Rene Zeringue_Audio_V1

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host)

Scott Hilton (Host) 00:15

Welcome back to the vestment dad podcast. We're here with Rene terrane. Well done Naser I'm awesome. Appreciate you coming in man. Man I

00:27 appreciate being here is just wonderful.

Scott Hilton (Host) 00:29

Tell me about your family. You know this first time we met and I got on Facebook and check it out before we invited you. But you got it. You had an interesting way your family came about? It's pretty interesting.

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Yeah, I have four children with one on the way. So five kids 33 of the married 10 years. I have two boys that are 15 and 14 Alliance, a jury. And then I have a daughter who is six, about to be seven, a son that's about to be four. And then a baby. There'll be here any day now. We've been married how many years and decades this year. So so the math is, yeah, I had I had a buddy of mine who's a who's a minister when I was young and preaching. Right after those things happened. And the boys were both five, which I'll talk about in a second. He was he was introducing me to preach at his church for the first time ever. And his whole introduction was This is Renee, he's been married for a year and he has two five year old son and he just woke up.

Scott Hilton (Host) 01:20

I had sick I was married six months and had five kids.

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No kidding. Yeah. Wow.

Scott Hilton (Host) 01:28

Twice, I've been married twice the same woman. We had to get married on July 16. I had to drag her across the border and get married again on August 1, is that right? And then we took six kids? I'm sorry. Good. That's

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incredible. Yeah, so So some similarities. Basically, my wife and I got married. In August of that year, I just got out of college, you know, we were young and dumb and broken, and having a blast. And she strikes he lived in Troy went to school. And so we live separately. While we were married for the first six months or so. And we'd see each other on weekends, she'd come home or I'd go there. And then that February, so about seven months after we got married, we went to a funeral of a family member of hers and that I had met once or twice. And the story was that there's this woman who was in a family and had a couple of sons who were four at the time, four and five. And she was the caregiver for the sons because their father, her husband had had cancer for many years had come to the point where he was the shell of what it used to be that was on his deathbed. And everyone kind of knew that. And so the first time I met my oldest boys now where they were sitting on the lap of their dad at the front of the funeral home. And I just mentioned to my wife that we should mention that we could help with things if he needed help. And so we told her mom that and just the next day, we got a call from their father, letting us know that he wasn't gonna be able to take care of them and get them to school and those things. And so we talked to him and figured out and took custody of the boys and brought them back with us to Glencoe, and to hearing getting guys and him got them in school and just took them back to see their dads when the opportunity we had every Saturday we'd go see them and and that lasted for a few months. Until that June he passed away their father did they had lost both their parents and a few months. And we ended up deciding through a lot of conversations to to adopt the boys and to make them our own. And the reason for that is, is nothing more than God's grace and His adoption of us and our feeling called to do the same thing for these boys that God had done for us. And it wasn't it was total incompetence on our part more on my part than my wife's part. It was me having to get over a lot of selfishness that my wife didn't seem to have she was further sanctified than me in that department. But it of course, so often is the case, it was the best thing that could have happened to us that has happened to us since is those boys making us making us parents. And, you know, Jordan Peterson says often that, that it's possible, but it's very hard for someone to become adult before they get married or have children. And that was certainly true of us. We were forced to grow up quickly and fortunately on the Lord much much more heavily than we had before. And it was a daunting and burdensome and incredibly wonderful experience which is which is a mirror of fatherhood very often is the case. It's it's burdensome and daunting, but there's nothing like it. It's wonderful.

Scott Hilton (Host) 04:20
Yeah, so that's a great way to have a family it is yeah and

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and so often today that you know you have those sort of you're familiar of course with these kind of non conventional families but I have two biological children now and a third one on the way and and I can honestly say in every way that there's no difference to us between the boys and the younger ones and we feel the same way emotionally about them we feel as connected them as if they were on blood there's no difference at all and and even the special thing where and I remind them of this all the time that this the story of our adoption in Christ in our Christian adoption is is beautiful and that God has chosen us and that there's a special thing with my youngest two and my youngest three that they kind of look like me, you know and that's that's kind of cool. My wife If and they have the same blood as us and some of the same talents. But there's also something special about them as my adopted children that the younger two don't have, or they don't have my looks. But the younger two don't have this reality that they were actually in fully chosen by me when they didn't have to be that my wife and I, we didn't have to choose them, chose them anyway. And that we didn't have that same kind of choice with our biological children. They're wonderful, of course, which is great. But there's a special thing that comes with adoption that's often missed. That is, that is unique to not just adoption, but this is non kind of normal way of having children. That is, that is beautiful. And I think we should elevate more than in the same way that God has chosen us to we have chosen our two oldest boys, and they should feel so special in a particular way, in a way that you know, my even my biological children can't.

