

SHOWNOTES - Dan Woodcock (9/50)

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host)

 Scott Hilton (Host) 00:13

Welcome back to the best my dad podcasts have Dan Woodcock with us here today. Man is we were just joking. I guess I can say this. I call him the Asian the Energizer Bunny.

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You're the only one I've ever heard called me that. I like it.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 00:29

So I'm gonna roll with that man is an old friend of mine and has a great story. And I don't know your whole story, Dan, but you know, kind of what we're, we're looking at doing here with the podcast. So let's just kind of roll into this fatherhood thing. You're a pastor, first of all, and your dad and your husband most importantly, right? So let's go back. And for the viewers and listeners, just kind of tell me a little bit about your upbringing.

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Okay, so it's might be therapeutic. So I grew up in the military, my dad was in the army for 22 years. And my middle school year, seventh grade, we were living in Arizona, we just moved there. My dad felt like, God was calling him to be a pastor. So he became a pastor, my middle school year, seventh grade, and he was still in the army. So it was like one of those like, you know, we were a church plant out in like a tiny town in Arizona, you know, going out doing the whole door knocking three services every week, you know, so it was a very different upbringing for me, just something I wasn't expecting. You know, just being what I felt like, was a normal just army brat. And then it was like, Oh, now my dad's a pastor, I feel like I gotta be different.





Scott Hilton (Host) 01:46

So So up until that time, you're just kind of been moving around. And yeah, we



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moved a lot, you know, we would go I mean, you know, the longest we'd say anywhere would be two years. So you know, every time it was like, you, you settle down, you get into a spot, it was like, You made friends. It was like it was time to leave again. So that was really tough. Like learning. I feel like now like I can adapt to any culture. Now, like, I live in Alabama, right. The only thing southern about me is Korean. You know, I'm saying like, there's nothing else like in that. So I feel like that has helped me but but moving a lot was difficult, you know. And so when he stepped into that role, it was totally different. Because we were a part of church. I remember living in Colorado, and it was like, he got real serious about his faith. He got involved in this church. And he started like driving the bus on Sunday mornings picking kids up, and he liked was different. We moved to Korea, we lived there for a couple years. He got involved in the in the church. And so when he took this step, I went from just we go to church to all I do everything in the church. And that was a big, big change. So



Scott Hilton (Host) 02:57

being a preacher's kids is interesting, to say the least. Yeah. So how did it change for you? How what, what changed the most? And how old? Were you seven or



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eight? I wasn't. I was like, 13? Yeah. 13 Okay,



Scott Hilton (Host) 03:10

so what what kind of relationship did you and your dad have? And did it change anyone? He became a pastor.



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I feel like, so my dad now. And my dad then are two different guys. I remember, like living in Colorado, and we would play basketball. You know, we'd have like time together just shooting hoops out back, you know? Yeah. And then like, when he stepped into this role, he was pastoring is full time. Like, there's no like, there are guys that do it, like part time by vocational but pastoring is full time. Right? And so he's pastoring this tiny church at its peak, you know, 40 Something people. But he's still a full time like, soldier, he, he's in the military, you know. And so, there's so much that goes into it. He comes home and it's like, just church stuff. So I felt like for me, it was like I felt a pressure whether it was said or unsaid that I don't want to make my dad look bad. But like, I grew to have a distaste for church because I was, like I said, you're there Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, I had to go door knocking you know, like it just random towns like we're knocking on like trailers, you know, like a and like, the worst

was like when when like, my dad would make me go, say like, you'd never pray harder than when you walk the door. And like, I hope they're not home. You know? Like, you're just like, if no one shows up this, this is a great day. And I think that was like just something that like he, he had to learn. He's changed a lot. And so it caused a lot of tension. There was times where there was just a lot of tension.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 04:47

So for more so you're about 13 And then you start to have some tension. Did that develop? Did that get worse is the teenage years when or how?

