

SHOWNOTES - Ric Callahan (31/50)

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host), Ric Callahan (Guest)

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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:15

Welcome again to the that's my dad podcast got Rick Callahan here today. Rick is the most talented person I've ever met. I'm not that one an introduction to say, Wow, he's the most talented, but you know, you got a lot of talents in a lot of different areas. So you first of all, Rick is a children's minister. He's conference speakers does a lot of marriage conferences, children's comp Susie's consultant for a lot of things. But he's also a college basketball coach of sorts of character coach after coach, Sanford University basketball program. Musician, I play the guitar, the drums, whatever, little bit everything. An athlete. Rick is a former all Conference Baseball player, longest home run hitter I've ever seen. And 110 Man state basketball championship, and even try a little bit of wrestling.

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Ric Callahan (Guest) 01:18

Yeah, that didn't go so well. Yeah, he's so this guy.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 01:21

He's multi talented builds guitars on the side. But we're going to talk to you today about something that he's done an awful lot of. And, of course, this is about fatherhood. But we're going to talk about mentoring, because you've done a ton of mentoring, and want to hear some of your stories about that. But let's start out by us. Tell us a little bit about yourself and you've and your background. And then there's a little secret. We'll let him out on just a few minutes. Okay,

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01:49

so I grew up in Birmingham area and and after I graduate from high school, I went to Samford University, and I did get to play baseball there. And while I was at Sanford, I met my wife, whose name is Carla, and Carla just retired as a school teacher, mostly first grade all those

years. And I have two daughters, Khari and Cassie, and carries in her early 30s and Cass's in her late 20s.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 02:16

All right, and you're on staff at a church.

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I'm at Westwood Baptist Church, and I'm the pastor of families at Westwood.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 02:24

And you've been in that role in a couple of different churches. Through through the years I'm I mean, how many years have you been in ministry? Now let's

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02:31

say this year would be 42 years in ministry since I started,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 02:35

you're getting Oh my God, I am. So one of the things that I've noticed you've always done is you've had a tendency to take younger folks and kind of bring them along. And you've done that with me as well. And why is it that you you've why is that important for us to do for, for us older guys to be taken younger guys under our wings and kind of bringing them along and helping them through the navigate life?

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03:03

Well, first of all, life is hard. And you need some help. There are some people in life that can answer questions that you have, it's important to have those people that you trust. I know that when I grew up, Scott, I had guys in my community that that my dad told me, hey, you need to get to know these guys. And those guys would pour into me some of those guys were bar coaches, some are more people from church. Some of those guys were just friends that lived up and down the street close to us. And all those guys poured into my life and they meant something to me.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 03:37

So you're just kind of returning that you kind of pay it forward and returning what what was given to you



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a little bit. I think that thing is it's important for us to be givers. And so for me to give back by spending some time with a younger guy, I think makes a difference in their lives. And it's good for me to be a part of that as well.



Scott Hilton (Host) 03:56

Yeah. So there's an interesting story I want to tell about something your dad taught you about honesty.



04:04

You sure I should tell that? Well, I



Scott Hilton (Host) 04:07

mean, you've been forgiven. Oh, here's the



04:09

deal. So I need a little extra money. I had a baseball, I had a lot of baseballs. And there was this kid that lived down the street from me. His name was George and George collected baseball cards and all kinds of baseball memorabilia. And he was younger than me. He was probably three years younger than me. And so George was just say a man he loved Babe Ruth, and he just really liked Babe Ruth, and he had some Babe Ruth cards and stuff like that. And I said, Well, I've got a Babe Ruth baseball autographed baseball. And he's like, crazy, man. That's awesome. I'd love to have a bite. I said, Man, I'll sell it to you for \$10 And he said, I've got \$10 And so I ran home. And I got a baseball and I signed Babe Ruth on it. And I took it back to him and yeah, he gave me \$10. So I'm thinking great deal, you know? And so I didn't realize said the baseball had Dixie youth on it as well. So later that night, we're at home and my dad gets a phone call from George's dad course I didn't know this and it was phone call and dad's like, Okay, I'll take care of it. And that gets off the phone says, son get in the car. And I'm like, What are we doing? And so he took me back to George's house. And he made me apologize and tell the truth, and give him back the money. And let him keep the ball two



