

SHOWNOTES - Taylor Gallman (03/50)

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host)

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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:13

We have a guest with us today. Taylor Gorman, thanks for being here. Taylor, I know, to have your kids, I don't know your two older kids. But I know Nathan and Andrea. And I can tell you that for years and years, and they all heard what great kids they were. And you can ask anybody around about either one of those, your kids and they'll they'll say wonderful things. They're very talented, very kind, very committed. And so I thought it'd be great to have a dad who has some some fruit to prove that he knows what he's doing. So, so we're happy that you're here, we got a really interesting story, I'm going to hold off on it just a little bit about a something to happen with you and your dad that I find just just blows your mind. We'll hold off on that for a little bit. But I guess if I can just get you to tell me a little bit about your family now your kids wife and what you're doing now.



01:10

I'm a retired United Methodist pastor. And I have four children, two older children, one wife to get bone marrow cancer and died and kind of thought my world had ended. But God turned that around. He, he changed my life. And let me meet a young lady and seminary. Okay, a place I never wanted to go. To make that statement is something that you need to understand. I was a failure, all my life. When I graduated high school, only way I graduated was to cheat. And my dad and I didn't have a great relationship. We had a pretty terrible relationship. And I did everything I could to get away from you. Until I graduated college, and found out that my dad was a pretty decent guy. He was a United Methodist pastor became a United Methodist evangelist. And before he died, you reached over 350 young men and women and brought them in full time Christian service.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 02:35

So what do you think was the the conflict? You know, we one of the the populations we want to reach is young men who haven't had a great experience growing up what what was the conflict between you and your dad early on?



02:48

Well, I felt that my dad didn't have time for me. He he had time for everybody else. But he didn't have time for me. And I was a difficult kid. I have dyslexia. And both my parents were genius. And I couldn't spell my name, right. And so I felt like that. They just my brother. I loved my brother. They loved my sister, but they just tolerated me.



Scott Hilton (Host) 03:18

So you felt like the black sheep of the family? You were you didn't feel like, you



03:22

know, feeling like that. It was that was what I was they they made it clear that that I was they couldn't figure me out. They couldn't figure out why I was so rebellious. Why was the way I was why I couldn't write. Because I see backwards. Yeah. And and so it made no sense to them. But I could do anything I wanted to do. And so they knew I wasn't dumb. It was just that I couldn't, they couldn't figure me out and I couldn't figure



Scott Hilton (Host) 03:58

it out. So they were frustrated with this child that they couldn't figure out and you were frustrated with the parents that you couldn't figure it out. And I think that's the case with a lot of kids nowadays. So what was your mindset, your mentality? What got you through that?



04:12

Well. After being rebellious for many years, I finally met someone that would sit down and talk to me, and they talked to me about God. And that seems strange to have. My daddy was a pastor. Yeah, he was an evangelist. My mother was also a faster. She was the first woman pastor in Mississippi, in the United Methodist Church, and I, but they didn't know how to deal with me. They didn't know how to comprehend the way I was thinking. Because when you have dyslexia, you don't know that you can't read. Right? Right. And so It made them understand. I mean, question everything about who I was, I had a brother that was a genius, sister, that was everything in college. But then I was the third one,



Scott Hilton (Host) 05:18

you were the you were the misfit. The kid that wasn't going to accomplish anything was always confused about everything. Felt like your parents didn't really love you then, you know, just kind of pushed you aside. And so many kids, I think, go through that. So many of the guys that I had at the ranch, feel that deep inside, I didn't know that about your story until just now. But

that all changed at some point. And I won't want to get there in just a minute. But somehow or another, you figured out a way to what I call flip the script you you figured out a way to be the parent that you always wished you had, I suppose. Well, their own kids.



06:00

When I got married, I made a vow to myself, that I would never be like my parents. Wow. And for years, my parents and I just didn't communicate on a level of understanding. And finally I just got tired of it. Yeah. And I went to my dad, and I said, we've got to fix this. Wow. And it was difficult.



Scott Hilton (Host) 06:26

So you actually went to him and formally said, Dad, we've got a problem



06:32

that's trying to fix that. And I just finally went to him and said, I don't know why you hate me. And he looked at me and started crying. He said, I don't hate you. I don't understand you. And I said, so not understanding me means that you can't help me. And he finally got it. He started crying, really. And that was the time that we can together. And began to understand that we both made some great mistakes. And my dad and I became close friends. And he I could tell him anything. But we had to get past the fact that I wasn't stupid. I just didn't, couldn't read.



