

# SHOWNOTES - Tommie Goggans (06/50)

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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## SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host), Tommie Goggans (Guest)


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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:14

Welcome back to the deaths. My dad podcast, got a very special guest today holds the distinction we're gonna get to in a minute. I think he knows what that is. Tommy Goggins, as well as Tommy as a financial planner. And the father of eight children. Eight Indeed, yes. How many can you say all their names Tommy
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Tommie Goggans (Guest) 00:33

I can. So my oldest is Tommy the fourth. And then there's Natalie. George Edward, Garrett. Kela, Nisa, Lena,
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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:42

and Patrick. Good. And they're what age ranges.
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00:46

So my oldest Tommy is 24. And my youngest, Patrick is 10. And you
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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:51

have grandbaby. Who's one? Yes. Yeah. Yeah. So
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we we really plan this out really? Well. I've got a grandchild and nine year old. Yeah.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 01:01

So I think about Tommy I think about there was an old country comedian and probably nobody remember, well, maybe they Jerry clown, country comedian from Mississippi. And they would say, Jerry, what was your siblings name? He said, Well, there was our Dale Bernard L Ray. Now W L and L Fe now Janelle, cloud, Eugene and Clovis. And so I always think about Jerry Clower. When we've been friends for a long time, and you're very highly respected person in our community. And, and we thought about who we would bring in to talk about fatherhood, I thought, well, you know, how many guys could can raise eight kids? I mean, that's that's unheard of. In fact, I think my great grandfather was the last person I ever knew that had that many. Wow. So tell us tell us that story. I mean, you When Erica, there was this? I mean, did you meet her and say I want to have a kids and my wife?



02:01

No, absolutely not. No, it. It was not planned by any stretch of the imagination. So I met my wife in Tuscaloosa. We were both had been students, the University of Alabama and at the time, I was working at a department store called Parisian which is now Belk. They were acquired a few years ago. And Erica was working there, too. I met her and I will tell you this when the first couple of weeks working there, I absolutely hated it. I absolutely hate I didn't know anyone there had moved there from get stung and but it worked out. And once I kind of got my legs under me it was good. So I was actually going to clock in one day. And so you would go up the steps and the break room was upstairs. And the time clock was up there as when you actually had to clock in the Dark Ages. Yes, yes. So I was walking up the steps coming up, you know, really painted and just kind of doing whatever I was doing. And I looked up and Erica was coming down the steps. And we met eyes and I was just Yeah, it was just like, wow. And so we had our first our first date, we went to the waffle house one day after.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 03:11

Oh, good story. Yeah.



03:13

After, after, you know, we got off work on the evening and just sat down and talked. And it was just the beginning of what has been just the most amazing blessing from God outside of salvation that I've ever been given.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 03:26

Yeah. Wow. So do people ask you very often about reality TV shows? I'm just kidding. Yes. So I mean, you're a conservative, Christian, black man. Yes. I mean, I





03:41

click a lot of boxes that are somewhat unusual to have all clicked together. Absolutely.



Scott Hilton (Host) 03:46

Yeah. So I think I'd make a great show. I saw your wife Erica at the library. And and she homeschooled.



03:54

Yes. Yeah. So that's another box that's clicked.



Scott Hilton (Host) 03:57

Yeah. And so I saw her at the library. And they came walking in and you know, I'm thinking my experience. Anytime we're eight or more gathered, there's chaos. So she had eight kids falling her like little ducks, and she was walking through the library, they weren't saying a word. And I thought, oh my goodness, she's Benadryl on them. Or what's up with that they're the most well behaved kids I've ever seen. We both



04:21

had the benefit of having very old school parents. And as such, we were very old school parents. And there was just certain ways that a household was supposed to be run certain ways that kids are supposed to behave certain ways. They behave at home with their brothers and sisters, their mom and dad certain ways they behave out in public and that's just how we that's how we rolled in the guy.



Scott Hilton (Host) 04:45

You've taught some respectable kids. Some of them are adults now and and I know how respectable they are as adults. So let's go back and talk about that. Your, your family of origin your your, your parents, I've never talked to you about Okay. So this is gonna be fresh information. They tell me about your family.