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So I was still in public school too, right? So I I'm just that pressure to fit in, I think eats into that. So I kind of I think I came the stereotypical pastor's kid where it's like, I'm one way at church, people think I'm a really good kid. And I was for the most part was a good kid. I didn't do crazy things. I didn't get into drugs or anything like that. But but at school, when I was around my friends, my peers, I was totally different. And so it was almost like I learned how to mask who I was. And when I was in this. So as you know, the older I got, in my teenage years, and in high school, I started playing football. And you know, it's totally like a totally different, just group of people, the friends that I had the music I listened to, was not like, hymns and piano, you don't say like, I mean, I listened to, like a lot of hip hop and rap. And it was, which is obviously countercultural to the world. I was in your rapping

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Scott Hilton (Host) 05:57

preacher's kid? Well,

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you know, like, privately, right, like, so. It's like, my, you know, I started thinking through things. I still had this relationship, but I wanted to be this other person. But who I was at church was not this person, it was this tug. And so even like my own salvation, I would pray like, I didn't want to go to hell. I can't tell you how many times I prayed for God to save me. And, but I didn't want the relationship I just wanted. I just didn't want I wanted to live my life and want to do what I want. So, you know, I think like I said, that struggle got older. And you know, and I think the rebellion and, and wanting to do my own thing, but living under, you know, my father's roof, and you know, him being military and stern and strict. That cause for a lot of, like I said, a lot of tension, a lot of friction

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Scott Hilton (Host) 06:49

between you and your dad, did you resent him?



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I think there were times I probably did. You know, I remember, like Wednesday, like I said, like church was tiny, you know, small church like so on Wednesday nights. We maybe had 12 people would show up maybe, right? So in Arizona, this is gonna sound funny, but in Arizona, like they have like, Guys volleyball. All right. So we I was on the volleyball team. It is me and like, it's all my friends. But we only had two games, two games. That happened to land on a Wednesday night. I already knew like, this is gonna be a lot of tension. So of the two, he did, let me go to one. But then he regretted it. And so I didn't get to get another one. So I like it was things like that, that I felt like, is missing this one Wednesday night? Is this is this a big deal? And I know, like his thought was like, nothing comes before God, I get that. Right. But this was like, you know, I only get this once. And he didn't see it like that. And so I think that's where the tension came in. You know?



Scott Hilton (Host) 08:00

So did you moved on to college?



08:04

Yeah. So I mean, even that's a crazy story exciting going to a Bible college, in Springfield, Missouri. But I had, I was already getting scholarships for academics, for Arizona State University. And I thought that's what I was gonna do. But I went on a missions trip in Mexico. And it was there. I felt like God was calling me into the ministry. Right. So at this point, I really didn't want anything, do a church. You know, I was done. Like, I didn't want this life. And, but it was there, I felt like God was calling me to go into the ministry. And so my, one of my best friends, the one that actually sent our, my dad to plant the church, his dad was a pastor as well. And his dad went to this Bible College in Springfield. So we got and checked it out. And I was like, I remember like walking on this campus for the first time, and I saw a dude playing a guitar. And it was probably some like, song now that I would laugh that, but then I'd never heard of any kind of songs outside of like those hymns or like, the, you know, like, the little like, choruses you wouldn't think like as the deer saying, and I had never heard, like, I didn't even know Christian music like this existed. And I was like, I'm coming here. Like, this is cool, like, curfew was like midnight, and I was like, I'm all in, you know what I mean? Like, never go in. And my dad was pretty conservative. And by that, I just mean like, theologically and methodology, you know, his methodology and just the way that that looked. He felt like this school was like, too liberal. And by that I mean, not unlike that they didn't believe in like the virgin birth. That like they. No one had to wear like suits all the time. Or like the you know, like this guy is playing the guitar and no one's saying anything about it or Gotcha. But because it like kind of irked him, I was like, on for sure. Coming here.



