

9<sup>TH</sup> UNPLUGGED

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JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

MR. SIMON: Hi, Judge, I'm Steve Simon.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, very nice to meet you and welcome to 9<sup>th</sup> Unplugged.

MR. SIMON: Thank you.

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, so before we get unplugged from the 9<sup>th</sup>, tell me a little bit about yourself. What is your title and what are your job responsibilities?

MR. SIMON: I am manager – facilities management manager for court administration. I do project management and I coordinate facilities between court administration, the other departments, Clerk of the Court, State Attorney, Public Defender, setting up courtrooms and chambers, and just setting up all of the courts for court administration.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You're a busy person.

MR. SIMON: I am a little busy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, just a little bit. All over the place, right.

MR. SIMON: Yeah. I've been doing this a while.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You have been doing this a while. So Steve, just curious, how many steps do you take every day? Do you count your steps?

MR. SIMON: My wife just got me one of those step meter things and I go about one to two miles every day. I don't know how many thousands – how many steps that is but that's –

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'm surprised. I thought you'd have many more steps.

MR. SIMON: I don't know. I'd have to take a look at it. It's been a while since I've looked at it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: How many keys do you have?

MR. SIMON: How many keys do I have?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes.

MR. SIMON: I have, on these things – on this ring, I have about 15. I have one lock box that has about 200 keys. Those are the court administration keys. I have another lock box that has about 80 keys and those are the judges' chambers. And I have another lock box that has 80 keys and those are the mailbox keys cause I take care of their – I assign all the mailboxes for the courthouse.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You've got a lot of keys.

MR. SIMON: I got a lot of keys.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay. What do you want or how do you want people to remember you?

MR. SIMON: I would like people to remember me as being somebody who actually did what they said they were going to do, and didn't take too long to get it done. And try to laugh my way through it. Not always works, but I try to.

JUDGE LATIMORE: When you're unplugged from the courts and you're not into our world everybody asking you to do things and pulling you in every direction, what are you actually doing for fun?

MR. SIMON: I like to get out and play golf. I play very poor golf, but I play golf. I used to bowl a lot. I used to boat. I sold the boat. Photography, watching television, seeing a few movies.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And what's your favorite –

MR. SIMON: Working the gardening. Pardon me?

JUDGE LATIMORE: What's your favorite? Which one is your favorite?

MR. SIMON: My favorite thing – right now it's playing golf.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Playing golf.

MR. SIMON: My wife –

JUDGE LATIMORE: The poor golf that you play.

MR. SIMON: Poor golf.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Is your favorite.

MR. SIMON: Right. Well, yeah, my wife always laughs at me. She tells me that every time I start something new, I go deep into it and then I forget about it for a while and then I move on to something else. And she just sits back and lets me go do it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So is there a particular golf course that you like to play on?

MR. SIMON: My favorite golf course is Rio Pinar, which is out by Lake Underhill.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Um-hum, on the east side of town.

MR. SIMON: On the east side of town. I play golf at Rio Pinar, Winter Park Pines of course, Dubsdread, Ventura.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

MR. SIMON: All the places around here and I joined the UCF Golf Association a couple of years ago.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, you really are into it now.

MR. SIMON: I'm into it but like I said, I'm not into – I will never be a great golfer but I didn't get into it to be a great golfer. It's relaxing and I get a kick out of it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right. So if you have to take your wife to dinner, where is the place you think you'd like to go? Not necessarily where she would want to go, your favorite spot to eat.

MR. SIMON: My favorite spot probably would be Firebirds.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And why is that?

MR. SIMON: Because they have the best prime rib in town.

JUDGE LATIMORE: They have some good prime rib.

MR. SIMON: It is so good. Have you ever been to Firebirds?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yes, yes.

MR. SIMON: Really good, isn't it?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, it is good. I like their French fries too though. I'm pretty simple.

MR. SIMON: Oh, yeah, you can't beat that. That is so good.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So Steve tell me, what are your top two rules for navigating life?

