

SHOWNOTES - Ty Harris (05/50)

📅 Sat, Nov 12, 2022 7:39PM 🕒 27:09

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

dad, built, home, ty, kids, bears, thinking, story, girls, possum, invest, businesses, people, falling, walked, sitting, inspired, long, tigers, cheerleader

SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host), Ty Harris (Guest)

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 00:15

Welcome back to the that's my dad podcast. Got a good buddy of mine, Ty Harris here. Listen, this is one of the most unique people you'll ever meet in your life. I probably would bring people in here and I always talk about him being my good friend, this guy's not only a really good friend, but he was he's cut off a different mold when God made tire so he just he said, Okay, I'll only have so many of these this time. So our, our, our interaction game, I gotta go back and tell this because it's so it's funny, but it's interesting. I had opened Eagle Rock Boys Ranch, and the kids are going to the school. Are you tall? Okay. So that's how we met? Yes. I did not know at the time you had been a college football player. And yet your knee hurt, right? I walked on at Stanford University donut sandwiches, my alma mater, got got his knee hurt. And instead of doing like I did when I had that, you know, career ending thing. I just went and did something else. We had Ty decided to become a cheerleader and was a cheerleader at the University of Alabama. Yeah, so you're the only person I know, who's been a college cheerleader and a college football player. You're that's your first distinction I know of so we met. And you call me an ally with my daughter was maybe five years old. And you said, Hey, he wants to come out to the house. You built this log cabin. And you had taken these kids, you were mentoring some kids from the ranch. And you said come out and see what I got here got me some new pets. So I go out there. With my five year old daughter, you've built like kennels, but there's bears and tigers in like real life, black bears and tigers in your front yard. And you said come on out here and you got in the cage with with those tigers in me with my five year old daughter. And I told you things and I said Ty if if they eat you, you're on your own. I'm not getting in that cage. And I was like, I was like ready to cover Ali's eyes because I didn't want to see her. See my friend get devoured. And then you got in there where the bears were slapping them around. And I thought this guy, he's he's cut out of a different mold. And he had a couple, not a couple we had like a pack of wolves in your yard. So you've started a wildlife refuge. So why don't people just up and say like, um, you know, like, first of all, you're a high school football coach, your middle school ag teacher and high school ag teacher. And you own a couple of businesses, you own a cabinet shop and some other stuff. And I'm thinking, what's the guy do and he's he's adopting tigers and bears and running. So what was that with a how'd you get started in that?

T

Tv Harris (Guest) 03:20

Ty Hilton (Guest) 03:12

Well, my dad always let me have anything that pet I wanted. I had to take care of it. And we were at a yard sale and a guy walked up and had a possum sitting on his shoulder. And I said are you selling that? He said yes. And I would my dad said I want to buy that possum he's like, all right, you're gonna take care of it. And I used to ride my bicycle around the neighborhood. This possum sitting on my shoulder and it habits hand sitting on my head and the greatest pet and I just always loved wild animals. And my dad supported me and all that. And so when I come home from college, and I worked at the University for a while and then I came home I told my wife I said I want to buy her. She said

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 04:02

you went from a possum to a bear. Yeah,



04:04

no, this this is I was a little kid when I had a boss. But the bear was after we came home, I've been married and she's like, No, I don't just stay down and sandwiches, okay, you got to build the enclosure for it. And so I built the enclosure and then everything kind of started going from there had to be licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture go through a lot of stuff and but that's how we got started.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 04:28

So that happened. And then you and I, we became friends and and when, you know we began to have families and you at some point you had to get rid of the bears and the Tigers because you start having children. And it wasn't a good idea to have five year olds unless they were my daughter. Watch. So So you turn that over and it became what's now known as Tigers for tomorrow



