Natalie:** For sure... do you think we should go sit by Marie?

**Abby:** Yeah! I just saw her come in a little bit ago. I really hope she'll still come to the game night next week, I think she's so cool.

**Natalie:** Me too... but maybe we don't bring up the game night today. I just want to see how she's doing.

**Abby:** One Hundred percent. Let's head over before lunch ends.

*The girls start to collect their things*

**Natalie:** Yeah. It was really cool how you stayed with her ...

*They exit to go sit by Marie.*

**FADE TO BLACK**