Scott Hilton (Host) 05:35

hours. So you lost them,



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I lost, I lost investment in the horse. Then on the way home, there was that long conversation

about honesty, how important it was to treat people fairly. And all of those kinds of

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Scott Hilton (Host) 05:47

conversations were the worst. I mean, when you really just take a weapon, yeah,



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just give me a weapon. You know, my grandfather, shoot, he would just talk and talk and talk and talk. And I'm like, please just spank me, just don't let granny switch me.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 06:02

Speaking to that, you know, we kind of didn't start here, because I didn't want to scare anybody off or don't embarrass you either. But we are first cousins we are. So it's a word of the recipient of a lot of generational blessings. And that's one of the things I want to talk about, because it's kind of rare that, you know, to you've been in ministry, and you've you've literally impacted DOM was like 1000s. Now think that's an exaggeration. 1000s of people, whether it be through speaking at conferences, or one on one mentoring, or leading a small group in your home, or right now you're leading a men's group, and you're home and you're coaching thing at Samford University, you're working with those basketball players, right. So you've had a tremendous impact on literally 1000s of people. And then I you know, I was fortunate enough to open a Boys Ranch in Eagle Rock ranch, and we raised over 300 kids, they're incredible, you know, 32 years of, of ministry, but we were, we were blessed to have wonderful grandparents that we share. Your your mom and my dad are siblings, right. But now that great grandparents. And so one of the things that happens generationally is that the the blessings that we pass down to our kids get passed down to their kids and get passed down.



07:30

You're exactly right. We are very blessed to have good examples in our family. I would call it a grace gift, a grace gift that God has given you and I that some other people who have been on this podcast in the past, haven't really received those kind of grace gifts from their families. But you and I are unbelievably blessed by the example of our grandfather, great grandfather, our fathers as well.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:57

Yeah. And I think part of the part of what they taught us is where much is given, much is required. So you've given a lot through the years to other people. And I'm not talking about money, although you have. But this time, and I've tried to give a lot of time because we were blessed with that. Tell me about your relationship with your dad.



08:18

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Yeah, tell you so my dad grew up kind of in a tough situation to not because he wasn't taken care of by his parents, but they had nine kids in a two bedroom house. He didn't grow up far from where I grew up. But they just had a lot of kids and his dad was a coal miner. His mom stayed at home and took care of things. And so best I can remember from having conversations with Dad somewhere around 13 years old. He actually so he could get sleep at night and didn't have sleep with three other brothers. He went to a house down the street where he had a friend, and he basically stayed there and he'd go home and eat and he'd go back and stay there. And of course, when he got old enough, in our high school, he went on to the Navy, got in the military for a few years. And but man, I tell you what, my dad was a really great dad. He did so many things, right? He wasn't always sure of himself, because his dad was basically the provider. That was his job. And my dad wanted to spend time with me. And so we played a lot of ball together. We went fishing a whole bunch. He spent a lot of time with me. My dad liked to sing country music, gospel music, and he always had friends that would play guitar, banjos, mandolins, all that kind of stuff. They'd come to the house, and they would sing and I enjoyed watching them and being a part of that. So So I love my dad a whole lot. He got sick pretty early. But he was a really good dad, especially when I was here. On worked hard to, they worked at the railroad. Yeah, it worked for the railroad. He worked 11 to seven, the whole time he worked. And so what was interesting about that as we were getting ready for bed, and he was leaving to go to work, and when we get up in the morning, he was getting ready to go to school. He was coming in from work. The good thing about that is somewhere around three o'clock in afternoon when we got home, he was home. And so he could do stuff with us and afternoons.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 10:27

Yeah. Would you like to say something to to your dad? I know he's passed now. But what would you say to him,



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man? You know what, I'm so proud of you for being a dad that just took responsibility to be a good dad and a good husband. And, and a good person in the community, a mentor and a coach to so many young guys. And Dad, I'm so proud of you for for being a Christian leader. And for being a guy that didn't give up on us and that encouraged us to be our absolute best.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 11:00

Okay. So your dad now? Yeah. Good. Girl, daddy. Yeah, I got two girls, three girls. What are you girls mean to you?