04:55

for tomorrow. Yeah.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 04:56

If that wasn't enough, I should have no When I got the phone call five or six years ago when Ty said, Hey, I got me a new boat. I thought Great. Well, you know, Can Can I go out on it? I'm thinking, Well, you know, Saturday, I'm free. So yeah, I'd love to go see where he is. And he said, this is in Brazil. And it turned out to not be a boat. It's a ship. It sleeps like 60 something 60 people so and typical tires, facts, fashion. You were wandering around in Brazil. So



05:31

I was. I was on a mission trip. I went on a mission trip with my church. The associate pastor

I was, I was on a mission trip, I went on a mission trip with my children. The associate pastor said, Hey, we're going on mission trip on the Amazon River, do you want to go and the animal lover I am, I was like, I'm going Yes. And so I got on the trip and just really got convicted that that was the people group that I needed to work with and couldn't afford to do it. Because it was so expensive. So we knew we're going to keep doing this mission work that we need to buy a boat. So we formed Amazon hope and bought a boat.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 06:02

So that's just typical Thai Harris. You know, he's just, and by the way, you're doing all this as a volunteer. I mean, it's not like, you've got a job as a full time teacher, and your dad, two beautiful girls, and you have a wife. So tireless. Let's talk about you and your dad, I know your dad. And he's a great guy. We've had several guys on the on the program who did not have a great relationship with her dad, but I think you and your dad are, have always had a great relationship. Tell me, tell me about your dad.



06:39

Oh, he's my hero. I probably get most of the update about him, but he is the guy I want to be. And I still strive to be him. But uh, he never, ever, my whole time growing up, push me to the side, he always had time for me. I can remember he, he was just like me, he worked at steel plant. You run a plumbing business, had a tractor on a plumbing business, helped his father with his hardware, had hardware in a towel. And just did all kinds of things. And never ever I cannot remember as a kid, I'd go, hey, I want to go to work with you. Come on, let's go. I can remember sitting on the back of the backhoe and him work in the controls and may a little bitty guy with my hands on top. But he is thinking man, I'm digging this hole. And he just always included me and just always spent time with me. And I never can think of anything where he said, Hey, I can't, I can't, I can't do this. Because I don't have time I've got to go do this. If he didn't have time, I was going with him. And he's just always been like that. And still today before I left to come down here to speak with you. I stopped by and saw my dad, you know, just every day I check in with him. It's just because I want to talk to him. And I still to this day, I'm learning things from him. You know, I thought when I was 16 I knew everything but uh, and he used to install knowledge into me, and I wouldn't listen to him. But I think back to those things now. And he was out he always had poured into me. And and now that I'm getting older, I realize how valuable that is.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 08:19

What is your relationship? How does that differ from some of the kids, it's you, you're you're a football coach, you work your teacher? We see a lot of different story with a lot of kids we work with, how does that differ from some of the kids that you've had? Is your story differ from theirs?



08:39

Well, one of the biggest thing I think is a lot of people a lot of a lot of parents now there's they want to be friends with their children. And so they don't discipline them. And what I found out a

lot of these kids nowadays, my dad would discipline me. And I did and I didn't understand it as much then but like coaching when you discipline a kid for them doing wrong, you notice the more you try to make them walk the right path. The closer they get to you and they really want to start asking you questions. Hey, Coach, you know, what? What is this? What is it and they just started really buying into you? Because they know because I'm discipline you I love you. I care for you. I want to see you do right, where I see a lot of the kids now that if you in school when I get home and make them do right? They know and they just want to draw nearer to you and find out more about you. Because at home, they might not be getting it they their parents are more worried about I don't want to make them mad because they may not like me. And I say that to my kids. Sometimes I say I don't want you don't have to like me, you gotta love me. And the reason they love me is because they know I'm gonna make them do right.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 09:56

Was Was there something that your dad did? Oh, Along the way that particularly sticks out in your mind, something that he inspired you or a story that you could probably a lot of a mark that Yeah.