MR. SIMON: Top two rules for navigating life. Well, one of them has got to be the Golden Rule, which is do unto others as you would have them do unto you, of course. Everybody has to follow the Golden Rule, but also something else that everybody I think should do is just try to commit one random act of kindness each – you know, every day.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Uh-huh.

MR. SIMON: Because I firmly believe in karma. If you give maybe it will come back to you. But just the same, I like helping people out. If I didn't like helping people out, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Is there something that you used to do back in the day that you wish was still popular or you'd still like to do today? I mean, I love drive-in movies.

MR. SIMON: Oh, I loved going to drive-in movies. That's a really good answer.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, well, I didn't mean to answer the question.

MR. SIMON: But you did answer the question for me. That is something. I used to ride bikes a lot, I'm sorry, I just hit the table. Used to ride bikes –

JUDGE LATIMORE: They told me not to do that so that's okay, cause Steve would do –

MR. SIMON: I used to do some – I used to run but that was a long, long time ago and that was before I got married. Bowling. I used to love to bowl and I was secretary of a bowling league for like 20, 25 years. It was called Clerk of the Court. It was a bowling league for people here who worked in the courthouse here.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Oh, okay.

MR. SIMON: And I miss that and I'm hoping to get out and do that again some time. Photography. I had all kinds of camera equipment and stuff. And I got away from that when my granddaughter was born cause life – having a granddaughter kind of changes your perspective on life. And what's important to you before then is no longer important after you have that granddaughter.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, grandkids changes it all.

MR. SIMON: She became the center of our life.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That sounds wonderful. So tell me, who are three people who have most – who have been the most influential to you?

MR. SIMON: Three people who have been the most influential people. Probably, one, of course, is my wife, who has been the most influential. Before I met my wife, I was a mess. I was all over the place. I was a kid. And when I met her – I met her at the bowling alley actually. And so definitely is one. Matt, my boss is definitely another one because he actually took the time to listen to me and work with me, and put up with me because I'm a handful. And anybody who knows me knows that. Third person.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Can you think of a third person?

MR. SIMON: That's been most influential in my life.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, that's okay, two will do good. What food do you have in your refrigerator right now?

MR. SIMON: We have steaks, vegetables. I have beer.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It's about happy hour somewhere, isn't it?

MR. SIMON: Yeah, believe me, when I get home – I'm going home. And steaks, vegetables, salad.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So you're a healthy eater. Pretty healthy eater?

MR. SIMON: No. I wish I was a healthy eater.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That's why it's still in the refrigerator, right.

MR. SIMON: Yeah, that's why it's in the refrigerator. To be healthy, I take vitamins, take a multiple vitamin in the morning and you know I have to take this, that and the other thing. But if I knew I was going to live this long, like the expression goes, if I knew I was going to live this long, I'd have taken much better care of myself.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what's your best tip for making the world a better place?

MR. SIMON: Be kind to one another, end the violence. Listen to one another and don't think you're the most important because you're not. Everybody has a right to their opinion and you should listen to their opinion.

JUDGE LATIMORE: What makes you feel like your best self?

MR. SIMON: What makes me feel like my best self?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Um-hum.

MR. SIMON: I'm not sure I understand that question.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So what makes you feel inspired? Like you doing your best, doing something that you may do regularly or occasionally, makes you feel like you just at your prime.



MR. SIMON: When I'm actually helping other people here at the courthouse, that's when I feel like I'm doing my best. I'm sorry.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yep, you're doing fine.

MR. SIMON: Oh, okay. I just get a kick out of doing that.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. And if you had a super power, what would it be?

MR. SIMON: If I had a super power, I would have the ability to read minds. I've never been able to read minds. I certainly – I can't – I don't even know what's in my mind, much less be able to read what's in somebody else's mind. And if I could read somebody else's mind I would probably answer the right question before it came up, and be able to anticipate what I need to be doing.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, it was wonderful speaking with you. Thank you for being unplugged with me.

MR. SIMON: Oh, wow, you're welcome.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right.

MR. SIMON: Thank you so much for listening to me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You're welcome, and I hope you have a great weekend.

MR. SIMON: Thank you. You too.

(Music)