05:04

Yes. So both of my parents grew up in Alabama. I was not raised in Alabama. We'll get to that in a second. But they both grew up in Alabama. My mom actually grew up in Attalla. And my dad grew up in a place called Cottage Grove, which is down round silica, that area there. I don't know that college Grove is still even in existence today. But that's where he grew up. And both of my parents were children in large families. So they both came from, from from what would be considered very large families today. And my father, when he turned 18, went into the Navy, enlisted into the Navy and went all over the world and saw things and I think in many ways, it

gave him a perspective, that was probably very different from what he saw growing up in you know, my father was born in 1925. And Alabama, went into the Navy survive that. Yes, yes. Prior to the Navy being, you know, desegregated, so I mean, so he had an interesting background there. And I can remember going through some old photos and seeing my father who would become an enlisted officer, but I can remember a photo of his officer, class, and there may be four rows of guys. And there may be, I don't know, there had to be at least 2025. Soldiers lined up in there for rows, and there were only two of them that were black my father was was was one of the two. And so despite all that, though, he raised my sister and I with a very, just a very, view the world as it is a very, no chip on your shoulder. Don't make no excuses, work hard. treat everybody as individuals. And so I have a lot of respect for my father, and I'm sure we'll, we'll talk a lot about that.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:05

So sounds like you had a close relationship with your dad. And I appreciate what you said, because, you know, there, there are a lot of thoughts out there about the racial issue. But what I kept telling the kids at the ranch was you you make life what it can be, your dad came out of a situation where he could have taken a different attitude,



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he could have taken a very different attitude. And I you know, Christ teaches us to be gracious and humble and kind and to try to bear each other's burdens. And I'm, I get that. But sometimes it's difficult for me to feel like sometimes today, when I hear men and women talk about how difficult they have it in life today. Sometimes it's hard for me to have, perhaps the sympathy that I should when I think about the fact of you know, my father had it pretty tough growing up in Alabama in 1925. And then going off into the military and could have chosen some different ways to view life but just always had great respect for all human beings. And there's just some great stories of I remember my dad being in the VFW and things like that, that people just love my dad and just because he loved people as they were, and never saw people in terms of their socio economic background, their color, or any of that they were just people they were image bearers created an image of God. And

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Scott Hilton (Host) 08:32

it was and that's, that's what you are today. Yes,



08:35

absolutely.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 08:37

So So is there a particular moment in time that you can think of that your dad that's something that you thought wow, that this guy's special?



08:45

You know, I was thinking about that and there are so many things and I one story that always comes to mind and I think it goes to the core of just how my dad viewed responsibility. So I always played football and in particular, I think my eighth grade year, I failed not only one but two classes. Okay, two classes that I failed. I did not fail math or science or any of those I failed typing, and I failed art. And I failed them because I just I didn't do the work. I just wasn't very interested in it. I typing I probably just goofed off most the time. But I got two F's and came home on the report card. My dad saw those and he said, Well, you know, two things are gonna happen. Number one, you're not playing football next year. Now this this happened. I remember it must have happened in the spring because we were going into summer break. So he already said next year you're you're not playing football at all. On top of that, I've talked with the teachers and they will allow you to do the work that you should have done before and you're going to spend summers doing the makeup work in both typing And the makeup work in the art class. And I remembered I don't, I don't know how my dad worked this out. I don't know if he worked this out with teachers. But I remember going down to the elementary school during the summer and doing this work. I remember having to make this work up. And you know, as a kid, you do that and you're like, Okay, I've kind of made my penance, right. I mean, I've done the typing work. I've done the artwork, and we got around to fall. No football. Oh, and I remember, I mean, I was always a starter. And I remember sitting and watching these games and watching all my friends play watching somebody play in my position. That wasn't me. That's traumatic. It was it was at the time. At the time, I thought, This is so unfair, Lord, why? Why have you cursed me with this father, who would do this to me. But at the end of that, you know, it was over, I never failed two classes like that, again, that never happened again. And I ended up having to work really hard next year. Anyway, starting spot back. The most important thing, though, from all of that was that it taught me the importance of discipline. And it taught me the importance of commitment. And it taught me that there's a consequence, when you don't live up to your commitments. And if you do wrong, you've got you got to make amends, you got to repent and make up for that.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 11:24

So how have you instill that in your kids? How do you go about instilling those values in your own children?