P

10:11

Tons of them. But you know what was neat as my dad go out to football practice, and my dad had all these jobs going on. But every I cannot remember a time that I wouldn't on the football practice field and look over, and my dad just be standing over there. And he wouldn't he wouldn't win and not want to come home to houses that were never was a that was rough practice that you didn't do real good or how you had never was anything really sad about it. But he was always standing over there. And well, he was always watching. And that was just that meant everything. To me close means more now because I knew he really didn't have everything he was doing. He didn't have time for that. But he wanted to be there. And that was just so it means so much to me now, because I can't tell you the time that he wasn't standing over there.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 11:02

So So your dad was always there for you? What do you think he did? That? Aside from just being there for you? What do you think he did that helped mold you into being the parent that you are today?

P

11:19

Let me fail. Let me fail on my face a couple of times. And that's, you know, I would always go to a my vault and I still do today, I go to him and now run things, Pat, I want to run something by your dad. And I'll tell him some things that, you know, I'm thinking about, you know, I've been in all kinds of businesses. And now every one of them, I've run to my dad about and talk to him. And some of those businesses have failed. And he's probably advise me, probably not to do them. But those, he's letting me fall on my face. And then he picks me up. And he encourages me to keep going, I mean from a very young kid is anything that I wanted to do is he's always

said, you know, if you want to do it, do the best you can and just attack it, you know, everything you do attack it and just go as hard as you can and, and I still hear him today, you know, talking to me about things like that.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 12:14

So he formed that part of your personality that said, I if you want to burn your front yard, just go get it exactly he

P

12:20

was if you anything you want. If you want it, then work for it and get it. You know,

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 12:26

do you think that he did anything particularly special? Or did he have a special technique? Or was this how did he How did he instill that kind of personality in you?

P

12:39

Yes. It's a great question. You know, he, he was a risk taker also. I mean, he opened a lot of businesses and I saw him work to do all those things. But it's just like, a story comes to my mind. We found a ground a little small rattlesnake. I said, Daddy, I want to keep this rattlesnake. I said, okay, so he taught me how to catch a rattlesnake. I didn't know how to catch a poisonous snake. He showed me how to how to do it. He put it in a jar. And then he worked in the steel plant. And they he mailed me a little cage in the steel plant and brought it we had it in the kitchen, it sat in the kitchen as long as I can remember and we'd feed it once a month and but uh, the insurance man was sitting in this back when the insurance man would come to your house and get your premium was sitting there around there one day and the insurance man said, What's in that aquarium, that he's rattlesnake. He got up and left. He never came back in the house. But it's just you know, is anything that, you know, if he didn't know how to do it, he would research and do it learn to do it. You know, I never can think of anything that's slight. Our football team didn't have weight equipment, and the 80s that was you know, weight. Weightlifting was a new and uncommon thing and him and another dad built every piece of weight equipment. We have benchpress squat racks, everything

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 14:04

even though they built it, you work with kids. If if you could tell any of your your students, your athletes who are going to be fathers one day, if you could tell them what it takes to be a great dad. What do you think you would tell them?

P

14:28

Make time make time and you know, I talked about how good my dad is about it. Sometimes I feel like I'll let my kids down because I get so busy that I gotta focus in on them as make time and invest in them and let them know that you care about them not just verbally Hey, I love you. Hey, I love watching you practice I love watching you jump say jump because my daughter is on track right now and she's triple jump Just let them know that you enjoy watching them, like you said, your dad telling you. When they have bad, bad games, instead of being critical of where they play, just say I love watching you play and, but just invest in them, have time for them. Let them make mistakes and not be critical. Encourage, but be very strict and very big a good disciplinarian. I mean, that's, that's something my dad was. He had rules, and I followed him. Because if I didn't, there was consequences. And he stuck with them. He was consistent. Yes, yes. And I appreciate him for that.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 15:48

Can you think of a time where your dad had to discipline you and how that went? I'm just curious to know



