

SHOWNOTES - Tommy Marshall (13/50)

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host)

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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:14

Well, welcome. Welcome back to another episode of this my dad, Tommy Marshall here Tommy's has one of the most incredible stories that I've ever heard. So Tommy kind of how this came about was, you had spoken at a conference, I believe that my dad had attended. And yes, I told my daddy, so then, you know, I'm trying to get some people in here who can inspire young man. And as a day, I really think it would be good if I had some guys who had grown up in a difficult situation. And he hit that as a boy, you gotta get Tommy Marshall, you just won't believe that, that story of what, what that guy has not only been through, but overcame and where you are today. So I got a feeling that this is going to be one of those podcasts where I do a lot of listening, because you've got a ton of story to tell. And I think it's something that there are a lot of kids who are gonna benefit from it. But Tommy has one of our script flipper stories, too. He's turned things around, we're gonna get there. So I think Tommy, the best thing I can do is just sit back and say, you know, tell me this story. I think it's a it's a crazy story. But I think it's something people need to hear.



01:31

But it's it's an honor to be here. And I love to talk about it. Because of how God has flipped the script, the reverse look that I do teach in home. And we, as I were raised here in the area of Gadson area, actually my ancestors are from south side and we lived there till I was about eight year old North guys while eight year old there but my dad was he was a great man. He really was had a heart. There's things I can get into what he taught me how to love unconditionally. He did and my mother was was something else. She led the way for many years. But my my life was my dad came from a well known family in the Southside area. Most all Southside knew him for good reasons and bad reasons. And when he's sober everybody loved him. But my dad had an alcohol problem he was a full blown alcoholic and he dabbled with some some other drugs some to and his latter part of our the middle part of his addiction. Road he was on and that wouldn't wouldn't plays it for me and my three sisters. My dad would tell me his son don't do what I do do what I say do but I'd watch him get get this blown away with drinking. And he had buddies that would slip me something to drink too. And I was just a kid. You know, don't tell your daddy, but here you go kind of things. So I grew up in that he when he got drunk is

violent, but my dad got put in jail 11 times in one month for drinking and tear into Cydia. They take him to jail, get stay in there while he get out. He'd say he's gonna stay straight. He'd get mom back home, they did blow up again. And that just went on and on most of my life, I'd see him do things and my mom raised me in church. She had take us to church and come home take her beaten on Saturday night. She'd be in church Sunday morning, just the way it was. Most phenomenal lady. I've never met nobody like her. And she she would work at the church, clean in church, whatever she could do to get away from the environment. But she had always be there for his kids and we got him from school or whatever. In the summertime, she had balance whatever she had to balance. But I'm telling you that to say that she was a tremendous lady, but my mom when my dad when I got 14, my dad told her so you don't have to go to church for you anymore. He'd gone with me. So I'd go to all his buddies houses and places where they'd hang out and get drunk not play music because I'm a guitarist, I'm singer. I play music for all the drunks and and watch them react and never seen so many. I've never seen grown men Squall like a bunch of drunk me and when you play certain songs, it's kind of humorous, but it's sad. And the one that dad saying and I got to note in that in my mind, Lord, help me Jesus. I've wasted it so so that told me something because I'd say grown men fall out on couches and then flowers crying, because that song says, Lord help me Jesus have wasted is so hit me Jesus. I know we won't. We're limited time but see my grant my great granddaddy. My granddaddy, my daddy was full blown alcoholics that stay drunk for five, six weeks at the time. But one day my dad was also a businessman when he was sober stay sober eight years, one time had one of the one of the most successful Lawn Care Companies sober eight years, one landscaper of the year in the city against but then he had an affair with his secretary left my mama after 24 years, and it crashed on him. He went from having the successful lawn care company, landscaper of the year, had all the big accounts like all the hospitals and things that he would do. He went from there, in a barn in a shed sleeping on a dirt floor, lost it all. Went to drank and again like he did when I was a kid, stay in drunk solid.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 05:37

Tell us about that day at the tumor at school. You were in high school and the principal came and got you.



