

# SHOWNOTES - Todd Walker (27/50)

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

dad, lived, thought, children, life, father, girls, absolutely, jail, remember, people, podcast, growing, committed, lord, mom, family, love, home, kids

## SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host), Todd Walker (Guest)

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**S** Scott Hilton (Host) 00:15  
Welcome to another episode of The that's my dad podcast. Got one mo high school buddies, Todd Walker in the studio. Welcome, Todd. Glad you could make it. Thank

**T** Todd Walker (Guest) 00:24  
you, Scott. I think you're younger than I am. I am younger. Yes. So I know you are.

**S** Scott Hilton (Host) 00:32  
We're three years apart now. Okay. Okay. The Oh high school, there was a few people came out that all right from considering where we came from Rondo, what

**i** 00:42  
I think about that often. And there were some really good kids that came out of that timeframe in that era over there.

**S** Scott Hilton (Host) 00:52  
It was, it was an era where you didn't see some of the things you see today. I mean, there, it was a very racially, socially, class mix kind of a thing. There, you know, we joke about the way you could tell where people lived, was the kids who paid for lunch lived on the mountain.

**i** 01:15  
I often sav that ves The kids around the mountain I grew up on the other side of the track

...often say that, yes. The kids around the mountain grew up on the other side of the track.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 01:20

My two kids that were on Reduced Lunch lived in, in what we call Alabama city and long bar. Yeah, we kind of joke about it, because in high school, we could say you pay full price for your lines. They said, Yeah, you said What were you live? I say, Where's your daily work? Good. You have a good job. It wasn't really that but none of us. None of us were poor. Really. When you think about none of us were poor.

i

01:48

No, we weren't. You know, I think we didn't have as much as we thought we did. But, and my dad just did a great job of providing for my family. You know, so yeah, absolutely. We weren't poor.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 02:01

And it was such a I have so many wonderful friends and memories from high school. And we just got along. We got along well and had a great time to this day would do anything for each other. But not a lot of people listening to the podcast really care about any of that. So what they care about is fathers. And what we're trying to do is, is we're trying to inspire guys to become good fathers and great dads. There's a problem in our society with fatherlessness. I call it the worst pandemic we've ever faced. It's there's 18 point for me and children will go to bed tonight in the United States. Wow. without a father in the home. And I know you're involved in a in jail ministry. Yes. So you see some of that you want to comment on that? How is that? What's the correlation there between fatherlessness and crime? And that's

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02:55

obviously there is that correlation? You know, and I talked to a lot of those guys and try to figure out, you know, what their background was because I want to know him. I want I want to figure out this story. There's, there's always a backstory to why they're there. And you know, Scott to a lot of it is generational. You know, my dad was in jail, Mom, my grandfather was in jail. And so you see a lot of that, too, that those generational things that follow these guys. But yeah, a lot of them. They did not have a father. There's a there's a great pastor, his name is Joe Simmons. And I love Joe. And he heads up a fatherhood initiative at the jail, and does a tremendous job with that. And we just started back at because of the pandemic. And you know, for last several years, no one's been allowed to come in. But Joe's come back in and he's come back in with that fatherhood initiative. And I really liked that. And that's going to be you know, that's going to change their lives. And so, you're right, a lot of those background stories. Or are that there was no father in the home? Absolutely.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 04:09

So you did have a dad? Yes. I want you to take us back and just kind of tell tell our listeners

your story.



04:17

I had a great dad growing up. You know, grew up in Alabama city and my dad he was a milkman. Yeah, he began working it Barbara de well is mellow dairy at the time, but later on became Barbara dairies and my dad began working as a milkman at 1963 and he has just recently retired. And so one of the things that you know, I was thinking about my dad taught me was hard work, good work ethics. 11 years old, I was out mowing grass with my lawnmower, you know, looking for a neighbor, neighbor's yard to mow and then he would take me over there to the day Airi over a knuckle straight in a scared stun. And he would let me wash the trucks that milk trucks. And so my dad worked hard. He wasn't always around. You know, but he made the effort to be there when he could. But he was a hard worker and taught me a lot of good work ethics. Absolutely. Yeah.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 05:22

So did you feel like you had a good childhood?



