

SHOWNOTES - Mark Price (17/50)

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host)

S Scott Hilton (Host) 00:14
welcome Mark receipts are coming in Mark price, our guest today on the basketball dad podcast per se to be in here, Martin, thank

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you so much honored to be with you, Scott.

S Scott Hilton (Host) 00:22
So I want to start out, you're kind of a public figure, you're up in front of a lot of people. And I think people tend to see you on a weekly basis on those two or 3000. I really don't know.

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But But yeah, round around to every Sunday,

S Scott Hilton (Host) 00:37
a lot of people see you on the stage. And they probably think, wow, this guy, you know, he's kind of he's the big dog up there. But, but I want to, I want to, I want to take us back to about 2011. Or a couple of things that happened between you and I, before you are sort of a public figure. And because I want people to kind of know who you really are. One of those was you were working with, with young people in our community. And whereas a lot of people try to try to work with the kids that are, you know, from good families and got everything going. I think your heart really has always been for, for for kids that had had it rough. So I think what

happened is I was working with a young man, Ray Ray, and I had been praying for Ray Ray to have a mentor, because he desperately needed somebody in his life. This is I'm gonna tell you some things you don't know.



01:38

You're probably gonna make me cross my mind.



Scott Hilton (Host) 01:41

But I had been praying for Ray Ray to have some people in his life besides me, he was living with me. And kind of out of the blue guy from Birmingham, a guy named Blake Hamby has a really good friend of mine called and said, You know, I just feel like God wants me to help you do something. And I said, Well, I got this kid. And I felt I knew, right. Blake was a marathon runner. So Blake started coming up your drive every Saturday morning. And he would train for a marathon. You take right right with him. Right. Right was 11 or 12 years old. What about that time, they eventually went and ran a marathon together? about that same time? Right races. You got to meet my mentor, Mark price. Why didn't know who Mr. Price was? I know your wife.



02:30

Yeah. Oh, everybody knows my wife. She



Scott Hilton (Host) 02:32

had been involved with Eagle Rock for years. But I didn't make the connection. And he said, you know, gotta gotta meet Mark. So you and I got to know each other through array array. And what happened is, I think you met him. You went to the mall or somewhere or hanging out with kids. It just were kind of,



02:52

yeah, and I can't remember the exact moment that we met. But he wound up coming to the youth group that I was pastoring at a gas and Christian Fellowship, and he and his brother, and it was an Ethan. Belinda son, and it was just it was awesome. He Ray Ray was just, you know, anyone who knew Ray Ray knew that he was the life of the party everywhere that he went, and he just had joy. And you know, what was interesting about Ray Ray, and honestly, his brother, too, is, you know, James's brother was much more quiet. And Ray Ray was just always out front. And I think what just drew me to them is, there was this one, one particular night when Pastor J. Hayzlett, was in town, and he was speaking there. And we were doing altar ministry, and the Lord just kind of gave me a word for Ray Ray. And from then on, after I shared that with him, there was just a unique connection. Because Ray Ray was just so charismatic, so gifted mean, there, there was I don't think there was anything he couldn't have done,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 04:15

right? Yeah, he was very charismatic, big, tall. Yeah. likey. And he got into modeling, and then yeah,



04:22

and he would dance all the time.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 04:25

So you invested in him and Blake it invested in him. And something happened during the next several years that you all just invested in this kid. He was able to reconcile and fix some things that had gone wrong in his life, forgave some people. So unfortunately, I'll just fast forward for the sake of time, Ray Ray was killed in a car accident when I was 19 years old. And you and I did the funeral. So that it was an honor to be able to do that. About 2000 people showed up to the funeral. I remember that you saying and it's spoke and I spoke but his, his best friend also spoke. And Ray always had a tag when he would send you a text FA me. Yep. So we thought he was I think you and I thought he was just being Yeah, arrogance Yeah, we're gonna be famous because he had, he was mister ladies man and but his best friend stood up at the funeral and said that FEMA stood for forgave all my enemies. And I've often thought about you and Blake, and the investment y'all made and Ray Ray, to help him come to that point in his life. So I wanted to bring that up. And just so people know, you know, even though you're up on that stage, you're very tender hearted guy. You're a guy that's really reached out and you really don't care who people are in terms of status. Right? You just want to minister and I appreciate that. And you Thanks,



