

## Right or Wrong

Cast: James, Tyler, Ethan

Setting: Inside James' house

Prop: Phone

1 JAMES: Where is Shane? That boy is never on time.  
 2 TYLER: He's probably sitting in his room waiting for  
 3 permission to leave the bed.  
 4 ETHAN: Lighten up, Tyler.  
 5 TYLER: I'm just saying ...  
 6 JAMES: Saying what? You're always making fun of him.  
 7 He's a good guy. Just a little bit under the parental  
 8 thumb.  
 9 TYLER: Not just the parental. He's like a target.  
 10 ETHAN: Tyler's right, James. He does kind of set himself  
 11 up. Timid.  
 12 TYLER: Good word. He's timid. People don't like timidity.  
 13 JAMES: Well, that's what we're here for.  
 14 TYLER: Say what?  
 15 JAMES: To help him out. People know that if they mess  
 16 with Shane, they mess with us.  
 17 ETHAN: True, that.  
 18 TYLER: Sure. Whatever.  
 19 JAMES: You know you'd back him up, Tyler. Don't deny it.  
 20 TYLER: I neither deny nor do I admit. I am on a wait and  
 21 see basis.  
 22 JAMES: You'd be there in a pinch. We all would.  
 23 ETHAN: Yeah, I'd back him up. But wait much longer for  
 24 him? Now that is asking too much.  
 25 TYLER: The game has already started. We missed the  
 26 opening kickoff. James, call him and tell him to get his  
 27 butt over here.  
 28 ETHAN: What do you want to bet he can't get the car and we

1 have to pick him up.  
 2 JAMES: Hey, just because we all have cars doesn't mean  
 3 everyone does. He can't afford it.  
 4 TYLER: Boo hoo. Call him.  
 5 JAMES: 'K. *(He dials.)* It's ringing.  
 6 ETHAN: If the machine answers, hang up and let's just go.  
 7 JAMES: Very nice, Ethan. *(The phone is answered.)* Hello?  
 8 Hi, Mrs. Schuster. May I speak to Shane, please ...  
 9 TYLER: *(Mocking)* "May I speak to Shane, please?"  
 10 JAMES: *(Whispered)* Shut up! *(Into phone)* Hey, Shane!  
 11 Where are you? We've been waiting ... what? *(Alarmed)*  
 12 What?!!  
 13 ETHAN: What's going on?  
 14 JAMES: *(Motioning him to be still)* This afternoon? Who?  
 15 Steven and Jack? Micah, too? Well, first, are you OK?  
 16 You're sure? OK. You wait right there, we'll be right  
 17 over. Maybe you should listen to your mom. Don't  
 18 worry, we'll take care of this. This is what friends are  
 19 for. *(Hanging up)* Jeez. OK guys, let's go.  
 20 ETHAN: What happened?  
 21 TYLER: Where are we going?  
 22 JAMES: Shane got jumped this afternoon. Steven, Jack and  
 23 Micah. Three on one.  
 24 ETHAN: What? How ... ?  
 25 TYLER: Ouch!  
 26 JAMES: Apparently they had nothing else to do on a sunny  
 27 afternoon and decided that instead of going to the  
 28 mall, they'd jump someone who couldn't fight back.  
 29 Well, now they'll have to deal with the consequences.  
 30 TYLER: I'm sorry, what?  
 31 JAMES: We're going to find those guys and teach them a  
 32 lesson. Shane is our friend and friends stick together.  
 33 Right ... ? *(ETHAN and TYLER exchange a look.)* Right?  
 34 ETHAN: Are you sure Shane didn't provoke this?  
 35 JAMES: What?



1 ETHAN: You know how he can be sometimes ...  
 2 JAMES: I do not believe you are saying this. Any way you cut  
 3 it, three against one isn't fair. Now, let's go.  
 4 TYLER: Fight?  
 5 JAMES: Yeah, fight!  
 6 TYLER: For what?  
 7 JAMES: Because sometimes you have to meet force with  
 8 force.  
 9 TYLER: And sometimes you can just talk it out.  
 10 JAMES: Shane is at home, bleeding, bruised and battered.  
 11 His mom said she is going to take him to the hospital  
 12 because she thinks his ribs are broken. They stomped  
 13 on his glasses and took his money. The guy's afraid to  
 14 leave the house because of this and you want to talk it  
 15 out!? Time for talking is long gone.  
 16 TYLER: I don't know, man ... Ethan?  
 17 ETHAN: James, come on ... is this really our fight?  
 18 JAMES: I do not believe I am hearing this from you two.  
 19 We've always said we'd back each other up. We'd be  
 20 there for each other. Was that just talk?  
 21 ETHAN: No, but ...  
 22 JAMES: There are no buts. You're either committed to a  
 23 friendship or you're not.  
 24 TYLER: I'm his friend, but I don't see a reason to put myself  
 25 in harms way for nothing.  
 26 JAMES: If we let those guys get away with beating up Shane,  
 27 who's to say that they won't come after one of us next?  
 28 TYLER: Who's to say they will?  
 29 JAMES: Is that a risk you are willing to take?  
 30 ETHAN: Is violence really an answer?  
 31 JAMES: Sometimes, yes, it's the most effective answer.  
 32 ETHAN: What about turning the other cheek?  
 33 JAMES: I'm all for that. Twice. That's why God gave us two  
 34 cheeks ...  
 35 TYLER: Well, really four ...