11:12

And I'll tell you what, Cory and Cassie. Once again, my wife and my girls are incredible blessing. A grace gift to me that humbles me. I don't I don't deserve having kids like a half. It's nothing I've done. My I've loved them. And I've tried to do a good job. But my girls are confident.



11:46

Their leaders. They are smart. They're pretty. They are good friends to their friends. And when I watched them, I'm just so proud. So proud of how they love people. How they care.



Scott Hilton (Host) 12:08

How often did you and your family have dinner together?



12:13

Oh man, what was it every night. But it was almost every night. It was a real priority at our house to have dinner together. Matter of fact, my wife's a really good cook, so I wasn't gonna miss dinner. And so, but my girls would be at dinner as well. Of course, we had schedules, both of my girls played high school sports. And so and we had church, a church can give you a lot of activities as well, yeah. But we made it a priority to eat together. There were times where we eat out somewhere. Didn't matter where we ate as a family. We always had prayer together. It didn't matter if it was at Buffalo Wild Wings, or if it was at a McDonald's, we had prayer together. But when we were at home, we always we always had conversation around the table. And if a friend was there with our girls, hey, we had the conversation with them. And we played a little game went around the table and we call it Harlow. So you would share your heart from the day and your load from the day. And that would give us some discussion starters. And our girls will tell you that we had a lot of theological discussions around the table, especially as they got to be teenage girls, and they were dealing with issues at school and learning things from church. What do you hope that



Scott Hilton (Host) 13:23

they'll say about you one day.



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I hope they would say that, that I was a good dad. I was kind tender hearted. I was not harsh. I hope they'll say they had fun with me that we laughed a lot. And that we enjoyed being with each other, that we liked playing together. Those are the kinds of things I hope they'll say I'm definitely the spiritual leader of the home. And that I love my I love my wife. And I set a good example for them and the love that I showed her. What



Scott Hilton (Host) 13:56

do you think is particularly with girls? What are some special things that you that you do? I know you used to take them on dates and things like that? Yeah, when they were younger. So



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what's kind of interesting, girls, yeah, so when they were growing up, I had the privilege for several years to take them to school in the morning cuz their mom was a school teacher, she had to leave before I did in the morning. And so I would take the girls to school, I would take certain days that I would leave a lot early, and we'd go eat breakfast somewhere. And there was a couple of really, like really cool places that they like to go and eat breakfast was just good old country breakfast and and so we would have those times. And at those places there were usually men who I knew that were eating there too, and they would see how I interacted with other people. And those men got to know my daughters and expects us there on Thursdays. So those kinds of things were cool. Other than that we kept an open relationship. I feel like my girls were always able and still are able to approach me ask me questions, share open thoughts with me. I would be really surprised if they kept stuff from me on purpose.



Scott Hilton (Host) 15:11

So you spent a lifetime mentoring those guys at Stanford basketball players, what are you trying to accomplish with them?