11:30

You know, it's it's a lot of, say all the time that I have become my father, I really have Yeah, yeah. There'll be times where I'll be saying something or disciplining one of the kids and, and I'm sitting there, and it's like, I, it's coming out of my mouth. But at the same time, it's like, I'm hearing Tom Goggins, speak in my ear, even even as I'm doing this. It's just very simply, it My father loved the Lord. And he was a just devoted and unapologetic follower of Christ Jesus. And he taught us to live that way. And so for us, as parents, me as a father, it's just living out the principles that we find in Scripture, trying to be the picture of Christ, to my children, and in both living that out and what I say and do, and then also trying to teach and instruct and encourage them to embrace those same principles.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:30

So do you think you Dad, did you make any mistakes? Oh, you can remember? Sure. Yeah, any of those stick out in your mind. I mean, my parents sent me to piano lessons that was about as far as



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I was, you know, my, I think my father was very, he was very stern. He wasn't mean. But he was very demanding, and very stern. And he could be somewhat unforgiving at times when you did not do what was expected to be done. And I've come to see now you look at things in a different light. And there were some things that dad probably punished us for punish me for that, in the grand scheme of things, we're probably not nearly as big of deals as he thought they were at the time, I've been guilty of the same thing. As a father. Things that I make a really big deal out of that probably are not that big of a deal. And I've had to go back to the kid and say, I'm sorry, forgive me. You know, I'm, I was a little too harsh there. I jumped into something assumed some facts that weren't really necessarily facts. Sorry. So yeah.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:46

So I've had to do that, too. And it's, it's a humbling experience to have to tell your son Hey, I messed up on this one. Sorry about that. And but but you got to you got to put your big boy pants on. And do that it is,



13:59

if I can at one story about that comes to mind that I remember and I've told, well, the kids that have told them they lived it, but I've shared it with other people. So the year that so as you can imagine, Eric and I are obviously Alabama fans. We love everybody. Jesus loves everybody, but we we are Roll tide and

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Scott Hilton (Host) 14:19

he loves Alabama.



14:23

We're huge Alabama fans. And so the year that the dreaded, you know, kick six, oh, the dreaded year of that. And so, at the time, we

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Scott Hilton (Host) 14:35

might want to just relive that we know producers.



14:41

Yeah, no, let's please not relive that. So we would always be at the time my mom lived in South Carolina and so we would always be visiting her for Thanksgiving and we would be there and we would just always watch the game there. And so we had just finished watching the dreadful in that game and You know, we're kind of just beside ourselves. And I'm sitting there and I'm like, Man, I can't believe that, you know, who could have seen that come in? And Eric was like, they never, they never should have tried that that feel good. They never should have done that. I thought, well, you know, no one could have could have seen that that coming. I mean, that was just who who does that? And she just really made me mad. And just almost acting like, Well, someone should have expected someone to feel that kick and run it back for a touchdown. Yeah. And I'm telling you, I did not. I didn't get belligerent. But I was pretty sharp tongue just in telling her that she didn't understand about football and data, data data. And I'm doing this in front of all the kids and what I mean, I was emotionally wrapped up in this. And so it was a few minutes later. And you know, after I calmed down, then Holy Spirit started speaking to me, and he started chastising me. And I had to that evening, I gathered all the kids together, and I gathered Erica together, and I had to apologize. And it was serious, you know, and just say, football should not cause dad to act like that. And husband doesn't treat his wife like that over something as silly as a football game. And it was very, very, very, very humbling. And it was very, very difficult. But it's good for our kids to see that we're human and that we make mistakes.



Scott Hilton (Host) 16:22

So what do you think you need? Now? You've you're a guy with some experience, you got eight kids do? What do you think the real key to being a great dad is?