05:44

He was at a he worked it and those were the seasons he could stay sober longer at the time, but he'd slip and go back. So he and I got to really you know, connect in ways there. But now Now I'm a I'm a freshman in Gaston High School on 12th Street, the old school and we'd had to leave. He had beat my mother we had to leave we go to my mother called her her aunt, but she really wouldn't blood kin but they were like family and they they helped my mother a lot when my mother was young because my mother's dad died when she was young and her mother had some issues. They took the scene because they knew if mom ever needed it to be there, they'd take a seat. Well, Mom would carry me to school, carry us all to school that morning, and I'm at Gadsden, High School. Miss Walker is class in the ninth grade. And here comes the principal knocking on our door tapping on our door. Miss Walker said Yes, sir. Mr. Beau shale said I need to see Tommy Marshall out in the hall. Of course, all the kids who Oh, they thought I was in trouble. But I did get in a lot of trouble and old days, because that's what happens when you go through what I went through. But I went out in the hall and didn't know what I'd done. Didn't know what was going on really? That he would want me out there and I

walk out into the hall and he closed we closed the door. He said, Tommy you don't know this. But I'm at a what your daddy. He said and your daddy said he's about to die. He's been drunk six weeks and you don't know if somebody don't get there. He don't know if he's gonna make it. I'm 14 year old. I said yes sir. Thank you for telling me Mr. Bolshaya he said I'm gonna go sign you out and you go go happy daddy. Guess he thought I drove because my dad where he was he let me drive it 14 I drove all over the place. I'm sure Bosio salt me calories. Moshe probably saw me pull on out school before in a car. But that day we were living with a Strickland's and Mama brought me to school. I didn't have a car. But I ran all the way home. And I walked in that house and my dad had been drunk for six weeks. He had the same T shirt on it was yellow. Of course all the stuff that happens when you're drinking that long and the stuff that that you have just wallowing in it. And he couldn't get out of the bed. He laying over on the bed but he couldn't get up. Now he said, Son, here's what he said when I walked in the door. I don't think I have mentioned this to you about what didn't didn't hit me. But I'm just thinking when I walked in that bedroom door, he said I knew you would come to what he said I knew you would come this way called Claire's bookshelf. So I were in in and he said son I need to go the bathroom but I can't go myself. i This is the man. That three carloads of police would come arrest him. They wouldn't shoot you back then they tried to manhandle you and he would fight for hours. They are for a long time. It takes them a couple hours to get him and he'd say let me drag to arrest my whiskey, I'd go to jail. We seen that many times. I'm a teenager watching my dad do this row. And it just began to do things inside of me that messed up a lot of things that but they'd get him in the car and take him to jail because I know a lot of retired police officers that told me said we used to hate to come arrest her daddy. His nickname was big, big Sam at a while county jail. So So now though, I'm wrapping my hand around his yellow T shirt. You can imagine what's all in that shirt. And I lift him up. And I get him on the floor and I had to balance him as he walked to go to the bathroom. He's holding up on the wall and I gave him some privacy and he calls me back and I wrap my hand around his shirt again and I begin to pull him and help him balance or get him back lay him in the bed. And he's in that bed and I get him his feet up on the bed and I pull a stool up and I sit on it. So I got to ask your dad He asked you son he's a Wazza. Why are you doing this? Why are you destroying our namely, why are you beaten my mother to she falls out on the floor of five foot two lady. Here you are the big man that you are three call outs, police arrest you tearing our house apart. He's He's tore our house up many times. And we had to run out and sleep on Park pages in the back of cars wherever we could do we could get a place to stay. Wow. He looked at me guys that day. Scott, he looked at me and he said, Son, I'm just trying to escape.



10:35

And I said, What do you mean? He said, Son, if I get drunk enough and get high enough, I don't have to think about reality. I don't have to think about the things been done to me, or the things that I've done to others.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 10:47

So your dad had had some tough experiences. I think you told me one time that his he had been a victim of abuse, I believe his dad and his mother. And there's been generations of that in your family for four generations, abusive relationships and alcohol. And yes, sir. Just tragedy. But you kind of you follow it in your dad steps there for a long time. Tell us about that.