05:53

Scott. And, you know, it's because of people in my life that did the same thing, you know, and would call me out when I was being prideful. And, you know, it helped me I remember we did with that youth group. We went to the Eagle Rock thrift store and did a, a, for lack of a better word of surf project out there. And I remember, there was a big RV. Do you remember this? There's a big RV out back and you're like, Well, that could use a good cleaning. I'm like, let's go. Yeah, and we're all out there with pressure washers getting soaking wet, just having the time of our lives. But I think that what I think one of the things that honestly, the Lord has kind of called me to do is is, and I believe that everyone has this calling to a degree is to notice those who aren't noticed. Exactly, because God has a plan for everyone. And Ephesians 210 says that we're all his handiwork created in advance to do good works that he created for us to do. And so every single one of us have those good works. But oftentimes, the ones who kind of sit in the back, the ones who are the most quiet, and sometimes the ones who are the loudest, don't get those good works done. And don't kind of submit to the call that God has on their life. Because if they're the loud one, everybody's just like as though they'll get it. If they're the quiet one. Well, they just must not be interested. But that's I don't know, that's just something that I feel like I'm supposed to do.



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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:33

Yeah. And you did that beautifully. In fact, I remember taking Ray Ray just a few weeks before he was killed, to visit a seminary. He had wanted to go into youth ministry and your influence on him. I think he saw you and he wanted to be like you so just wanted to bring that up. But there was another little incident. And this might be a little hard for me to talk about because I've not talked about it. Well, I had a personal tragedy in 2013. never discussed this publicly, but I'm going to now prayed about it. Because I think it needs to be said, we had an employee at Eagle Rock who was arrested for molesting children. And I had been given a heads up from the sheriff's department in my world was about to be turned upside down on board with a what do they tell them the truth? Yeah, you don't know this mark. But the day that that arrest was made. And by the way, it wasn't anything that happened at the ranch. But he was associated with us. So every TV, radio newspaper for 150 miles around, blew my phone up. I'm talking about within 10 minutes. Everybody was calling me wanting a statement want to know what happened. And I looked down. And it's it's one of those moments where my whirl, everything I had worked for. I could see crumbling and just overnight, and I looked down and there's a phone call caller ID and you don't know this, but it was Mark price. And you said to me, Hey, Scott, I just want you to know, I love you. I believe in you. And I'm here for you. If I could do anything for you let me know. And Martin, that meant the world to me. That meant the world. To me. That was the point. That was one of the lowest points of my life. And for you to call me. And we weren't just hanging out together all the time. We knew each other fairly well. But for you to call me and tell me that you still had confidence in me. And you believed in me and you were there for me. I'll never forget that. And it's been 10 years ago now. Yeah. And you didn't even know. So, but you had an impact on me. And I've told my daughter that. And my family knows that but I've never been able to tell you so thank you Scott. Just wanted to say thank you. So let's talk about fatherhood. So what kind of relationship that you and your dad have and the have.



10:03

So great relationship. My dad so I grew up in the Baptist Church love my Baptist roots and my dad was on the deacon board and did all that. But you know, we were we were outdoors a lot dad worked outdoors a lot in the, in the early part of my childhood on the actual forest down there, the Apalachicola National Forest and, and I remember, and I don't know why so vividly remember this. But I remember walking through a field picking wild berries, and my dad puts me up on his shoulders, and he starts singing sunshine on my shoulders and my dad couldn't sing. I mean, they if they could have, they would have paid him to get out of the church choir. But instead they encouraged him to find another area. That was not his gifting. But it was a great childhood. I mean, and then I remembered this was I was probably 19 years old. My dad and I were in San Antonio, I was living there at the time, we were in this mall there. And my mom was in a shop and my dad and I are sitting you know how malls all used to have the big fountains in the middle rites were sitting around the fountain. And this dad walks by with with a stroller with two kids. And I just thought to myself, I wonder if Dad misses us when we were that age and, you know, life changes. And so I said, Dad, do you ever miss us when we're that age? And? And he said, Honestly, no. And I was like,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 11:35

Dad, I know what to expect.



