



Transcript for Equality in Restaurants:

Joseph: The first test that I had when I came to Beaufort. People said everything lovely in Beaufort County, no problem. Went down to lil' jar vista restaurant for lunch one day three of us. Tom Barnwell and ... We got to the restaurant and the little lady said we haven't started serving colored people here yet. I said we haven't started eating em yet. She said well we're not gonna let you in. I said okay and went to the next one. They said um... we don't serve negroes here. Didn't break no fuse just turn around came back and filed a lawsuit, for the two restaurants. The FBI in Beaufort came down and investigated the complaint. The justice department told them to come down get information as to what happened. They came in and interviewed us like we were the criminals. Like we were the bad guys. Where are you from? Whatcha gonna do? Whatcha been doing all these years? All kinds of questions. Two and a half hours. I mean asking us all kinds of questions, like we had done something wrong, but finally after several months the justice department sent us a letter back saying that these restaurants had agreed to serve people regardless of their color or creed. So we went back down again. We were able to go in, but you know what happened after we got in.

Interviewer: They didn't serve you?

Joseph: We had to wait forever. The attitude changed, but the behavior didn't change. We had to wait for a long time, but we sat right there.

End of Video.