Scott Hilton (Host) 05:52

Yeah, I've worked with several kids who were adopted. And that was the thing you got to remember. Right? Somebody picked you down with me, they got what they got, because something happened. Somebody went and found you? Absolutely, yeah, it is a good analogy of how God comes to find us and absences, his own. Different,

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it's a wonderful thing. And I don't think it's a chance that at some of our lives, my wife and I were really growing in our faith and our knowledge of God and, and we're just really starting understand what it means that we're adopted by God. And the beauty of that, that God called us to the same thing. And, and it's, it seemed impossible for us to time to say no to that ended up being wonderful.

Scott Hilton (Host) 06:32
So what was your childhood like?

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It was great. It was great. And my parents are still to this day. They live close to me and are with me all the time. They were, they're wonderful. My, my mom is the most generous person I've ever met to a fault. He's he's one of those people that will do you a great big favor than convince you you're doing her a favor by letting you do it. Yeah. And, and my dad is a wonderful man as well, my dad was was really a new Christian when they got married. And so a lot of ways we kind of grew in faith together. But always, always a good home, I have a younger brother named Caleb. And we're very close. And throughout our lives growing up, there were times where we would have foster children or parents who bring in foster children and got really close to adopting on a few occasions. And so obviously, that I'm sure that played a role in my in my heart desire for those things that God was setting up for us in the future of adopting kids of our own. Yeah, but always overwhelmingly generous and welcoming. And just the most sacrificial people I've ever met, always sacrificing for others could have could have a lot more money and financial stability now than they do because they gave so much of it away, and gave so much of themselves to others. And obviously played a big role on me. And

Scott Hilton (Host) 07:48

so that's influenced you and how you're teaching your kids and parenting and your attitudes. And the only thing about generationally you like grandparents, or is this something that's passed down generationally or the some of the adoption thing? Oh, you're with your your mom and dad being such? Oh, yeah. Wonderful parents. Yeah. Is that a generational thing? Or is it some point people say, hey, gotta make this happen?

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Yeah, I think I think in my case, it's probably more generational. And that and that both said to my grandparents were involved. What were married at least through their childhoods, and involved in my life when I was young, and my my grandmother, and my dad's side, still very involved, my grandfather on that side has passed away. My mother's parents are, were had their children very young. And so they're still very young. And I know my kids and, and so there is this kind of this kind of legacy of love, which is, which is a biblical thing as well. There's, there's this there's a truth to whenever that couple does say, Okay, we're going to be different. That does tend to be a more healthy following from those from those parents, which is,

Scott Hilton (Host) 08:49

but you've spent a lot of time you're you're used to coach you're not coaching at the moments, correct? Yeah. It used to be a football coach. Yeah. And you've you've worked with kids from difficult places, kids who didn't grow up without a dad. Sure. What are some of the things you think they struggle with, that you found and working with them?

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Yeah. Similar to my adopted boys, one of the big differences I've seen in my adopted children

and my piological children. And a lot of that being that we didn't have our adoptive poys in their first five years in those formative years. But one of the things that has been more difficult with them than it has been for the biological children is convincing them fully that I'm on their side, convincing fully that they are loved, that there's nothing that they could do to be out of that love. And that and that we really are proud of them and overwhelmingly thankful that they're ours. The younger two as they're growing up and that don't know anything else. They've always been loved by us that they don't have just like I did growing up, I didn't have a category for not being loved by my parents. That didn't make any sense to me or even by people around us. But there's this difficulty with those children who have had a tougher beginning in life especially, at least in my experience of really being convinced that you're for them. And that, that you're that you don't have some ulterior motive that you're hiding, but that you're being honest and genuine, and, and honestly, loving them and care for them caring for their good and, and so that's, that's a big task for all those who who know and then God has placed around people like that and children like that to make sure that they are known that they loved and, and for those young men who are dealing with those feelings of unsure at the call being to be aware of the fact that there really are people who are who are genuine and really do love you and that even if it hasn't been the case for you in the past, and even if you started with people that didn't love you genuine length, and that doesn't mean that there aren't people that really are like that that's really true that there really are men and women out there that care for you like that. And really aren't men a woman that care for you for your on your for your own sake and not them for themselves.