Scott Hilton (Host) 07:33

So how old were you when that took place? Eight teen. So you spent 18 years. And basically in misery, it sounds like thinking you are the reject of the family thinking that they didn't love you. And your dad spent 18 years thinking that you didn't love him. So so when you went to talk to him, and he started crying, do you think that was the first time that he really realized that his son really does love? My son does love me and wants to have a relationship with me? You think it took him that long to figure that out?



08:08

Well, I just think it he was so busy. And he put it out of his mind.



Scott Hilton (Host) 08:14

How did that affect you? When you get to your head, your own family? How did those emotions and those memories affect what you did and in terms of raising your own kids?



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When I finally figured out that I didn't really love me, and that they just didn't understand me. I promised myself I would never treat my parent, my kids, for children, the way that I was treated, that I would talk to him that I would be in their life. And that I wanted to be a part of them. And that no matter what they did, could never define my love.



Scott Hilton (Host) 09:03

Unconditional Love. And so



09:07

I learned how to be a parent. being hysterical, good. But it started making sense. When I started putting his puzzle together. He lost his dad when he was three years old. Oh, really. And he lost his mother when he graduated from high school.



Scott Hilton (Host) 09:30

So he really didn't have that role model either. No, he was trying to figure this thing out as he went. And some of us are so blessed with grandparents and great grandparents and a father and then some of us don't have any of that migrant. My grandfather was telling you earlier, his dad passed away before he was born. And so he had to figure it out just like your dad had to figure it out just like you had to figure it out. But the good news is and this is the message I think I want to send to you To our, our listeners, is that there is a way to figure it out. You flip the script, you change it, you change the directory, the trajectory of your family. But it took you making a conscious decision to one thing, say I want to make things right with my own dad. And then you made the second conscious decision, which was, I'm going to be a good dad, right at this desk, or setting was built by you. And Nathan, your son. That's why. So Nathan was so excited. Oh, boy, this desk was built made out of lumber that we cut at Eagle Rock ranch right off the facility. And when I called Nathan and said, Hey, man, we you know, we need to build that he immediately said, I'd love to do that with my dad. So apparently, along the way, you figured out that, that that's one of your I guess you'd say Love Languages is time with your kids. So tell me about that. We got the we know you built this desk. But tell me about some of the things that you did with your three boys and one girl.



11:08

That's right. Well, I've tried to make time for him. I've tried to to be in their life, no matter what. And, and to, I might have not done it the right way. But I wanted to be a part of their life. And I wanted to I wanted them to be able to come to me and talk to me about anything. And I didn't know how to do that. But I did not want my children to grow up not knowing their father loved them.



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And, and that's, I think, one of the most important factors in families today. Kids don't know

And, and that's, I think, one of the most important factors in families today. Kids don't know, because we don't tell them. And I did not want my kids to grow up and not hear that

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:03

I love them. So you told them verbally as right, which you also told them in other ways. What kind of things did you and your and your, your your first your older boys are good but older than the knife and then Andrew. So what kind of things did you do with them to kind of demonstrate to them that you love them?

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12:24

Well, I would take them hunting and fishing. We would go out and split wood together we would we would do things together. And I was a more of a action kind of person than a talker kind of person. Okay, but I never would let my kids go to sleep without telling them. I love them.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:49

Well, at night, Nathan's behind the camera. Seiken is shaking his head. Yes. He agrees with that.

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12:56

I mean, it's it's one thing to show your love. Right. But when you can't say your love, I think that the the verbal understanding of being able to tell my children, my family, I love them. Yeah. And not just say, well, for example, I would go to my dad and say I love you. He said, Yeah, me too.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:24

How did that make you feel? It?

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13:27

It made me feel terrible, because that wasn't the response. He couldn't tell me he loved me. And when we finally had to show down, I told him that. Yeah. And we ended up in tears together. And he began to understand that I wasn't like, my brother or my sister. I wasn't like the rest of the family because of my dyslexia. And that they, they could see things in ways that I that I could never see.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 14:09

Yeah. So it took him a while to figure it out. You remember the first time he did told you he loved you?

loved you?