11:37

Yeah. And he said, What I miss is, is not being there. And I said, Dad, I never remember a time that I needed you. You weren't there. And he said, but there were times I needed you that I couldn't be there. And I was like, Oh, I mean it just registered, like there were times that there's times even now like that I need my daughter. And I can't be there because I've got this obligation or that obligation. And that registered with me in that moment that as a parent, it's not only and as a father, it's not only a responsibility, obviously to raise and coach and leisure, your kids or in my case your daughter, but there's also times that those moments that you have or are feeding you as well and giving you life and

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:24

so your dad said he needed you just like yours. Like you needed him something I hadn't thought about. Yes, as dads, we do need our kids.



12:31

Yeah, and I think I think it's something you know, we're all called to make a difference. And, and when you are given the responsibility and the gift of a child, whether they were born to you or adopted or your spiritual father, you know, a mentor to a young man or young girl. I think that there there comes a time when you know, as we invest, it's kind of like a cup, you know, you're you're pouring it out. But at some point it has to get filled back up. Well, that just that time with that that child and seeing the fruit of the investment, however little it may be at the time can fill that cup back up.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:12

Yeah, I've experienced that with both of my kids. They energize me probably more than I energize them. So your dad still have a close relationship. What's it like now you're in? You're in a grown man. And he's How did you say at



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dad is 78? Mom is at dad's younger.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:31

Okay, so how is it now? What's that relationship? Like now? Do you? Do you ever call him and ask for advice?



13:38

I actually do. Yeah, in fact, just I guess it was about two weeks ago. I called him about boat trailers, which just sounds so crazy. But but it I think it meant a lot to my dad. And I would call him and ask him, you

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:52

know, the thing we forget, Mark is that kids that grow up without that opportunity. They they miss that, you know, we had a Walter Smith was here. He'd been, you know, Walters, a local pastor, and he said he missed having somebody to tell him how to use a saw, you know, he didn't meet his dad until he was 18 or things like that. He missed this just having somebody he tells a story of how he was building a house and he needed somebody to just tell him how to remodel a house. And you and I have a day that weekend. Oh, and whether our dads have all the answers or not. We feel like they do. Yeah. Would you agree? Oh, yeah, absolutely. That they're there. They're know everything. And sometimes we we overestimate what they know.

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14:39

And my dad is so skilled in all things like I mean, if I needed to know how to remodel a house, he could tell me I mean, he's just he's so he's got the gift of craftsmanship, craftsmanship, and she's so good at that kind of stuff. And you know, I unfortunately don't have much time to do that kind of stuff. So I'm not always asked Give her that kind of advice. But

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Scott Hilton (Host) 15:02

so do you remember something about your dad got a particular answer that you talked about him carrying you on his shoulder? Yeah. When you remember a particular incident that really speaks to you today that you're, it's you can think just really was

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15:16

Scott, there's this one time I was actually in college at Florida State. And, you know, I don't know about everybody else. But when I was in college, I was making choices and decisions that one I wasn't old enough to make and to probably shouldn't have made. And this one particular time, I stayed the night at the fraternity house, because quite honestly, just being transparent, I didn't need to be getting behind the wheel of a car. And my dad shows up at the fraternity house. Oh, no. And it's the next morning. And I remember the chef at the fraternity house that just kind of prepared everything for everybody came in the room Willie and, and he said, he said, Mark, your dad's looking for you. And I was like, God tell him I'll call him in a minute. Because no, he's downstairs. And I was like, No,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 16:06

this was not good. Immediately, I



16:08

felt the weight of what was probably about to happen. I was I guess, 19 at the time. And so I go downstairs and dad said, how you doing? I'm like, great, how are you? And he goes, Well been worried about you all night. And I was like, wow. And he goes, because I didn't know where you were. And you told me you were going to cut the grass this morning. And I said, Wow, I'll be home soon. I'll cut the grass because you're coming home right now and you're cutting the grass. I'm like, Dad, I'm tired. And he goes, Well, you're gonna be a man at night. You can be a man in the morning, go home and cut the grass. And he just taught me if you're gonna in that moment, if you if you say you're gonna do something, be a man of your word and do it. If you're gonna write a check with your mouth, you better cash it.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 16:57