05:26

Yes. Yeah, it was a good childhood. Because, you know, and I loved growing up in Alabama city. Yeah, same place I grew up. And it was a great place to live. You know, I was out there in the woods with my BB gun, you know, my little Honda 50. And with my army man, you know, and so I would play there on the side of the hill with Steven Yeager and, and Steve and Tommy Jaeger and Steven Elliot, and we had a great time out there growing up. So my childhood was good. I enjoyed being outside. And you know, we would play till the sun went down. And I remember dad, he had this whistle that I could hear probably half a mile away, and I'm not kidding. And so when it was time for us to come in, my dad would always whistle you know, it's time for supper. And that was? Yeah.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 06:26

Yeah. So So do you remember anything that your dad did that just really made a huge impression on you? Was there some particular incident that? Yeah, so you remember,



06:37

you know, thought about that. I think one of the things that really had a great impression on me, growing up at six years of age, I broke my femur bone. I was trying to think of Jennifer's last name, it doesn't matter. But when I was at my grandmother's house, and we were out playing and, and over there, an Alabama CD, and I think it's on Kershaw Avenue. And her her, the yard that she lived in was kind of rolling a little bit. And so I was just out there, we were all playing, and I jumped. And when I jump, I guess I landed wrong. And I snapped my femur into and tried to stand up it, it felt like I was standing up in a hole. And so of course, I had to go to

the hospital, and I spent 30 days in traction at hospital. And my dad had to work a lot to provide for our family, but he would stay there with me every single night there at the hospital, and then get up very early to go and work. And I wasn't the best patient, because just some fear probably tried to take over at that point in my life. And so I was very fearful there at the hospital, you know, staying there, and I would not let him out of my sight. And just thinking back about that about the great sacrifice that he made. You know, even during those times, there were many more than that. But that was one of those things that he loved me, you know, immensely, and was always there to provide my dad was a provider, a very strong provider. And so yeah, I think that was one of the memories that I remember him, you know, helping me out and being my hero, I guess. Well, and

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Scott Hilton (Host) 08:27

what have you carried on that you learn from him and your journey as a father? What did you learn from him that you think is important to pass on to your kids?



08:36

Yeah, you know, my dad was faithful to his family. He was committed, he was a hard worker. One of the things out I never forget is when dad would come home from night at night. And from work, he would always go in and give mom a kiss. I always remember every time I remember him puckered up and, and reaching over and kissing Linda and, and that that had an effect on me to watching that, I think, I think dads need to show their children that they love their wife. And so

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:19

what do you think that does for the kids? Man,



09:23

you know what it does? It provides security. That's how the child sees that. And they think everything is okay. Because there's so many parents that they fight and that's, you know, the nature of the home and you say a lot of fighting and fighting and I never saw a lot of that. Of course, you know, we had our own problems, you know, like everybody does, but that provided me the security that I needed to know that everything was gonna be okay, because mom just kissed dad, and therefore their relationship is good, and therefore I can enjoy Boy being a child. Now remember, I remember mom and dad's marriage certificate being on the wall, wow, in the bedroom, and I still remember it, I can still see it in my mind. And it brought comfort it brought a commitment it you know, they've done things right. You know, my mom and dad are in this for life. Because that's, that's what I think when when you get married you, you get married for life. And so there's that certificate on the wall saying that they're married



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for life. So it actually meant something to you to see that. Absolutely. It did. You know

for me. So it actually meant something to you to see that. Absolutely. It did. You know,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 10:30

so let's say somebody criticized one of our mutual friends Mark price. Yeah, no more. But we had an episode, the podcast where we talked about the importance of marriage, and somebody gave an honest opinion, which for appreciate, and they said, Well, okay, so it's not necessary. Okay. And what I want to say is, tell that to the mortgage to the banker? Yes, it's just a piece of paper, shake hands. It's just a piece of paper, go by a car. And why is it that cars and houses are now more important than children? Wow, wow. Our kids need the security. And you talked about your dad coming in and kissing your mom? What that the message that sent to you is that, yeah, we're gonna be around, there's some stability here. It's worth the code. The team's not going to be changing coaches. Yeah, that's true. That's good. Tell me what your family is like you, what do you do as a father to try to pass on those values and, you know, the things that your dad passed gave to you?