15:54

what we were building our house, we were building the house. And I can remember, Dad push these big piles of dirt up. And they were carrying in a sliding glass door. We're not mentioned this story about him. And he can't even really remember it. But I was up there. And those guys and I was throwing rocks. And those guys were carrying that sliding glass door and the one rocks like just to scare them or something. And I remember my dad looking at the top of that dirt my own and start walking at me. And I remember Oh, no, I probably not gonna lay up today. But uh, yeah, it was.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 16:29

So what did he do? He would whip me Yeah,



16:32

I would whip me. And it was. And I would, to this day, I still think he probably could still whip me.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 16:42

Where do you whip me with belt?



16:44

He was a belt my hand. He would never, you know, I saw a lot of people would say, you know, go get you go get yourself a switch. My dad never did that. He didn't give me a choice now that he was a millman

he was a milkman.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 16:55

Did he talk to you after he went to us what I hear a lot.



17:01

He would. But as I got older, I would rather him with me then talk to me, because my dad got where he had when I got older. He had, you know, say, hey, let's talk about what you did. And I'd be like, I'd be thinking just whip me.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 17:15

Do you think of something that your dad did that was just really funny to you that memory you have.



17:20

There's so many things. But this one's kind of later in life. I can think of a lot when I was young. But when I got married, and we were moving home from Tuscaloosa, and we were building the farm, we were living in a trailer while we built our log cabin. And we needed a laundry room on the trailer and dad came up to help me build the laundry room. And he was older. But he was still, you know, great shape. And it was cold. I can remember it was snowing outside and he had his hands in his pocket. And he was walking over. Coming over to talk to me any trip, there was a one of the small stumps that he tripped and he was falling, he had his hands in his pocket. And it was falling at the tailgate and I thought that's because in his in the last second he threw his elbows forward caught himself on the tailgate instead of and you know, I don't know what's so funny about that because but it just he stood up laughing eyes laughing and it was we just barely laughed all day about him falling and just catch it himself. But there's my dad's always been one to laugh and cut up. You know, he was a big jump out behind the door scary kind of guy. He liked to jump out scares when was little. And I got married. And I hid behind the door. And I jumped out of my wife one time, and I've never done that again doesn't

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 18:37

work. But it's funny how you, your dad can when you have a special relationship with your dad, you can laugh about stuff. Yeah. But that's part of those stories, those little things that would otherwise seem insignificant are part of building a bond. And I bet you you have sat around the dinner table and told that story over and over and over. But the day dad fell and got



19:05

caught himself with his elbows.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 19:06

Yeah, yeah. So stories are a great thing. And let me just ask you about your, your father hood yourself. Tell me about your your girls. First of all.



19:20

I have two girls, I have faith. She's the oldest and I have grace. Faith just turned 17 and grace is 16. And your wife's name is Hope and my wife's name. So I have hope, faith and grace. And the joke is I'm long suffering.



19:35

But by we were trying to have kids and we were told we could not have kids. And so I came home from football practice with acid. It's just been on my mind today. I want to adopt a little girl from China and she said this is so weird. She said the same place was on my mind today. So we adopted a little girl from China. That's why we had to get rid of the farm. The HR wouldn't approve us to adopt would you adopt

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 20:03

with bear in a tiger? I don't know why.



20:07

Yeah, but we adopted and hope was not able to travel to get bait because she was fixed to have a baby. Soon after we got approved to go pick up fate. She found out she was pregnant with grace.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 20:21

Yeah, I remember that. Yeah, remember that? Yeah. But you don't make any difference between them. They're, they're both



20:28

there, man. They're the most incredible girls in the world. And I realize, but girls are tough. Rows are tough, because boys are so much easier because I've raised boys on my life as a football coach. And sometimes you can just yell at a boy. And I say yell I wouldn't. But yeah, sometimes, you know, you gotta yell at them. And, but the girls are so different. They're so I don't know what the word is. I don't wanna use word timid, cuz or not. But a sensitive, there we go.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 21:05

You know what that is? That's partly because you've invested in them. They're their gymnast, right? And track track.