Wow, what a lesson. Yeah, lesson so you end up having a girl? Yes. What? Did Emily and yeah, what's different about having a girl?



17:05

I think every one and you might agree should be a girl dad. Because it's just amazing. I love being a girl dad.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 17:13

So I'm gonna throw your curveball. Yeah. What does the man mean to you now?



17:18

Man. She's everything. I mean, honestly, I and she. I hope she knows that. I tell her that. But one day, I think it's kind of like, things that my dad said to me register with me more now. I think that happens as we grow older. So no one day show that'll register with her. But it's probably the outside of Gina. It's the greatest gift that God's ever given me is being able to be her dad. And, and she understands we we chose her. But God chose her for us as well. And so it's it's just unique. And we have a we have a great relationship. She's hilarious. She's funny, it takes her you know, around me. She's she's slightly introverted. So she's not that way around everybody. Probably

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Scott Hilton (Host) 18:14

with with you and Gina that's out of necessity, but probably not room for all three of you in the



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heavy crazy. But she is got an incredible personality. She's very talented. She's very smart.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 18:29

How do you think your life would have been different? Had you not chosen her? Oh, man.



18:33

I think we probably would have missed out on a lot of blessing. You know, I can't imagine life without or I don't remember when it was. But there was a time I turned to Gina. And it may have been when we were there was a time where Emmeline was younger she was having massive headaches. And we were very concerned that there was something serious happening. And so she underwent all these tests and and I think that might have been the time that I turned to Gina one day and I said this and I was like, gosh, I love our child. I don't want to imagine life without her. And I don't Scott, like I don't want to think about what it would have been without like what it would have been like without her. But I can only imagine we would have missed out on some incredible blessings.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 19:24

Yeah, I've been there. And you know, my daughter Ali, as she works with you. Ali's amazing came very close to losing her. Yeah. So I can relate to what you're saying. And I can you know, I had to think through what life would have been like when she was in a car accident. So I want to ask you deal with a lot of people and a lot of those people have marital problems. It's just it goes with the territory. What do you say to the, to the to the guy out there who is having marital problems and thinking about a divorce, but he's got kids. Well, what would you like to say to those guests in terms of what's that? We're going to do their kids.



20:01

Well, you know, first of all, let me just say this. I mean,



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anyone who understands the Bible at all knows that, that God hates divorce, but he doesn't hate people who get divorced. He hates what divorce does to people. And so it, as we all know, can completely wreck a family. And it creates wounds in a young child that they don't even realize they have, until they grow up one day, and now suddenly, they're about to get married. And, you know, maybe they're going through some premarital counseling, hopefully. And if you're, if anybody's watching this, that's getting married, I would just highly encourage you to do it. Because there's baggage we all bring into a marriage, we just need our eyes open to see what it is when and how to deal with it. But they they don't even realize they have those wounds until they're getting married, or they have kids and suddenly they start to surface and, and it can then wreck another generation. So the first thing I would say is this, focus on your marriage. Like, don't let it I just don't think divorce should even be an option. That word just should not even be in your vocabulary. Yeah,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:21

never was with me and my wife had it been it could have occurred, but it sure was never even considered Sure.

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I mean, the word just shouldn't even be in the vocabulary. I mean, we're in it. We're gonna finish strong. You're mine, and I'm yours. And we're done.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:34

Yeah, that's my wife would say somedays marriage is based on love and Sundays commitment.