11:36

You know, one of the things I think that I would tell you and tell anybody right now, is that being a parent will cost there's no, there's no manual. But you have to be committed to those children, and show them truly unconditional love. That, that has been a key in, you know, Parenthood to me, is just unconditional love, come and tell me the truth. If you'll just tell me the truth, I can work through that. And my girls have been very faithful in doing that. Even Even, even through the hard things that they would maybe have to share with me at times. We they did that. And we showed them that love, you know, in so unconditional love has to be shown to those children.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:34

What do you think of father's impact is on daughters particularly?



12:38

Wow, I wish we could have our daughters, my daughters serious, too. To say that. You know, you've got this project that's called that's my dad. And I was thinking about that and Sailor she was getting together names of her children you know how the girls are. They write down the names of the kids they're going to have and Walker and I think Todd were in that that is part of her names that she had for boys. And I thought wow, that did something to my heart just knowing that she would want to you know name a child after me I don't know what how that why that spoke to me in such a way but what your your thing says that's my dad. And I want my girls to look at me and say that's my dad.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:43

Was there anything in particular that you wish you had done differently



13:51

you know, I wish we had prayed more together you know, you can you can you can work at building a church and you know, and all those things but I wish that I had prayed more with my girls. You know, I prayed for them but I wish we had a read the Bible more and prayed together and I know that's telling on myself and you know it but it is being real you know, and I can't I can't blame the fact that that wasn't in my own home. You know, growing up, my mom and dad did the best they could you know, working hard and raising us but I wish that we I wish that I had prayed more and and read the Bible together more. You know, you allow you allow the church to do a lot of that work. And that needs to be done more inside the home.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 14:55

We'll give you a chance to speak to your children. Just all of them. Not individually, but just Okay. Sure. Tell them what they mean to you. Yeah, and what's you hope that they have learned from you? Yeah.



15:12

I found a little letter scribbled on a note from a call the my oldest daughter, and I just found it in my office this week. And it said, Dad, I love you. And it really touched my heart. And I kept it, I'm gonna keep that. And, and so I would, I would say to them, that I love them more than anything. And that they're there. I have some good girls, I have some great girls. And, you know, just thank you, you know, for working so hard and, and being such an incredible blessing to me.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 15:50

I want you to address the young man out there who's struggling. Yeah, give them some hope, some fear, some instruction, some inspiration, look in that camera right there. Okay. And let's just talk to that young man for a minute.



16:02

I meet some guys, even at the jail, and they want to, they want to live in their past. You cannot, you cannot allow your past to define you. It's not that the past is not there. It's not that that troubles not there. But you cannot allow that to control your life. And here's the thought that I have about that is that you have got to allow those experiences to make you better, not bitter. Listen, it doesn't matter. Pick up the pieces, move on, you know, get close to God, learn from those mistakes and, and go on and be the person that God has called you to be. I want

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Scott Hilton (Host) 16:45

to give you a chance to to pay honor to your dad, he's 81 years old. Yes. And he's hanging

around with us. He is like the world of him. And yeah, I want to give you this chance to look in the camera. And just say what you want to say to your dad.



17:02

You know, I love the fact that I'm here today and doing that. That's my dad project. So, so honored by that. Dad, I just want to David Walker, I just want to thank you so much for being faithful for being committed for raising me in church. For for the hard work ethic that you taught me. It, it has blessed me in my life. And I've heard you say to me even recently, Dad, that you're proud of me. And you will not believe how much that has affected my life. So I'm so thankful that you're proud of me. And I want you to know that I'm proud of you. And I just wish you many, many more years. Thank you so much for, you know, for being committed to my family and for finishing well. And I'll always be here for you. And I just bless you today dad.



Scott Hilton (Host) 18:13

Thought I had a we had a young guest and the podcasts and I asked him his children were seven and five. Okay. And I said, What do you want your children to say about you when they're 18? And whatever? Yeah, 20? Sure. And he answered, but you're at the point in your life that you don't have to wonder what they would say. Because we got got a little gift so that you'd know what they would say about you. And we'd like to share that with you now. Wow.



18:46

Hey, Dad, I just wanted to quickly share one of my favorite memories of you from growing up. And I remember when I was 16 started driving myself to school every morning, you would always have my coffee sitting on the counter for me with like sugar and cream in it just like I liked it. And during the winter months, you would always have my car cranked and getting heated up, like ready to go. And you were so consistent with it. And it's not a huge grand gesture, but it is just something that you did every single day that made me feel loved. And it made me feel seen. And I just love that about you. You're so good at that. Just in the small, mundane things you always just made me feel like you were thinking of me and I just that meant a lot to me and it's something that I hope to carry in to parenthood myself. But anyways, yeah, you're a great dad and I love you so much.