Scott Hilton (Host) 10:48

So as you can take guard down a little bit. I think kids who grew up in difficult places, foster care, children's homes, so forth, they always kind of have a little tendency to have the guard. Absolutely. Because they're, they're not real sure about the security of their surroundings.

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Right, right. And it just comes it's it's the safety net they've put up to keep themselves from feeling the same pain they felt before. And that comes in a lot of ways. But so often that's that's kind of the good and natural result of facing those traumatic traumatic things is, this is what I did last time. And this is what happened. So I can't do that again. And so like you're saying very often they have these these calluses on their hearts that take take a long time and a lot of patience on the on the part of the fathers or the father figures, to to really be convinced that they can again, be soft and be tender and be vulnerable.

Scott Hilton (Host) 11:38

So your advice to them would be to Hey, that there are people out there that are genuine. Yeah, believe it you have to you do have to be careful, because no doubt, no doubt will will take advantage of capsules. Let me ask you what, what do you think your dad did? In raising you? That really? is right. How did wouldn't he do right?

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Most things he did, right? Fortunately, my dad was still is very smart, and very intellectual man. And so consequently, he had some, he had some important jobs that required a lot of them. And yet somehow, despite the fact that he was traveling often and was called to work, a lot of hours, he he just thought he was just always there. And like he coached my ball teams all the way up, right, even though he didn't love baseball that much. But he found a way to coach and it's astonishing to me still, I don't really understand how he pulled that off. I remember him, like leaving practices or games and going back to work until late at night. But he but he found this way to just be there for me and for my brother and be able to do those things like being a coach of our sports teams. And it was just always overjoyed when I know he was dealing with burdens that I didn't even know about and carrying heavy weight was always overjoyed to be with us. And all the boys that were on the team loved him all the kids not in Atlanta baseball park wanted to be on cozies team because because whenever they saw him, he would light up at them. And they would light up in response. And there was a man that obviously loved them and cared for them. And, and so many of them the same way didn't have fathers and he became like their father figure that they stayed connected with for years and years to come. And many he still talks to and he was the coach that just made sure everyone knew that they were loved by Him. And that extended, of course to his parenting as well. There were I mean, I made I made lots of mistakes as a kid as all kids do. And I knew he had high standards for me, I knew discipline would be carried out. But I was never I'm not even all that sure how I pulled it off. I was never unsure that he loved me. And he was proud of me, those things were always clear

Scott Hilton (Host) 13:40

Is there any particular incident that happened with your dad through the years that just really sticks out in your mind is something that made a big impression on you?

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Oh, probably the biggest, probably the biggest things are tied to that, to him spending so much time with us and the years they spent fostering children, which I mentioned in passing, but there was a period of time where I was eight, my brother was seven and they had a six year old, a five year old and a four year old boy and then they had an infant baby girl, and all those things when they didn't have to. And most of those occasions just telling the fostering fostering agency that if they needed somebody, they would do it and so getting a call and that night unaware of being brought in to children and so obviously that's had a big impact on me and the willingness to, to love children who are not my own, which I know you're passionate about and and not just not even just to love them and to make them mine and to make them part of my family the way that God has done for me and all those moments of his of his sacrifice. And you know, I think I was convinced as like an eight year old boy that my parents dream job was watching me play baseball in the afternoons and taking me to practice and taking me to games and I honestly, I was probably 18 I mean maybe maybe not that old but probably so before I realized that they may have enjoyed other things more than going to my practice afternoons and I can tell you that and the sacrifices that they made for You know, as children, we get older we realize those things. But as you have your own children, you really start to realize the sacrifice that parenting is that there's almost almost synonyms to say the parents is what sacrifices. And the truth is that and when we see that biblically that a husband is defined as one who has to give up himself for his wife, to give up himself, this this odor sacrifice for the

sake of the one that he has with my dad, was always that way for my wife, and for us and for everyone around us. And I want to be the kind of man hope that I had meant for my kids and want to continue to be, I want to encourage young men to be the kind of men that live lives of sacrifice.