15:18

These guys are 18 to 23 years old, somewhere in there, a couple of them 24. And a division one, basketball is an interesting deal. There's a lot of pressure. And this team is no different. But there are a lot of young men in division one sports that grew up without a father. And the only person that's really poured into them over the years has been either their mom, the grandma or a coach. And so a lot of these guys are only recognized for their skills. And so my role was to come in to the team and to just love on these guys, to be an encourager to them, to teach them what it means to be a man of integrity, to be a man of honesty, to be a man with a great work ethic to be a man that does what he says and says what he does a man that that will push his limits, even further than he would ever imagine a man that can have some dreams and visions beyond basketball. Most of these guys, all they're thinking about is basketball. I mean, that's it, right? Being an all or more play NBA, but guess what, even if they play NBA by about 3035 years old, guess what they're gonna be doing life. And so part of my role is to help prepare them for life. Now, what's great is I get to pour into the lives of the coaches as well, and do some training on both ends. And so now we have a situation where the coaches and are on the same page, let's help prepare these young men for life. And in the meantime, let's have a great time playing basketball, and teach these guys to be the highest skilled basketball players they can possibly be. And so, in the midst of that, I get to share the gospel, I get to talk about God. And I get to spend time with these guys. So they've been to my house, they played on the lake with me, they random boats, they fished with me, we've been out to eat a lot of restaurants by the way, I took them all out to eat last year, and you pay for that meal. That's a big meal. And, and but we get opportunities. Most recently, I had a young man come to me and say, Tell me about God. I don't know anything about God. I've grown up, I'm 23 years old. What is this God thing about?



Scott Hilton (Host) 17:39

Wow, we, as you know, we have a custom here of getting a little video from your family. And

wow, we, as you know, we have a custom here of getting a little video from your family. And there was no earthly way we're going to get everybody that you have mentored through the years. But we got just one or two. Okay, and they're gonna be added to your family. But I want people to pay attention to what's your particularly what your wife and kids say about you in this video.



18:11

Hello, honey, we both know that marriage isn't easy and raising children sure is it. But Renee, you have done your very best to make it easier. You have loved all three of us girls very well. You have gone over and beyond to make sure our needs and even our wants are met. We have also always felt very protected and secure not just because of your huge guns, but because of your calm and strong presence in our lives. We trust you even when you go running around our house or camper in your attendees with your big stick to catch whoever or whatever is outside. We have traveled all over the world whether it be for vacations or mission trips. We have traveled all over the US pulling a camper and we have too many crazy camping stories to even tell from riding on a dog sled atop an Alaskan glacier ziplining through Blasian jungles swimming with fog blitzing rays in the clear blue Caribbean, hiking in the Grand Canyon sharing the gospel in the Ukraine, sharing the gospel in Belize and many other places to fishing for croppin on our leg. You have made life fun and exciting for our girls and for me. We've done ministry together for 40 years and I have seen firsthand what an incredible impact you have had on hundreds of lives probably 1000s. You sit beside me and encourage me the three years I've battled cancer, and I know that was very difficult on many levels. Thank you for being a man of integrity and the spiritual leader of our home. Thank you for being faithful for loving us unconditionally, and forgiving and forgetting justice Christ. You are a wonderful best friend and I love you very much.



19:50

Hey, Dad, it's your fun kid. Just wanted to hop on here and say how much I love and appreciate you. One of my favorite things about you is how goofy and silly Lily, you and I have always been able to be together. One of my favorite memories of us is on the flight to San Francisco, we were in the very backseat of the plane and mom and Khari were two seats in front of us and, and you and I were being loud and goofy, and the two men in front of us were definitely annoyed. But we were laughing so hard that you were doing your smoker's laugh. And you had your like airplane neck pillow over your head, and you had another one here. And then you're like, acting like one was a shark. And it was just, it's one of my favorite memories. And it's the picture of you that pops up on my phone when you call and it makes me laugh every time. But aside of just having fun and being goofy together, you've always been an encourager, whether I was playing sports, or you're teaching me how to do a new trick on the trampoline, or we're out playing basketball in the freezing cold at night. Or just in the work life in the business world, which is a lot different for me than kind of what you and mom do. You've always listened and you've always encouraged but you also always lead by example to, to do what is right no matter what, and to keep trust in the Lord no matter what. And so that just means a lot to me, on top of the fun and goofy relationship that we have. I'm probably one of the very few kids in this world who can say their dad led them to Christ, but also got to baptize her. And you got to baptize like half of my friends. So that's a really cool story. And it's neat to just see how you've continued doing ministry, whether that's at church or in an Uber ride in Seattle, trying to talk to our Uber driver, or dealing with the Stanford basketball guys, it's just been a real testimony to

see you make much of Jesus wherever you go, and the Lord's been faithful and that, that it's encouraging for those of us who look up to you, because we know that if we make much of Jesus, wherever we go, will be blessed also, love you.