Scott Hilton (Host) 10:04

Okay, so you had a little bit of wasn't strain, but you had a little bit of a rebellious spirit. So for sure, what do you feel like you? What did you learn from your, from your parents from your dad in particular, about being a parent? What? What did they pass on that you? Positive and negative? One of the things we've learned here in the in the podcast is that dads make a lot of

mistakes. And it seems like when we get older, we're able to forgive them, because we realize they didn't mean to make mistakes, you know, sure. What they felt like was the right thing. Yeah, sometimes they didn't. They didn't know. So what do you think some things your dad did? Right or wrong, that have influenced you?



10:50

I think, you know, I don't know if it was like, again, military, whatnot. But he's very stern, strict. It was like when he said something, that's what you did, there was no questions about it. And you kind of fall in line, you know. So I think those are things that I look at and go, I didn't want to be like that. But then there are moments in parenting, where you get humbled and you realize the man that you said, you don't want to be you realize, that's what you are, you know, there, there are things where you're like, I'm not going to be this way. And then you have kids your own and they have their own thoughts, their own agenda, their own plan, their own sin, and you find yourself going like, Man, I, I lost my cool there. And I didn't expect to react that way. And I definitely see like that human, like I said, now my dad is obviously he's a grandfather, now. And he's changed our relationship as much morphed into something different than it was. And I see in him, like his heart change, and I see him like, wanting to Father differently, and you know, how he cares for his grandkids for my sisters. And I see like that genuine love and care. And I know like, if you go back, like anybody, hindsight is 2020, you can only do what you can do while you're in it. I think he would change a lot of things and how he was like so many times, it didn't matter. Like if I had 200 Teenagers show up. Like on a youth, it didn't matter if like 20 of them put their faith and trust in Christ. And I would call them it's meant to have like, 20 kids with their faith and trust in Christ. It was kind of like, Oh, cool.



Scott Hilton (Host) 12:30

So what, what did you want? I



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wanted, like, I want to praise, you know what I mean? Like, I wanted to know, from him that I did a good job. And I remember because there was a time like after our first son was born, it was like our relationship kind of got strained, it kind of came to a head. And I just I told my wife, I said, if he wants a relationship with me, he can pursue it. But I'm done. So we didn't talk for a long time. It's easy for me to do that. Because we move so much that like I think detaching is easy. And I remember I was speaking at a camp in Idaho, he still lived in he lived in right outside of Boise at that time outside of Twin Falls. I spoke at a camp out there. And I remember, it was just me and my parents were sitting down at lunch. They were taking me to the airport. I had been in ministry for several years at this point. And I remember he told me something. He said to me, he just started talking about my life. And as he saw me and he said, Son, I want you to know, and I'm proud of you. And he like, like they dropped me off. And I'm like, I'm at the airport. And I'm like, I'm like jacked up. You know what I mean? Because I was like, I shouldn't be struggling with this. You don't I mean, like, he just, I needed to hear that. You know, I'm like, I'm like, I'm too old for like a girl. I was like, you know, late 20s. And I needed to hear that. So I think for me now, like that's one things I do with my kids is I tell them, I tell them, hey, no matter what you do, I don't care how you're gonna screw up. I tell it

because like, you're, you're gonna screw up. We will always love you. And we're proud of you and and we try to praise them. And I think that's something I don't think he tried to keep it away. But he wasn't good at giving it.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 14:20

So I think there's a message there because, you know, at Eagle Rock Boys Ranch when I was there, there are a lot of kids that felt like, their dad didn't like him. Yeah, you know, there's a difference. You know, you can feel loved and not liked. Yeah, kids want to be liked. Yeah, other dads too. You know, they're Yeah, they want to know that their dad genuinely thinks that they're cool. Yeah, to put it in no man's words and you had to consciously come to a point that you felt like you needed to forgive your dad.