16:37

I think to be a great dad, you have to know what a great dad is. You have to understand how a great dad behaves, how he thinks, how he speaks. What he says what he doesn't say, what he does, what he doesn't do. I think that is key, it's essential, we cannot be or aspire to something that is foreign to us that we have no idea of. However, all of us did not have the pleasure and the blessing and the opportunity to have a great dad. Right. And so I believe we have to know what a great dad is. But we don't necessarily had to have had great dad in order to be a great dad. So I think that the sub answer to your question is following the life in the example of Christ Jesus and seeing how he dealt with people of all kinds of situations in all kinds of aspects of life, we can look at the life of this man, and draw from that lessons in how do we respond to people who don't treat us nicely? What do we do when we're angry? What do we do when we're sad? What do we do when we have to correct people who truly are an error? How do we treat women? If you want to learn about how to treat women, look at the life of Jesus lot we can learn there. So I think for me, if someone that my answer to your question would be understanding the person of Christ Jesus, I believe is key to being a great dad.



Scott Hilton (Host) 18:09

So you think that it's possible that a kid that grew up with no training? No, Dad, no, never been to church? Maybe even was abused? Is it possible for those guys to turn things around and become great dads themselves?



18:26

Absolutely. I believe it's possible. What do you think it

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Scott Hilton (Host) 18:29

is, and in our society, we have an epidemic, I think a red 20 million children in the United States are growing up without a dad in the home. What do you think it's gonna take to turn that around?



18:44

I think the only thing you can do to turn something like that around is you have to have men who are willing to draw the line in the sand and say, regardless of who my father was, there are plenty of guys I know, that don't even know who their father was. Yeah. Regardless of who he was, regardless of whether he was in my life or not, regardless of how he treated me or not treated me, I get to make a decision about the type of man I'm going to be. And if those men say, I want to be a father one day, and not just a father, because it's easy to be a dad, right? I mean, that's just biology. Anybody can do that. But I want to be a great dad, I want to be a great father. And you think that's possible? I think that's possible. They can say I want to be a great dad and a great father and God will take that willingness to be a great dad and father. It's okay if you don't know how to do it. And that's he will equip you, and He will bring people in your life. I mean, you've you've lived it every day, you had been the example of a good father, a great father to a lot of boys who had nothing but bad examples. Anybody who makes that decision can have an opportunity to learn from others and to see what it takes. And if they're willing to model that and walk it out, then yes, they can be great dads, I believe that that is possible for any man who might be listening to this, regardless of their past, regardless of their history.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 20:16

I think so too. But I think that there's a culture out there that says, That is not possible. And it's our it's our role to say, hey, it can be done. Think about your dad, you know, your dad, he grew up there and Jim Crow. Yeah. And my ancestors were wrong, frankly, to have allowed that much less caused it. But instead of your dad saying, Well, I'm going to be a victim, I'm going to be mad at the world. He said, This is the hand that I've been dealt, I'm going to make the most of it. And I admire that so much. I think that's something that's missing, not just among any particular race, but among the human race, absolute such a tendency these days to want to be a victim. Yes, it's like being a victim has become popular, everybody's looking for to be a victim of something that I see in your dad. And I've never heard that story, though, about your dad, but I see that things could have gone either way that could have gone either way. Yes. And you could have very easily been one of those guys that was angry, blaming other people, a victim.



And you could have carried that on to your family. Yeah, your eight kids would have carried that on to their families. And somewhere happened to be in your case for your dad, he broke that cycle



21:43

he did. And you know, one of the greatest gifts I think my dad gave my sister and I was he gave us an objective, untainted view of the world. And he did not put upon us the realities of what he lived through and saw. And he chose not to live life, blaming other people for things that they individually are not responsible for. The good news is that we all can make decisions. And we can plot out a course, that is different than the course that was a part of our history and our heritage. The bad news is that our history and our heritage predisposes us to a certain path, doesn't mean we have to stay on that path. But oftentimes, those are the shoes we're comfortable in. That's the coat we're comfortable wearing. And what it takes is someone outside of ourselves to say, you know, hey, you know, you don't have to wear that coat, you can put on a different coat. Even though that coat is comfortable. I tell you what, if you take off that coat and put on another one, you wear another one for long enough time, it'll start to feel comfortable. And overtime, it'd be more comfortable than the coat that you came here with. And there'll be a point you only want that old coat anymore,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 23:06

right? So look into the camera. And I want you to think you've probably already said this in so many ways. But for that young man that might be just happen up on this program. And he comes out of that situation where he doesn't have a father to teach him the right way. And he feels like he's never gonna be anything. And just give him some hope. Just take just a minute, and just give that young man some hope.