11:13

I got married dating to the same woman I'm married to today. The miracle that we stayed together. For seven years of our life was horrible. We had a child, rather, right when we got married, and I was pursuing music career, why have my daddy the one if he's a good dad or a bad debt, if you're a kid, you want to please Him you want to do what you can, that he would be proud of. He said, Son, we have what we've never had, this man is going to introduce you to people in the music industry. You can you can make money. You can sell records, you can get famous and we'll have things we've never been able to have materialize what I do, I put my heart in it, because that's what my dad said. Even though my wife suffered from it, my daughter in the first seven years of her life suffered from it. I knew I loved when I traveled, I quit my job I had in the city here. They didn't want me to quit. Because they said that, oh, we don't want you to want to want to lose you as an employee. So well, I got to pursue this music career. He said, Well, if you get if you get if you get out there and it doesn't make it, you come back here. I said, All right. So I went on, follow that career, and it was going. So now I'm ready to sit down and sign the main contract. I then told my wife I'm going up here and meeting with him on Music Row, we're gonna do this thing. I'm meeting my music industry people I'm meeting with the money people, Nashville now musicians on my records and stuff. I said, they want me to sign it. And if I sign this, we're going to be selling our house here. We're moving to Nashville. She's, she's gonna go with me. And I'm in that meeting, Scott, and I'm listening to all their proposal. And all I gotta do is sign that outline. But the Lord began to speak to me, said you have it. But you're gonna lose your wife, and you're gonna lose your laugh. But I got up in the middle of that meeting with all those people in that in that conference room. I said, mobile quit talking about this. They looked at me. What do you mean, and that me and Eric kicked back in his chair. I don't know what you're talking about. And I said, I am not signing this. I didn't have the courage to tell him I was gonna lose my life. But I did say I don't want to lose my wife. And he kept back in that chair, he said is that oh, we'll get you all the wives you won't. That's the way that music industry works for most. I said, not me, you won't. I got one God gave me. I'm going back to Gaston. This, this meeting is over. I came back home walked in the door. My wife said what are you doing here? Because I wouldn't post been home for a couple more days. I said I turned it down. She said I wish I could believe you. So don't blame me. I wouldn't believe me either. Now, while I put you through seven years, she said what are you going to do now? I said, well, so that little girl sitting right over there on the floor. I'm getting her ready. I'm getting her ready. Sunday and we're going to church. I know that. And I said when you get ready to come you're a grown woman. I can't make you go but when you get ready to come I swear you'll find us.



Scott Hilton (Host) 14:52

Your daughter's grown up now. And you have Yeah. Tell us about your grandkids. Yeah, I



14:56

gotta tell you about them, but I'm proud of them. I wear them shirt. But my daughter, son in law, got married and they wanted to start a family and they couldn't have children. They went and tested in all these places to see why. And now the stats that no matter right now, but biologically, they couldn't have kids. But they wanted kids. It wasn't long that I got a call from a lady. How many years have gone by I'm in full time ministry. Now I've left the two shop, I'm in

full time ministry. And my daughter calls me say, Dad, there is a relationship thing with some of her husband side of the family. She said we need to talk to this lady told me her name. So we'll come on baby at a scale. We went to my office at church. Here was a grandmother sitting in my sitting in my chair, and my office chair right in front of my desk. And I'm here her talking about her son is a full blown drug addict. And she's raising one of his kids. And at that moment at that time, because of his relationship with another lady that it didn't work out. She said, the lady he's with now is about to have a kid and I can't raise another kid. I don't know one of them one day. So well, let's pray about it. Let's see what we can do. And about I wanted to help her because I know what she was at. I know what she's going through. We got a phone call that night in my office saying that baby was being born. My daughter and I took that grandmother to river view because they were still delivering child children at that time. Now they don't deliver children anymore. It's alligators and regional. We went and saw that beautiful baby. They held it up the window. Her granddaughter. Four months later that baby came home to my daughter. And now my son in law my daughter and my six year old granddaughter is in Gatlinburg. This little six year old girl had her mom and daddy at Build A Bear shop and get lumber. She said Mom, Dad, are you going up? Over there? I won't I want to build you a surprise. Mom and Daddy said are you sure? The clerk said Yeah, yeah, go over there. You watch this. I worked with her. She built this little creation in the Build A Bear shop. And she called mama daddy said come over Mom and Daddy. I'm ready to show him to you. Mama daddy came over. She had it behind her back when they got there. She pulled out a pink penguin. She said I want you to meet happy day. six year old now. I want you to meet happy day. Push his belly button mama. Tara celebration and post his belly and nails are recording in Happy day that said thank you Jesus for my baby brother. And I get a phone call. And at our home. We still had a landline there now we all got a cell phone but the phone rang. And my wife said here is Nancy Nancy wants to talk to you. Everybody knows the story of him. My son, my grandson nine year old but he knows the whole story too now. So Nancy was stopped too. So I got the phone and I said yeah, Nancy. I know y'all been trying to wonder what happened to me where I be and I said you better believe it. We've been trying to find you sweetheart. I want you to get plugged back in Come on, what will we miss you? She said, Well, I gotta tell you something I said was a. She said well, I met a guy. And I got hooked up with him. And we went on a journey. I said well, okay. She said, Well, I'm pregnant. And I told him and he said he didn't want to do with it. So he left. Now I'm all alone. I'm back. You know where I was and but now I got a baby on the way and I can't raise another baby. And she said, I got to ask you something. I said well, I said Honey, do you think that terrier tears ready to adopt again? I said so well. I can't answer that for them. But I'm gonna give this phone back to Patti, which is my wife. I said if we're supposed to be having a meeting, we'll have a meeting here. So I got home we had a meeting set up next day. Nine months from happy day. I can show you the fig I can prove it. But nine months from the day of happy day. Baby brother was born.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 19:43