Scott Hilton (Host) 15:39

Tell me something that you think fathers are prone to make mistakes, some of the things we mess up with,

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yeah. Thankfully, my oldest two are here, they could give you a long list of all my mistakes over the years. But probably the biggest mistake I made. I still make plenty. But the biggest mistake I made early and I think a very common one for fathers, is I think we have this idea that we are posed to present to our children that we don't make a lot of mistakes, now that we kind of got it all together. And that. So for instance, when I was younger, and I would have a particular situation, maybe one of the boys got in trouble, and I didn't handle it all that well. And very often, my wife was wonderful would gracefully and gently point out that I probably could have handled it better, I would just kind of double down. And I don't want them to think that I did something poorly that I handle something wrong. And one of the most important things for your kids to see is you repent, and and confess your mistake, and be willing to it because if they don't see you repent, then they're not going to know what repentance is, at least they're certainly not gonna know how to model it, what that looks like. So I hope, I hope my kids see me repenting to my wife a lot, and repenting to them as well be just being being willing to admit that I really messed that situation up. And that happens from time to time. Because because they're messing up all the time, they're messing up constantly. And if we're not teaching them and modeling, that you can be a man and still mess up. In fact, the pathway to manhood is owning your mistakes, that you're going to make mistakes. But when you do, this is what you should do. This is how you handle those mistakes. So I think very often we desire for our kids to have this view of us that is the perfect dictator, or the perfect father makes no mistakes. When they can find that in God, I'm going to point them there, of course, and all things, but they're never going to find perfection in me. But instead, what they can find me hopefully is an example of what it looks like to mess up and to mess up well.

Scott Hilton (Host) 17:34

So anything you do special with your kids that that's like we had a guy who had three daughters, three or four daughters, three, who said he had a daughter dates, yeah, there's anything you do one on one with your kids that you're intentionally done.

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Yeah, we, we try to do that. And one of the benefits actually, of having our older boys at different schools is we get a lot of time in the car together, where it's just us, me and my oldest son, every morning, are together for at least 15 minutes, where we get to talk about the day

and what's going on and all those things. And that's, that's a wonderful thing. We, we we also do the you don't come down to the teenagers or they get embarrassed, right. But we try to do those things where we set apart time for for us to spend that one on one time with them because they need that with me and with their mother as well. And, and, and again, like I said earlier, the older to need that all the more to steal even though we've had them 10 years or we've had them 10 years since they were four years old. And still they need to be reminded constantly that we're that we're for them and constantly that we really do love them. I know we've been here 10 years and given everything up for you but we really do love you. We're in trouble. Of course we've been traumatized that just shows how big of a deal that fatherlessness? Not that that was their case that someone left their father was there but how big of a deal that is that that even 10 years after being been there for so long that they're still struggling with those things.

Scott Hilton (Host) 18:54

Yeah, it's a read a lot about trauma in my book and they they develop a sense of heightened anxiety and alertness and insecurity and the only way that it can be overcome the best treatment for trauma is just loving. What is the best thing about being a dad

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what is the best thing about being a dad i i said the other day that at this stage of my life I work more than I have before and I mean we have we have two boys different school different schedules, we got babies doing their own thing we got a new baby coming and I don't have time for hobbies like I used to and like I don't have time to do stuff that I used to just

- Scott Hilton (Host) 19:39 say from experience
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and like we're a month away from from not sleeping anymore. And that whole season again and that early in my life when I was single even married without kids you know I got to do all the things that are supposed to make you happy. I got to sleep full hours of the night I got to do hobbies like I wanted to get to work some but not a ton had had, even though I made much less money had more money to spend on myself than I do now. And yet, incredibly, I'm, I'm, I wouldn't go back for anything, I wouldn't go back, I don't have any time for myself, I don't have my money gets spent on everybody else. And I wouldn't I wouldn't go back for anything to the world that's supposed to be the word that makes you happy. And, and I think I think I think again, that goes back because there's something there's something so deep in us that says living for that sort of thing living for other people, this is all humans, I think it's especially true of men at that living for other people is better and truer and more gratifying and more meaningful, and more weighty, more beautiful than living for yourself, which is so much the culture the day is live for yourself, and you get what you can get, make yourself as happy as possible until you die. And what doesn't make sense in that culture is why in the world, a

person like me or person like you, for all those years was was ever happy was ever joyful. Because by every outside measurement that the world would give you, the things are posted make us happy, we didn't have time for those things, we have burdens on us that that were far heavier than anything we were carrying, then and yet far more joy than when I was 20. And had nothing going on.