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21:39

That's right. That's right. And remember that kids are just guests in your house passing through, they're not going to be there forever. But your spouse is supposed to be there until the day you die. So focus on the marriage because the kids need to see that anyway, I think today we have a lot of, and look I have a lot of respect for and I know a lot of marriages that are doing just great that are doing travel ball and everything else like that, and softball, baseball, whatever it may be basketball. But I also know some that that is taking so much away from the husband and wife time. That is not only hurting the marriage, it's hurting the kids future marriage. And so I would say to anyone who is going through that right now, and they're possibly even thinking about divorce. First thing I'd say is pray. Ask God for wisdom and discernment. Ask him to intervene. The word says anyone who lacks wisdom and understanding should ask and it will be given abundantly. So ask God for that. And then I would say talk to somebody to talk to if you've got a mentor, that is faith based, talk to them, go to counseling, there's nothing wrong with counseling,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 22:58

if nothing else, for the sake of your kids. Yeah. I mean, even if you don't feel like you're located will be married, your kids are gonna be affected. Oh, absolutely. And that's not to say that sand of the world, I have a lot of friends who are divorced, and they've made things are i Yeah, but kids are gonna be affected,

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they will be, they will be and and that, in turn is going to break your heart. Because as a father, as a mother, you have love for your kids and desires for your kids that suddenly in that moment, it gets fractured. And now I have seen several marriages crumble only for God to restore them as well. So that's why I say just take divorce out of the vocabulary, because God is

still doing miracles today. That's right, and he'll restore your marriage. In fact, I always say this. God doesn't want to restore what was once there, he wants to make it better than it ever was. And he'll do it when we let him. We just have to get ourselves out of the way. Let him do what he wants to do.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 24:03

I'm gonna go back to something you mentioned, you talked about people being bought involved in travel ball and extracurricular. I know Emily Ann's involved in some extracurricular. But I've asked this question to several guys. And I'm just an honest, there's no right or wrong answer. But how often do does your family sit down for dinner together?

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Um, gosh, at least I would say five to six nights a week really?

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Scott Hilton (Host) 24:31

Now Now let's get this right. You're a campus pastor. Two to 3000 people pull in that to from different directions. Your daughter is involved in lots of extracurricular activities. Wife is an attorney. I just want to get that clear to people out there. They're saying, Oh, I don't have time to be with you. You sit down as a family together. And I cook dinner five or six times a week. Yeah, you sit around a table and eat together and talk Yeah, that's incredible. Yeah.

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25:02

And people need to know that. And there's no, we're not supposed to have phones at the dinner table either. I have violated that rule before Gina has Emily and has, but we all keep each other accountable for it.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 25:13

Yeah. And so you know, it's that's a message to to the, to the people in your church and at any church, your pastor, as a family. Yeah. If he doesn't answer the phone, because you need to, you know, understand that. Let me ask you this. It's a one liner, what does it take to be a great dad, can you sum that up in one sentence, or even one word?

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25:38

I can't sit, I can't sum it up in one sentence, or one word, in this thought just popped in my mind about this, I think. I think a lot of people look at the the natural of being a dad. But, you know, there's two guys in here with us that, to my knowledge, aren't dads yet. They don't have children yet. But they're spiritual dads, because they mentor people. And, and so first, I would say, you don't have to have a kid to be a dad, you can still be a dad in someone's life. But in

the special relationship of a child in your home, in your world, I think the the number one thing that it takes is just faith in God to know that he's going to give you the wisdom to get it right that your mistakes that you're going to make, he doesn't see his failures, he sees them as opportunities for second chances. And your kids give you more grace than you realize. But you need to extend the same grace to them that you'd like them to extend to you. And that's something that I have to remember a lot. Because I mean, I just had a conversation with my daughter today. That was I was pretty passionate about a couple of things. And I have to remind myself that I'm asking her to give me grace. But I need to give her the same grace that I'm willing to receive. Now, that is mean, please understand, I'm not saying grace, grace, grace, do not discipline. That's not what I'm saying. I'm saying grace in the true nature of the word, Grace, meaning, hey, just give me a little flexibility. You know, I'll be flexible with you. You be flexible with me. And so I think it's great to be flexible, know that things change. And they change on the spur of the moment. You know, I think sometimes as a dad, I think about why doesn't she understand this, this and this. And I found myself even saying, I'm sure you never said this. But when I was a kid, I actually said that today, when I was your age at a job,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 27:44

it doesn't work, doesn't work.

