

I'd like to **lighten things up** a bit now, **although** Ned, we were certainly **glad to hear from you**, and how you **got mugged**.

It's about time we heard a nice story.

Something happened **the other day** that I think **sums up** why we **call** this the season of giving.

I **was driving** home from the gym, and I suddenly realized I **had left** my favorite old pair of **sneakers** on the roof of the car. I look back and **there's this homeless guy**, and he'd already **picked them up**, and he was **putting them on**, so I **just thought, what the hell**, and **kept driving**.

So you didn't **put** the car **into reverse**, **speed** back there, and **rip** a pair of **smelly old sneakers out of a homeless man's hand**?

It's been a pretty **tough day out there** for most of you, and I'd like to hear now **from** someone who's **having** a good Christmas. Someone who's learned **a way to beat the holiday blues**.

I **used to** get depressed **on** Christmas. And then I found a **surefire way** to **beat** it.

Why don't you go out and **treat yourself to** something special. **Personally**, I'm going to **go get myself** a meal **at** one of Seattle's **fine restaurants**. **One** that has a liquor license. **Just kidding**. Don't **drink and drive**.

All the other **places** in town are **either** closed or are **all booked up**. **I've been to** at least twenty of them. -- **That's what makes** this place so **special**.

Are you having a merry Christmas? -- Well, **now that** you ask, no I'm not. Had a terrible **fight over** something stupid with my father...

How about you? -- **Pretty good, actually**.

Merry Christmas. -- **Same to you**.
Glad you could make it.

I wouldn't **miss** this. How's the turkey? **As good as last year's?** -- I think **this one actually** is last year's.

I'm done here, why don't you take this seat? ... This is embarrassing, I seem to have lost my wallet.

I must have left the wallet at the office. Why don't I just go back there and get it. -- You mean you can't pay! This one's on me. It's ok, buddy, we've all been there.

I really did leave my wallet at my office. -- I know you did, and Bill here misplaced his Wall Street portfolio. I make a very decent living. I really do. You don't have to do this.

I must say I've never been so touched in my life. You people gave up your money to help out a fellow human being.

Don't be embarrassed. Look at it this way. The rest of the year belongs to the rich people, with their fancy houses...