21:15

Grace plays basketball, and fate did gymnastics. But she's no longer doing that anymore. And she does a triple jump and long jump.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 21:25

Okay. So I bet you're in everything. They do. Everything. Even though you own a business. You're a teacher, you're a football coach, you have a Men's Ministry. And you've now opened to a you've opened another thrift store, you've opened a thrift store, which is a pretty big operation. But you're busy. Yeah. How do you make time to go and do everything. I mean, there was a period of time, I know that you were driving like 30 minutes at least to go to the gymnastics thing every once a week, every night and you never missed one. I don't



22:01

know. It's just you know, there's not, I mean, there has been several times I've carried them home, put them to bed and go to the woodshop and build cabinets. And I'm gonna, I'm gonna be everything that I can be for them, and I'm gonna invest in because they're not gonna be around long for me to to shape and mold. And I want to take every minute so I can put off other things at other for other times, I can't put their growth in there. You know, everything they're doing. And I see that now looking back at my dad doing them, you know? And we'd come in practice he might be going to do something and that's the same way I am. I'm gonna invest in them while I can. Because I do I'm build cabinets at night. That's good thing about lots.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 22:49

Yeah. You have you have a lot of energy. But I know you've invested in those girls. I'm curious. How do y'all find time to just sit down and be a family



23:01

would only go and I know that sounds weird. But like, if at a trackmate She'll jump and we're all there the whole family her sister, may your mother you know make it a family affair. Yeah, everything we do. I mean, the mission trips during the summer. For two weeks, they'll come down there and spend time with me down there. And anything we can do as a family and no

matter if but if it's a crazy day, and everybody's going different ways at night, we come together and we had devotion together. And because as a father, it's my responsibility to shape them spiritually also. And I want to do that.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 23:39

I want to give you an opportunity to do something, if you can do it. There's a camera over there. I want to give you the opportunity to speak to your dad just look at him in that camera. And then we got one other little thing to do after that but just tell him what you want to tell him.

U

24:05

Thank you dad for everything. All the time that you spent with me growing up all the football practices that you didn't have to be at. And you showed up anyway. The Times on the river on the houseboat that you spent with us and just still to this day, if I pull up and say hey I need to talk to you always find time and you don't know how much that means to me and if I can be half the dad that you are I'll be an incredible Dad and I appreciate that and I love you for that.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 24:38

So we as we've made a custom snuck behind your back and got a little some little video snippets where you aware that we had done that Alright, so Colin, one of the producers is going to show you those and just want to know Let's you enjoy this moment.

U

25:01

The best thing I like about my dad is he's so hardworking. He likes to do everything to the best of his ability. My favorite story about my dad is when he goes to China and gets my sister and on the way back, they had to go to like a million different airports just to get home because there was a big snowstorm. And so the whole family was going from airport to airport just to get to them. I want to thank my dad for always being there for me and being an example for cross for me. And just lighten me up when I'm down and just love me no matter what and given me wisdom throughout my school career.

U

25:41

The thing I first about my dad is a cross like figure he shows throughout his everyday life. My favorite story about my dad is the story he tells about what inspired him to start Amazon hope when meeting Joshua on Amazon. I want to thank you for loving me every day always been there for me bracing me the right way and helping me grow my faith.

S

Scott Hilton (Host) 26:00

.....

Wow. Thanks Well, that concludes this episode of less my dad project, where we're trying to inspire fathers to be great dads to break the cycles of generational fatherless lessness. It's my hope that guys would be inspired by your story. You deserve to have those kids say what they said about you. Be inspired, be back next week where we'll have another great story. Thanks, Tom.



26:45

Thank you. 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 inspire fathers to become great dads. We'll be back here every Monday night at 6pm. We'll see you



27:04

then.