22:18

Hey, Dad, first of all, I am just so grateful for you for how you have read and loved our family. And just taught us so much about the Lord in Scripture and how you've pointed us to him in so many different areas of our lives. I think of you as a protector, you even as a little girl, when I was afraid to get to sleep by myself in my room, and you did karate on all the invisible monsters in my bedroom. And then just how you have carried that one, even as an adult and living in my own house, and how you've made sure that I have everything that I need to be safe and well cared for. And then I also am just so grateful for how you have encouraged me to follow the Lord's calling all my life, whether that be in ministry, or in foster care, or just in different friendships and college and all the different things that you have encouraged and supported me and taught through so many different things with me. And then also how you've just made them happen for a lot of different things and how you've gotten to be a part of my ministry and how I've gotten to be a part of your ministry over the years. I'm just so grateful for those opportunities. There's just so kind of the Lord to give me a chance to serve alongside my dad. And so I'm thankful for how you've taught me in those areas as well. And then, just another thing that I'm just so grateful for, is how you have been so much fun how we've gone on so many cool trips, and how you have been a jokester and a silly dude just all the time, and how much fun you make everything. I'm just so grateful for all the men and women and kids that you've impacted throughout your ministry and through your life. I'm just so proud of how you lead people and love people so well. And I love getting to be your daughter and I'm so grateful and I love you so much.



24:30

Brother Rick Callahan is not only the best boss ever, but he is an amazing friend. He is an incredible leader who serves not only the families in their church, but the children as well. He is a great encourager, and I'm blessed to have been under his supervision for so long, and I'm also blessed to be calling him my friend.



24:55

Hey brother, Rick, I so appreciate the way you teach and lead and set an example to the people around you of how we can trust God, no matter what. One of my favorite memories from working in ministry with you was during preteen extreme when I played Joy from Inside Out, you totally let me interrupt one of your sermons just to see what the kids and teach them. A wise man built his house on the rock. Thank you so much, brother, Rick.



25:21

I appreciate brother Rick because he sang he sang a funny song. He seems funny songs like Goldilocks and the Three Bears backwards. And he has box guitar, he seems with it. And he plans fun things for the children at the church like the man in obstacle course where you had

plans fun things for the children at the church, like the man up obstacle course where you had to try and race through to you as fast as and he did a dodgeball thing in the back of the church. And he listened to me when I was telling him about a friend who doesn't know Christ. And he let me have a Bible to give to her. And that's why I appreciate brother.



26:24

Here's why I appreciate brother Rick. He's an awesome leader. He's always so nice to the boys. Like, just one time when we were doing man up, he walked into the room and he was like, You're the only boys who can do this. I always thought I always feel so appreciated around brother Rick, and he's such an amazing pastor.



26:55

What I like about brother Rick is he's so sweet. And he's so funny. And I'm glad he teaches. I will say that. And he plays guitar. I love you, brother.



Scott Hilton (Host) 27:12

That's awesome. That's awesome. And we could have gone on and on. Rick, can we communicate? Well, one of your your guys Justin Coleman. Yeah, he was a bass really great basketball player and isn't just a phenomenal person now and he attributes a lot of his success to you as well. So we we just didn't have time to. We could have gone on and on. That could have been the whole program. But a lot of guys appreciate you including myself. And you've you've changed the world. And when the more people like you



27:51

it's not all my own power. It's a privilege



Scott Hilton (Host) 27:57

and blessing to me and thanks for sharing your story wireless gave us gonna inspire somebody. That'll conclude this episode. That's my dad podcast where we're inspiring fathers to be great dads, and we're seeking to break the cycles of generational fatherlessness. Thanks and we'll see you next week.