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I mean, how does that motivate anyone. And so, I think you just have to just understand that they're not going to know everything that you know now and not, they don't have the wisdom that you have. But what they do have is you. So when you have moments with them, this probably is the biggest thing to me. No matter how busy your life is, when you have Moments with your kids, no matter if they are biological, adopted or spiritual, be all there. Don't be divided, be all there, put the phone away, be in the moment with the kids, because that's what they really need the most is your time. And, and not your resources from a monetary standpoint, but your resources of wisdom and just imparting the things that you know, to them, they just need you there.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 28:41

Just be there. That's awesome. I want to give you as we get ready to close, I want to give you a chance to do something. And I'm going to ask you to look into this camera over here. You and your dad have a great relationship. You've been blessed. You never know when you when you you know when we're going to lose our dad. I was able to sit right where we are. And to tell my dad thank you and to tell him how I felt about him. And pray that you have many, many more years with him. Yeah. Well, I want to give you the opportunity to look in the camera and speak to your dad. And tell him what you think about him. All right, I'll sit back and be quiet.

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29:24

Okay. Well, Dad, I love you. And I'm just so thankful that even though that moment in San Antonio, you said you missed the times that you needed us that you couldn't be there. I thank you that I never remember a time that I needed you that you weren't there. And you made so

you that I never remember a time that I needed you that you weren't there. And you made so many sacrifices so that I could pursue every dream that I had. Whether it was football, baseball, swimming, music acting no matter what it was. You were there mean? When I was in performing art school, you built the sets so that I could have a scholarship. And mom made the costumes so that I could have a scholarship you did everything and you didn't do it from from a place of selfless ambition or anything you you put, just like Ephesians tells us, you put our needs above yours. And you didn't think of yourselves as better. In fact, you you thought of us as more and you never ever once made me feel as though I wasn't good enough that I wasn't smart enough, you never made me feel as though I was a failure, even though I failed. You always helped me just to put my boots back on and get going. And I want to thank you for showing me what it means to work hard, teaching me how to fish teaching me how to drive a boat, even just two weeks ago talking to me about boat trailers. And I wish we had more opportunities right now to get together. But the physical distance as we both know is difficult. Traveling to see one another, but I hope one day soon, maybe you and I can go fishing again, on the flats in the same March River and and catch some catch some good mackerel, some good trout, maybe even a red fish if we're lucky. And I love you, dad. And I'm so thankful for you. And thank you for the example that you set for me and showing me how to be a good dad. Even though I know that you'd say you failed at times, I think we all would say that. That we have failed at some point or another. But you always showed me how to be a good dad, how to be a good husband. And you were always a great listener. And I love you, dad.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 31:55

That's awesome. Thank you for doing that. I know that means a lot to your dad. And the little girl that you call your baby has given you a little gift we want to share with you here.



32:08

Which I like best about you is that I can go to you with anything that I need. And you're always there for me and help me with anything that I need. You are also the biggest role model in my life. And I thank you that I can trust you with anything and that I know that even if I do something bad, he will always be there for me. And you will always help me get through it. And that you won't look at me any differently.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 32:41

So how do you feel about that?



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I think it's kind of cool. That some of the things I just said about my dad, she said about me. And to think this she, I guess sent that today when I just had that conversation with her today that I alluded to is pretty cool. Pretty cool. And I'm sweating bullets and

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Scott Hilton (Host) 33:12

it's awesome being a dad. It's awesome. Thank you, Mark. I appreciate all you do in the community. Appreciate the friendship that we've been able to share for the last 12 or 15 years now. Look forward to many more. Keep up the good work and keep being a good dad. Thanks, Scott. That'll conclude this episode of that's my dad where we're breaking cycles of generational fatherlessness and teaching young guys to become great dads young fathers to become great dads. See you next week.