Scott Hilton (Host) 21:14

So I want to give you an opportunity to speak to your dad. You know, it's it's kind of hard to do that in person. Sometimes, you know, it's a little bit it's a little weird for a father and a son. Yeah,

- ° 21:25 which is that being a man,
- Scott Hilton (Host) 21:26

we've we found that this setting is a good setting, because you can look in that camera there. And we're hopefully you're we think your dad's gonna watch this. And, you know, this is this is just an opportunity a lot of guys have thanked me for allow them to do this. And I want to give you the chance to look in that camera and just speak a word of honor. And thanks to your dad, or whatever you want to say, I'm gonna back up what you taught.

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Most of them cry, but I don't know if I'll get to it. Dad, you. And a lot of ways for a lot of years lived a thankless life, where you just poured out of yourself for the sake of us. And I didn't I didn't realize that until I had kids until they gotten older or that you had given up for me. And for Caleb and for all those that

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had the privilege of knowing you. And being placed in your world by by the Father. And it's hard for me to express even how much all those things mean to me now that I see a little better. And I know there's countless things for all those years that you never got thanked for, that we were totally unaware of. And

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I want to tell you, thank you. And Caleb and I talk about all the time, and about our desire just really to be a father like you weren't to us. And it's it's absolutely true that so much of my life, even on this side of adulthood and children 33 is is really just hoping that I'm making you proud. And that I'm being the kind of man and father and worker, and friend that you want me

to be. And I know that you didn't always have the privilege that I had growing up, and the sort of things that you worked very hard to give us, you and mom and there will never be a time and until I died that I stopped living gratefully for you. And I think about you and mom all the time, daily and the sacrifices you have made. And my heart my whole understanding of of parenthood and of living a sacrifice is just doing what I can to model what you've showed me for so long, of giving up everything for the sake of others. And I hope I hope that I'm I hope that I'm living a life that is in part of what you did for me and for all the young men that you have. And women that you have come in contact with for all these years as a father and as a coach and as a grandfather now and hopefully many years to come I I love you more than I then often can express in person

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and I'm more thankful for you than than almost anything. I realized deeply that you are one of the very greatest gifts that God has given me. And then one of the most important factors in my life that have made me the man that I am and the husband that I am that everything. Everything good in me has come through God's grace and very often through your your hands and your words and your love and your kindness and your discipline. Thank you for all the times that I got frustrated with you, or angry with the things that you were called causing me to do or asking me to do. Because you always knew better. And I realized a little bit now how frustrating it is to be a father when you know, you know better and the children that you love desperately, just don't understand. And I'm sorry for those times. And I know you. I know you understood that and knew that I would one day understand what I do now and hope to live my life, firstly, glorifying and honoring God. But also glorifying and honoring you and the things you've done for me and the sacrifices you've made for me. I love you.

Scott Hilton (Host) 25:41

Thank you for being so vulnerable. That's tough. It's tough. Can I just tell you something? You'll never feel like you've said enough. Yeah. When you have a dad, like you have, like I have, there's just no way to express how grateful you really are. What would you like for your kids to say about you what they

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hope, I hope when my kids get older, or their I'm still here or not that they they are confident that I love them to the place that I was willing to pour out myself for them.

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I hope my kids know very deeply that love. I love their mother more than they could possibly imagine.

26:36

I nope they see that and everything that I do. I nope they know that. That I pick her over all things. And I hope that they see and learn how to love their spouse, by the way that my wife and I love each other.

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out they know that I always was and always will be for them. Even in the moments that are difficult, even the moments we fight in the moments where they don't understand the discipline that they are being given. I pray that years later that they they become acutely aware of the sacrifices their mother has made for them. And a deep love that is really unable to be understood. If you don't have children. We perish joke all the time saying you know one day you'll get paid back and get a get a kid like you. And the truth is the only the only way we ever get to the place of understanding the kind of love in any a small part of what our parents had for us. And by extension what the Father has for us. What God has for us is is having children, it's just it's just different, whether they're your own biologically or not. It's a different and special kind of love. And I hope they get to feel that one day, I hope, hope they have the opportunity to choose even children that aren't their own if the Lord places that in their path and do so with joy. Knowing that it was the most wonderful thing that happened to us and never regretting those things, the choices to sacrifice.