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For sure. So I think you know, I talked about like that time Like, if he wants a relationship, he can pursue it. Right. But you know, now, I think just seeing that change in him, just in my own heart, you know, it's like, okay, I understand like, as a person, you only get one shot at doing certain things, you only get one shot to raise your kids, right? Like, they're not going to go through it again, no one wants to go through it again. And I think when you come on the other side of that you just kind of think this is these are things that wish I could change, and maybe, you know, you can only do what you can do. Yeah, he's one of the most godliest man I know. So if I need like, solid advice, like, I'm calling him, like, hey, help me with this helped me chew through this. If I want to talk through methodology, I don't talk to him. You know, we're huge Denver Broncos fan. So we talk, you know, football, and, you know, we will chat through things like that we talked about the kids will FaceTime, we want to make sure they have a relationship with them. We're gonna see him this summer, you know, so we try to spend time with him. And they, they're more conscious to try to make efforts because now he travels, he's an evangelist, he travels all across the country, mostly out west. But anytime they're close, he tries to go out of their way to like, be a part of our kids lives. And so like I said, I've just seen that change. And just even like, I would say, maybe like a softness in his heart that wasn't there when I was growing up.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 16:25

So if, if he were here, and by the way, he'll probably watch this.

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Maybe I don't think he's on Facebook. Maybe he might.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 16:33

He might. What what is there something that you would like to say to him? That I mean, it's a little easier. You know, I started here with my dad, I think I think he said where you're sitting actually. And then said some things that I wanted to say to him. And just want to first say thank

actually. And I've said some things that I wanted to say to him. And just want to first say thank you, in retrospect, looking back, thinking that you would like to say to your dad through this, this main medium we have here



17:08

I think I would just tell him, you know, Hey, Dad, I love you. I know that. I know that you did the best that you can. I know that I was difficult. You know, I know that I made it hard to parent, I probably didn't make it a joy, you probably felt there were a times that it made it stressful on you stressful on, you know, Mom, you know, as you saw me make choices that maybe you hoped were different. I just pray ultimately that you see that I that, that you did point me to follow after Lord. I'm following God as best as I can. I want to serve Him. I want to be the best husband and father that I can. And I thank you for instilling in me some of these disciplines in my life that I don't think I would have. If I had a different life. I think I've been able to adapt in places because of the life that I grew up in. And I'm thankful that God puts you in my life.



Scott Hilton (Host) 18:09

So how do you think you're doing as a father?



18:13

Right now? I got I got three. My oldest is 12. My middle is nine and my youngest is five. Coming into those middle school years is tough. I did student ministry but always having your own is different, right? Do your own kids. I would say I'm right now. I feel like I'm just okay. Like in this season right now. This year, I'm focusing. I kind of challenged my church like this. And I was thinking like this, like the fruit of the Spirit Galatians five. I want to just focus on one for the entire year. So for me, it's gentleness is there. Sometimes I'm doing really well. And there's like seasons where you're like, wasn't gentle at all. Now come in at night. I always pray with my kids every night my daughter I pray with her and then I go to my boys room. I pray with them. And I'll just be like, I'll just sound like I was not gentle. When I was telling you that you know and each my kids have something they're working on and



Scott Hilton (Host) 19:18

what kind of advice would you have for young dads? You're You're still a young dad, but I'm telling you it'll be won't be long for your being old dad like me there'll be you know, getting that phone diploma. What What kind of advice would you have for for young guys in your position with kids that are just becoming teenagers?



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Well, one, I think who you are when no one else is around character who you are at home. You know more than who you are in public who you are at home. That speaks volumes because it shows your kids this is this is the real dad, not the one where everyone's around or where

people come over and they're hanging out. Who is he? When no one else is around? That's to me sticks out. loving your wife, treating her well showing them this is what it's like to treat a woman. This is what it's like to take care of your mom, we honor her and them knowing that she comes before them. I put her before them because that relationship has to be strong, right? And obviously we're talking about God, we know God first. You know, for myself anyways, God comes first and then then my wife and then it's my kids. So I literally I was, like I said, I've been reading the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians five and love joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self control, if those things are in your life, man, like, those are the things I wish it maybe someone did tell me that but like, just just sit down like invest like, I coach guys, like church planners and guys that are starting out and, and we like all men, like we need a coach in our life, whether it's your father, some guys are able to have their father be there, like coaching can invest in them. But you got to have like those father figures in your life that can invest you and I have guys like that, you know, my father in law's like that I got a couple of guys in my church that I look to that, that just love me. And and they're not afraid to say like hard things to me or, like, challenge me. And, and we need that, like we need people speaking into us building us up pointing us and showing us a better way.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:29

I would encourage any young man to find somebody to help walk through that process, particularly if you did not have the advantage of having a great dad. Anything else that you would like to share about fatherhood in general?