14:15

All right, I can remember that. I walked in his house and and sat down with him and told him that I loved him. And he looked at me very strangely and and said, Well, son, and now you have to understand that was probably one of the first times I ever heard that word, son, son. I love you too. And I get emotional about it. But when you are 18 years old, and you hadn't heard those words, it's quite an impact on your life.



Scott Hilton (Host) 15:00

I think there's a strong message for guys who may be out there and you're struggling. Because your dad had never told you, he loves you. And maybe he's a little distant. Maybe he's a little harsh. There's hope. And what Taylor is saying is your dad really did love you the whole time. He just didn't know how to. He didn't know how to say it. He didn't know how to express it. He didn't understand. I hear that from a lot of a lot of guys. I know when I sat down with Nathan, the very first time we met to talk about this project, this fatherhood project. And I began telling Nathan about my dad, he immediately lit up, and I could tell that he loved his daddy more than anything in the world. It was just that clear to me. And, and we kind of had a kindred spirit. About that, you know, both of us were preachers, kids, both of us were deeply loved by our dads hear so much about preachers, kids these days. Well, there's there's four of them in this study day. And I think all of us would say wonderful things about our our dads who were who were preachers, so it's not every preacher's kid who's going astray. But it has everything to do with the way you as a preacher, love your kids, even more than you love the job. That's right. And there's an interesting story. Let's say we wanted to get to your dad actually did care about y'all. And you found that out in a kind of interesting way. I want you to tell the story of the sacrifice your dad made for for your family.



16:45

My dad was reaching young people in a town in Mississippi called Hattiesburg. And he had a heart for young people. He just didn't know how to be a dad. He just had a heart for young people. And he was reaching about 1500 young people a week in a stadium in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. And a group of men found out about that and came to him and said, We want to syndicate you or take you into full time, evangelism, which was his heart. And he asked me said, what I had to move and I said, Yeah, you'd have to move. And he said, I can't do that to my family. And they said, Well, we're gonna go after a young man named Billy Graham.



Scott Hilton (Host) 17:34

And think of her to him.



17:37

Thank you. And when they went to Billy, they asked, Billy said, Will you go into full time

evangelism? And he goes, his first question was, am I your first choice? And they said, No. The first choice was at Gallman. And Billy said, Well, I had to make the man. Well, a daddy went to a crusade and met Billy and my daddy became Billy Graham's prayer. Well, it would go to his meet some prayer.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 18:11

So even though your dad didn't know how to be a dad, he eventually figured it out. But deep inside, he really did love his family, he did enough to give up that kind of opportunity. And you got to think about the implications of that through the years. I mean, that's, that's major. That's a major. My dad gave up some opportunities. They weren't like that. But he gave up some opportunities. And that spoke so much to me that, that I was more important than career opportunities. So I think that's one of the greatest stories I've ever heard about a dad saying, you know, my family is more important than my career. Would you do something for me? Would you tell for the listeners out there for the young man who, who doesn't have a great relationship with his dad? Or maybe doesn't know is that at all? Would you just speak to this camera here? And tell him, what's it going to take? And what and tell him that there's hope and let's let's we don't have to retell your whole story, but just speak some encouragement into that young man, because I know there's a lot of them out there.

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19:24

The thing that, that I would like for young men to hear is is that you your dad might not know how to tell you. He might not know how to talk to you. But deep in his heart, he loves you. And he's struggling with ways to explain his love to you. And there's no doubt in my mind that my dad didn't know how to be a dad because he lost his dad at three and many fathers today don't know how to be dead because their fathers were not in their life. But you find a young man or young lady that their father has been in their life. And you see the difference that a dad makes an A mother makes in their life. It changes the perspective of life. When my dad told me for the first time, I love you, son. It changed my perspective, it changed my understanding of life. And if if I could say anything to young men and young ladies, change perspective of your children, tell them you love them. Tell them what it means to be love. And then show him that

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Scott Hilton (Host) 20:56

we have a little surprise for you. We, we got with with your kids kind of snuck around your back. And we want to share that some few little pieces of video with you before we close out.

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21:21

My dad is a mentor, a friend, spiritual leader, and sometimes comic relief. I can remember my dad is a crazy youth director who loves to be as embarrassing as humanly possible. I can remember my dad and his special bonus. Because he knew his power in God. My dad is my hero. And I love him very much.