Scott Hilton (Host) 28:07

I hope they hope your dreams come true. Me too. You know, they, we can tell you what they would say right now. Because we ask them. Oh, is that right? And so terrifying. We're gonna share that. Well. Yes, this is precious cheese.

- 28:24
 Okay, why are you thankful for daddy?
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 Because I love him so much.
- 28:31
 And what do you like most about Dad?
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I like playing baseball inside with daddy. And I like playing outside with daddy. Like play baseball. Daddy was in the womb, and he was not working on me and allows your bed and I came back out. Then he didn't see me again. I came back good. Then came back out again. Then came back out. Then they can make in a good day.

- 29:13
 Did you scare him?
- 29:14

 He? Well, he didn't. He didn't never look at me. Wow, it's
- 29:19
 a funny story. Man.
- 29:20

 Haley's doing one we bad boy. I love daddy. Because he loves me. I love daddy, because he verses us on the chamfer
- 29:37
 the thing I like best about Dad is he coached me in baseball. And I really appreciate that. Love you that
- um, thanks thankful for dad because he takes care of me and he comes to all my football games even when I don't play. Thanks for being awesome dad. I love you. With tires love you to
- Heaven. Well, never thought we'd have five children, or a 10 year anniversary. But here we are. And I just wanted to reach out and tell you how thankful we are for you. You're pretty awesome dad, even at the early age of 23, you just always been there for the boys have always supported them and love them well, lead by example. And wait, you're just so thankful for you, even through the hard times. You've been pretty amazing. So thanks for leading us so well. Thanks for leading them so well. And continuing to put us this push us towards Christ for so thankful for that. We love you.
- That's beautiful. Yeah. Yeah. It's always hilarious. The teenage boys haven't been forced to communicate their feelings. It's a wonderful thing. Yeah. You know, some of that some of the

most beautiful things are just those. Obviously, my son likes playing baseball, my youngest one if you picked it up in that video, or just those moments where they're just giggling, and you're just laughing together. And nothing more is happening in that. And it's a beautiful thing. I every time, every time we found that we were getting children, whether it be the first time with the boys, or the next three times, it was it was always daunting, and always thought how in the world are we going to do this? And and, you know, I just, I can't imagine life without any of them. We have a first one on the way and it was the most daunting we thought we were finished and yet here we are the Lord just continuing to put this in our plates and I can't wait for the same thing. It's the idea of being a father is indeed a daunting thing but it's a thing that I was made for and that you were made for and that it was brought more joy means to me than anything I could have accomplished. And hoped to be the major leagues I hope to be in the NFL or whatever, you know, I hoped as a teenager nothing nothing compares to the joy of being a father and and it's it's it's incredible anytime that your your children have a moment like that where they where they express thankfulness to you. I was like I said to my dad a minute ago that it didn't cross my mind a whole lot in my life to thank him because I didn't realize all he was sacrificing for me and and so it's true that in a lot of in a lot of life as a father you will do things that will go on thanked and so the moment the moment that that any moment your children realize anything that you are doing for them and are thankful for that is incredible.

Scott Hilton (Host) 32:44

You know, I want to say something to the to the guy who is about to be a dad or maybe he's a dad and he's left his kids, you're missing out. I mean, I kept hearing you say joy, you found joy. A man if you're if you're not being a father to your kid, that you're you're kicking yourself and there's no doubt you're you're you're loose that you're messing up. I mean, you can have these moments like Renee just had and a fulfilling life and though and that you poured into your kids so man go go find your kids go go back to their mother and say, hey, you know if we can't be together at least want to be a part of my kid's life. If you don't you're not only are you really really messing them up if you don't, but you're you're missing out a lot to guess

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Absolutely. Make for this. Thanks for coming. Absolutely. Thank you. It's a

Scott Hilton (Host) 33:41

great time with you. This will conclude this episode of Ask my dad, where we're inspiring fathers to be from great dads and we're seeking to break cycles of generational fatherlessness. We hope you join us next week for another great energy