21:46

Yeah, I think like you said, I mean, there's, there's only been one perfect father, that's God, right? So we can find ultimate satisfaction and peace in that, like, you like I talked about, like approval and like feeling like I need my dad's approval. But, but I didn't need my dad's approval. I like I wanted it really like I just I need God's approval. Right, and finding that completeness in him. So getting that part right in your life that God void. And then focusing in growing on it. That that's most important. You know,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 22:24

well said. So we we snuck around your back as we've become accustomed to doing here. And I'll tell you this, you know, I watch people who I know, and I kind of see how they're doing as a parent. And I've always appreciated as you're my children, my my kids, Danny and Ali, were in your youth ministry. So we failed to mention that. But I appreciate you. And I've watched you as a father from a distance. And I know that you're a great dad. So we did a little something and we want to show you a little video that we got from your family. Alright, so you go ahead.



23:09

The thing I like best about my dad is he's super fun.



23:13

Okay, normally



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play games when we play games, okay, the thing that I like about best about my daughter and she hangs out with us. For fun.



23:27

Cool. And is there anything that you'd want to thank daddy for? So you could just say, Daddy, I'd like to thank you for



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daddy. I like to thank you for always being there for us. Yeah. Daddy, I'd like to thank you for going with us.



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Nollie Is there anything you'd like to thank daddy for? Nollie



23:49

for? For taking us through these change taking you to



23:56

movies. Okay. Does anybody have a good story about that? Me? Oh, you do? Okay. What's the story? Do you have a story to share about doing something fun?



24:12

Maybe we've done as a family or something. We've gone on a lot of trips. Thanks to daddy. Doing a bunch of fun stuff. Maybe what was your favorite trip that we've taken so far? Well, I have. Okay. My favorite one was when we went to Texas for the first time when I went to Jersey. That summer camp is summer.



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This last summer. What was your favorite thing about that camp tree when we were there with

that.



24:39

New friends. Okay.



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That was your favorite thing about the summer camp. They were they were



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ready to see daddy preach up on the stage.



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Cool. All right. Can y'all tell daddy say we love you, Daddy. Daddy. Big smiles. Morals.



Scott Hilton (Host) 25:09

So that's the Woodcock children. How does it feel to me you're you're about halfway through this thing. And my oldest is 12. Yeah, you're a little more than halfway. Yeah. Two thirds. How's it feel to know that? You're, you're doing it right. You can tell they appreciate you.



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Yeah. I think you get so caught up in the day to day things. You know that, at least for me, I know a lot of guys are like this, at least for me, I feel like if you had a bad day, or you feel like you failed in one spot, you almost feel like you're a failure in all spots. Right? And, you know, you see things like that, and you see their joy and you remember, okay, it's not all bad. Like, there are just seasons in life. There are always seasons, you know, there's four seasons to a year. And, and it's remembering to just be present in the season when it's difficult to ride it through in those seasons, and to constantly remind them that we're here for you, we love you. And, and then to look back and you know, and I look forward to the conversations one day with with my son, maybe when he has his first and I'm like, Man, remember when you were middle school, he were a punk. But then I, I, you know, hearing from him. Maybe the things that he's learned or whatever I think those things are. It's good to be reminded of that, for sure.



Scott Hilton (Host) 26:40

Good bill. That wraps up this episode of The that's my dad podcast, where we're teaching young fathers to become great dads and trying to break the cycles of generational fatherlessness. Thanks for joining us. We'll be back next week. See you then.