21:46

Honestly, when I think about that, there's so many stories that I could share so many memories that I have and funny stories that would make you laugh. But the first one that I thought of was actually the day that I got my first speeding ticket. So I was driving from home to college trying so hard to make it back to this class that I needed to be at. I had a really terrible grade. And I needed to be in class this day. To give you more of a picture, it was the day after my grandmother's funeral. And so I had had a rough weekend and was really tracking it. And if you know anything about Taylor, Garmin, you know that he taught me how to drive which means that I was definitely speeding. So I got pulled over and deserved every bit of the speeding ticket that I got. Of course afterwards, I was super nervous and frazzled. My first call was Dad. And when I explained the situation to him into Taylor Gulman fashion, he responded much differently than he could have with, don't worry about it this time, I've got it covered. And that was way more than I deserved, because I deserved. definitely deserved to pay that speeding ticket. But that's not the first time that that's happened. Honestly, anytime that I bring up something that I think I might receive judgment for from dad, or that I think he might be angry at me for that's not the response that I get, I actually get a whole lot of grace. And it's a pretty clear picture of God the father to me. It's just because that's who he is.



23:17

One of the best memories that I have with my dad is when we randomly decided to go to Birmingham barons baseball game. We had to buy tickets on the way to the game because it was so last minute, we're sitting on the third baseline and a foul ball was hit of our head. And everybody kind of turned around to look at it. But my dad decided to say sitting and facing straight, who's watching out in front of us. And when the guy in front of us turned around to watch the ball, he was mid slip into his beard. And my dad looked at him in the eyes and said, You're not ready to get a divorce are you and it absolutely shook this man. To the point he literally spit his beer all over the people around us. And for the next two hours that we were at that game. My dad sat there and counseled and prayed for that man, who was just in a tragic marriage. And we found out later that because of some of the stuff that my dad helped to walk through, he was able to save his marriage. They went into marriage counseling, they got healing, and they got involved in a church. And that's just one of the many stories that I have about my dad going out of his way to make sure that he can help people around him. Because no matter where we were, no matter where we were, whether it was a baseball game, Walmart, vacation halfway across the world, my dad will always take time to pray for the people around him.



24:35

Some may think of Taylor Gorman as a son to World Travel pastors, brother to missionaries and ministers, husband to worship leaders and teachers. Father to four healthy children, counselors to many pastor to a lot missionary around the world, and faithful prayer warrior and he is all that When I think of Taylor Gallman, well, that's my dad.



25:04

That's my dad.



25:06

That's my dad. That's my dad.



Scott Hilton (Host) 25:12

So I just want to get your reaction.



25:19

I just think that even though you didn't have a great role model, you can be a role model. And I made a promise to myself, and I made a promise to God, that I would love my children no matter what. And that they would know that they were loved. And only by me, but by God, I'm so proud of all my children. And I believe that I sowed seeds of life into them. And they're letting those seeds grow up now, and become a seed to other people, witness to others. And if I could say anything, to dads today, sow your seed into your children, and let it flourish. And make sure to send great soul so that it can grow in the righteousness of God.



Scott Hilton (Host) 26:19

It's great advice. So you're young dad, or maybe you're gonna be someday. Here's a great example, guy that grew up with not the best circumstance, but he turned things around. You know, one day, we're all gonna, if we're fortunate, we'll all be old enough to have adult children. And how, what a blessing it is that your adult children, we didn't have to twist their arm or pay up. But what a blessing that they would say, those kinds of things about their dad. So if you're a young dad, I just want you to know, you can have that same blessing. It's not that complicated. It's not that complicated. One day, you could just experience what Tyler just experienced with his kids. Congratulations, you've done a great job. Your kids love you. They they think the world of you. I think the world is Nathan, thank you for training him and preparing him for this to go on this venture with us. And thank you for being here and sharing your story. Thank you for letting it's been a blessing. Thanks. That concludes this episode of that's my dad. We'll be back next week with another great story. I hope this one has helped you. It's been a touching to me and I've even learned something. So the next week. We'll see you then.



27:48

Thanks so much for tuning in today. This has been the that's my dad podcast with our host Scott Hilton, where we're on a mission to break the cycle of generational fatherlessness and aspire fathers to become great dads. We'll be back here every Monday night at 6pm. We'll see you