19:47

Dad, I just want to thank you for who you are. You're the most selfless person that I know. And you have always made your girls your priority. You're very giving, and you're always there for us, and we need it. And even if it's completely out of your way, if it makes our life easier, you always do it. I just remember when I was in high school, and I would get a text review every Sunday night. And you would say, hey, what would you like from the store? What do you want for the week, and you advise at all, and you'd have it ready for me every morning, whatever I wanted. And you would make me coffee, just how I like it. It'd be waiting for me coffee. And you truly schooled me. So thank you for all that you've done for me. And I'm very appreciative of you, I love



20:47

that, I want to thank you for being faithful. I'm just so thankful that through the years, you have always kept your word you've always been a steady, humble, honorable man. And I'm just so thankful to call you my dad, I'm thankful for you never giving up even when times get hard. And I have seen your mom walk through some really hard things in life. And you've helped me walk through really hard things in my life. And I'm just so thankful for just the knowledge that you have, and that you've always gone after God, for everything. And I know that my relationship with the Lord would not be where it is today, if it wasn't for you, and just your heart for him. And I'm forever grateful for that. And I'm so thankful that QA has you for a part, and that he's gonna get to learn. And just as I did, and even more for the future, and I'm just thankful for your ministry and everything that you've given to God. And I'm just thankful for that. And we love you so much.



22:16

Todd, I just want to thank you for your love, and your support for family, you have been such a godly example, to our girls, for what a father and what Al has been, should look like. When the Bible says that a man should love his wife, as Christ left the church, you have done that so incredibly well, with me and with our girls, you've loved them that way. Your consistency, just in being faithful, to just always be a good man. It has just been, it feels at times effortless for you. But at the same time, I know the sacrifices that you've had to make. And you've always been so willing to put yourself last for your family to be first. And that just means the world to me, I love you. You've got such a good heart. And I really do believe that just like the song from years ago that used to say, I want to be a man that you would write about. If the Bible were still being written today, I believe you would totally be in it. Your story would be in it because of your faithfulness and your love for him. And so I love you and thank you so much for always just being there. For the girls. They win every day thinks that just has consistently built a strong foundation for our family to stand down. I love you with all my heart. I'm so proud of you. And I'm so honored to be your wife

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Scott Hilton (Host) 24:15

Thank you, you want to respond to that?



24:17

Oh my Lord. Oh, well. You know, my response to that is, I think the things that I've been trying to portray today is is what they they saw. And it's so simple. Just being faithful, being committed, doing the things day in and day out. The mundane things that I think that does build the foundation. That is so good. It's it's it's not always you know, some people just think that you know, last supposed to be a party all the time and I love to African A time and you know it. But it's just that that every day things that you know, nobody gets an applause applause for that builds that foundation for that home consistency. You. It has to be Scott, do the right thing.



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Scott Hilton (Host) 25:20

Be there be consistent. Yeah, absolutely anything else you'd like to say?



25:25

No, thank you so much for the opportunity to be here, in this little room today, and affecting so many people, my favorite singers, Steven Curtis Chapman, I was going to be like him one day. But the Lord called me to preach instead. So he blessed my daughters than they would saying. And he had this little song that he said, in this little room, you know, in these in these little rooms, we get to affect the world, in being here with you today is such an honor. But you don't realize the impact that that doing something like this got Mike's own families and man, let's let's do that, Lord, I'd say do that, Lord, go out today. And do that, with this commitment that they're making that you're making, go out and do something, Lord, that would change our community and the lives of those that are listening, do something God. And so that would be my prayer for you. Because when you when you when you give away, you get back. So you're going to get back.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 26:34

I believe we've already we've been blessed beyond measure. And I feel like this little podcast that we have come out is I'm humbled that God has given us just a little piece of being able to be useful. Absolutely. I love it. Well, that will conclude this episode of The that's my dad podcast where we're inspiring fathers to be great dads were breaking cycles of generational fatherlessness. I saw it for being here. We'll see you next week.