23:42

You know, I was blessed through no greatness of mine or through no worthiness on my part, to grow up in a home with not only one, but two loving parents and to grow up with a great father. And I recognize the older I get, the more I recognize that that is not the reality for many of us. That's not the reality for you. And unfortunately, you've had a situation that has not been a good situation. It's been a terrible situations maybe been a situation that has injured you has hurt you has harmed you in ways that are beyond probably what many people could even understand or could even comprehend. My encouragement to you is that your past does not have to write your future. It does not have to be that way. Truth is this, that you were created for a purpose. And despite whatever happened in your life despite despite whatever mistreatment happened, despite whatever abuse heartache. That purpose was given to you by someone who loves you, and no other human being can take away that

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Scott Hilton (Host) 24:59

purpose. Thank you. That's powerful. I want to close by letting you do something. Your dad, it's no longer with us. And he's correct. Yeah,



25:09

he's, he died in 2000, February of 2000. And actually, about 22 years ago,



Scott Hilton (Host) 25:16

I want to give you the opportunity to assume that your dad's watching. And what would you say that what do you want to say to your dad?



25:30

Dad, you, you did great. And you did great, not because you were perfect. And I think you know that perfection was never the goal. But you did great because you instilled in me what it meant, and what it means to be a good man. And if a man understands what it means to be a good man, then that man will be a good husband. He'll be a good father, he'll be a good son, he'll be a good uncle. He'll be a good friend in every day, as a father. And now as a grandparent, I hope to pass along the gift that you gave me of being selfless, of being someone who thought about me, other than yourself, I'm passing that gift forward and giving it to my boys. And I've been delighted to be able to see my son, your grandson, being able to pass that for to his son. Indeed, you broke a cycle and you chose to live a life that was different than the life you could have lived. And that has affected not only your life, but it hasn't affected an entire generation. And I thank you for that. And there will be many generations of Tommy. So we're now on Tommy the fifth. There'll be many generations of Tommy's who will look back to that to you, and will thank you for that, as I am thankful for that.



Scott Hilton (Host) 27:03

Thank you Tommy Goggins powerful, powerful story. Oh, no, don't have anything else to add to that. Thank you, Tommy,



27:13

you're welcome. It's been a pleasure pouring your heart out. And



Scott Hilton (Host) 27:15

you're an example that a lot a lot of people need to follow. So thank you for being a part of that. That'll wrap up this episode of the Best my dad podcast, hope we've inspired somebody, we'll be back next week, try to inspire you some more.



27:37

As something extra here at the end of this episode we have three videos from three of

As something extra here at the end of this episode, we have three videos from three of Tommy's kids, talking about their dad, enjoy.



27:46

Again, this year here, there's so many things that we could talk about of how great of a father you are to us. But one of those things I want to focus on is your openness to us. I'm so glad that we have a father who cares about what we think and cares about what we're going through. I thank you that you're hoping to talk to us and encourage us through no matter whatever we're going through.



28:10

I just thank you. And I hope you find this encouraging. I just want to spend some time to tell you the interesting things you do. And one of those things is that your maid catering, and I'm very thankful for that. And I hope that you find this very encouraging, because there are a bunch of things that you provide for us that we don't even see. And I'm very glad that you're always willing to give us things to enjoy. I hope you find this really encouraging. And thank you for everything that you do. Hi, dad, there just so many things I like about you. And one of them is that you teach us to be consistent and have a constant character and just keep following God the same way over and over again. And I really liked that about you. And another thing is that you teach us to be peaceable to just get along with each other and have fun together. So I really like that. Thanks for teaching.



29:04

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