1 JAMES: Tyler, shut up!  
 2 TYLER: I'm just saying ...  
 3 JAMES: Shut up! And, Ethan, if you're going to start quoting  
 4 the Bible, let's look at what Jesus did in the temple. I  
 5 believe he destroyed it ...  
 6 ETHAN: We're not exactly Jesus, James.  
 7 JAMES: Oh my God ... do you not see what we have to do?  
 8 TYLER: Listen, I hang out with those three guys  
 9 sometimes. I don't need them mad at me.  
 10 JAMES: What? You hang out with those losers? When?  
 11 TYLER: When you guys aren't around. I mean, they're not  
 12 like friends, but we go to the same parties and stuff. I  
 13 don't need to alienate them.  
 14 JAMES: So, you'd alienate me?  
 15 ETHAN: Come on, James. Don't get all testosterone driven ...  
 16 JAMES: I'm not!  
 17 TYLER: You kind of are. You're like a bull in a china shop.  
 18 You want to go in and pound on people without  
 19 thinking it through.  
 20 JAMES: You've got to be kidding. Those guys are always  
 21 beating people up. Today it was Shane. Last week they  
 22 were pushing Sean around. Remember over the  
 23 summer when they beat up those kids from Valley  
 24 High School? Those kids were two years younger.  
 25 They've been doing this kind of stuff since we were in  
 26 sixth grade together. It's time to end it.  
 27 ETHAN: Maybe we should talk to the principal ...  
 28 TYLER: Or Shane's parents should...  
 29 JAMES: What good would that do? So they get suspended.  
 30 Big deal. They get a "severe talking to" by Mr. Roney.  
 31 Ooooh, that'll shake them up. They've been "talked to"  
 32 so many times it's ridiculous. You know it as well as I  
 33 do.  
 34 TYLER: I still say it's not our place to get involved.  
 35 JAMES: Tyler, I don't even know who you are. I thought you

1        were a true friend, but it's pretty clear all you have at  
 2        heart is your own worthless hide. You're afraid of  
 3        getting hurt, so you let others go down. I'm telling you,  
 4        you could be next.  
 5    TYLER: And I'm telling you that, while Shane is my friend,  
 6        I'm not going to get into a fight because he can't take  
 7        care of himself.  
 8    JAMES: Whatever, man. Ethan?  
 9    ETHAN: Maybe we should talk to them?  
 10   JAMES: I've talked to them before. You have. They've been  
 11        suspended a dozen times for intimidation. They're just  
 12        smart enough to wait until after school to get physical  
 13        with someone. The time for talk is over.  
 14   ETHAN: I don't know, buddy.  
 15   JAMES: Well, I do.  
 16   TYLER: You're going alone, then. I'm not fighting because  
 17        someone else can't take care of himself.  
 18   JAMES: That's fine. Remember those words when three  
 19        guys come after you. Ethan, you coming?  
 20   ETHAN: You're sure you want to do this?  
 21   JAMES: Right is right.  
 22   ETHAN: I don't know ...  
 23   TYLER: Ethan, don't be stupid.  
 24   JAMES: Tyler, don't be a wimp.  
 25   TYLER: I'm not being a wimp. I'm being smart. This isn't  
 26        our fight.  
 27   JAMES: I'm making it my fight. Ethan, Tyler has made up  
 28        his mind. What about you?  
 29   ETHAN: Yeah, OK. I'm not going to let you do this by  
 30        yourself.  
 31   JAMES: Thanks, buddy. Let's go.  
 32   TYLER: I hope you don't regret this.  
 33   JAMES: I hope you don't either. We both have to live with  
 34        our decisions. At least I know I'll be able to sleep  
 35        tonight. I hope you can say the same.

1    TYLER: I can. (*JAMES exits.*) Ethan, I hope you're not  
 2        making a mistake by going with him.  
 3    ETHAN: We'll see. I'll talk to you later. (*ETHAN exits, TYLER*  
 4        *is left alone on stage.*)