Let me Europe. You can relate to guys unlike American because I grew up with a totally different situation. My dad, but I want you to look into the camera and speak to the young man who's in the situation you were in, and give him some hope and little, little direction as to how things can get turned around, you now have a wonderful family, you've you've given up the addictions, the alcohol, all that stuff and think your life is totally different. And your kid's life is going to be totally different from what you had. So speak to the young man for just a minute and try to give him some hope as we wrap up.



20:26

Otter to young man, I want to tell you, I know. I know what you're going through, if it's not a good situation, I've lived it. And I can tell you that if it is that way, go to the Lord with all your heart. I want to leave you with a thought here that I go back to that Jeremiah one, chapter one, verse five, where he says, Before I formed you in the belly, I knew you. You are wonderfully made. God's perfect plan was that your dad be in your life. But what I want to tell you is when God when dad blows it, if he does, it's not over. God himself can fill the voids. Don't run, don't turn to alcohol, don't turn to drugs, don't turn to any worldly measure, turn to God,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:27

we got one more little thing we want to share with you you've you've flipped the script on your family. And we're there's good seeds sown. There's a good harvest. And we got to share a little bit that way.



21:44

I'm so thankful. And I love my father very much. And there are many reasons why. But some important reasons is that he is faithful. And he is always involved. And he's relevant, and he doesn't stop. And I'm thankful that I got to see a godly husband. And he was a great father and a godly father to me. And now he is a great Papa to my two children growing up. And I'm very thankful for that. But guess what, when I was seven years old, he made his mind up to come back to his first love, and that was God. And if he wouldn't have done that, it would have been another generation of brokenness, of addiction, of abandonment, of abuse. And I'm so thankful that he decided he was going to be a real man, and remain teachable and allow other men to pour into his life. And now years later, he's able to pour in to other men, from teenagers up into the elderly, and all in between, he will lay on the floor and cry with them, he will counsel with them, He will give all he can. And I'm so thankful that he never stops. I love you, dad.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 23:06

Great. So tell me about where would they be that moment that you just said would not have happened. If you had made a decision that you want to flip the script. And our whole purpose in this podcast is to inspire young men to know that they can do just lucky that they can flip that script. And the end result is mom was like you've just had. So thank you for sharing your story. And I'm sure it's gonna inspire somebody.



23:42

And we're gonna keep on loving whoever we can.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 23:46

And we hope we've inspired somebody that's our whole focus here is to inspire fathers to become great dads to inspire people to flip the script. There is hope you can turn things around

become great dads to inspire people to flip the script. There is hope you can turn things around even for generations of alcoholism. And Tommy's family is broken. And his children and his child and grandchildren have a whole different life because the decisions he's made. So we're breaking cycles of generational fatherlessness. And Tommy, great story. I hope a lot of people learn something. Thanks for being here. We'll look forward to seeing you next week with another great story.