

SHOWNOTES - Charlie Parker (18/50)

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host)

 Scott Hilton (Host) 00:13

Welcome to another episode of Ask my dad and man, I gotta tell you, this is just, this is one of the most thrilling interviews I've done. I've got my, my elementary school buddy, Charlie Parker. And charlie, welcome to the podcast. First of all,

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God is great to be here.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 00:31

So, I've just been so excited about getting you in here because we were elementary school buddies. Fourth and fifth grade, is that two years ago? Yeah, seems like just yesterday. And we have I've kept up we all through the years and man, you've become such a successful person and such a respected person in the community. You're the principal at Litchfield Middle School. Now, we're going to dig into some of that, but I haven't gotten to spend a lot of time with you, but man, just one of my favorite people in the whole world. And so I'm just extremely excited to have you here. And to hear your story you have one of the most fascinating stories of anybody I know. So hang out, guys. So you're gonna this is gonna be a good one. But I want to start, Charlie, okay, wait, before you know, we were we were chatting and I pulled up some old pictures from us. We were Yeah, we were from elementary school. We were on the basketball team ran track together.

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That's correct. I appreciate those pitches that and seeing those and, you know, quite a



actually ate older in the household. I'm sorry seven old in the household and I'm I'm that eighth one and he's

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Scott Hilton (Host) 04:56

there's not nine kids and your dad your dad died. What was what were the circumstance So



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my dad died. My biological dad well actually wasn't in the home at the time. All right. So that's the strange thing about it in the household at the time, and so once he passed, that's when my stepdad so actually was living with just my mom.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 05:20

You're living without a dad. Right?



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Yeah, right. Yeah. And so my stepdad was kind of in the picture. And so and then basically, he was the one that really kind of just raised me

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Scott Hilton (Host) 05:34

and he came in when you were five or six, probably



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a little bit older. I mean, a little bit younger than that. Yeah. Okay, younger than that. So he came in. I call around probably when I was born, actually. Okay, so he's always kind of in the picture.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 05:49

And you had him until you were 20 or so what happened to him?



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Now, this was the interesting thing about that. And I never forget it. And I remember the day that actually he died. And this is I can, I love to share this because it was something that really held me down and depressed for a long time. And this story right here. Now I share the story all the time. It was me and my brother, younger brother, in about two of my friends who in the

community, we went down to downtown downtown hotel, we went down that way. And it's a store called a five and 1005 and dime store. I don't know if they still have them today or not. But I haven't seen

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Scott Hilton (Host) 06:30

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and \$20. Right? Yes, exactly right. And so went down there and one of my friends convinced me, hey, what, let's get some caps. I said, I don't have any money to get caps. I said, I just come down here because we just walking around. He said, Well, I just couldn't get these. He said, How are you gonna get him? He's like, Well, that's how you get him. It's kind of put him in your pocket and we'll walk out. Like, okay, do we need to do that? And I was like, oh, no, about this, man. This is This is weird. And so no, you know, nevertheless, I did it. And I took it. And I was walking home I never forget was tracking I like when something bad is gonna happen to us. Because we took something that didn't belong to us, which actually stole this, and if something bad is gonna happen to us, and I always at home, I was saying that and he was like, oh, man, you're gonna be okay. I said, No, something bad's gonna happen. And so later on that night, we get a little cap guns, and we put the low caps in it. We got the caps. We already had the gun, but we didn't have any caps. So now how do we get caps?

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:31

We're talking about the little rolls of paper that

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actually it was like a revolver. And it put those little red. Okay, yep. See? If you remember. Yeah. And so we just shoot them and it goes into circling, we pull them out and place them in. Yeah. And so I can remember this. Now we are on the porch of my house, and we're all for it was out there we was shooting caps. And we just thought that was funny, you know, to shoot caps and make the noise. And so I remember my dad had come up steps. And he asked us how we're doing was doing fine, goes in the house, and nothing really, you know, any other conversation that was shared between us. And so I am still thinking in my head, we did something wrong. And it's not right. And so later on that night, we all go there there, I think one of my friends went home. And so we go back to the ol we call the back room, which is the boys room. So we will sit in, like, small sofa in there. So we'll sit on it. And I'll never forget this. And I think my other friend may have went home to I don't know. But I remember this playing today, I can remember my mom actually coming in and asking one of my older brothers to come in to see if my dad was breathing. And I was like, weird. And so we all go in to see was going on. And actually he's on the floor. He had a heart attack on the floor right there. And so I remember seeing him and my brother trying to shake him a little bit and I could see stuff running out of his mouth and check his pulse check his pulse, didn't have a purpose. He was dead. And so I can in that moment, I thought about what I did. And I blame myself for years. I mean, because

and I never shared it with anybody because I was afraid they weren't really gonna think it was my fault. So I remember just running out the house going across the street. And my friend's parents house I never forget it. And I just broke down on the floor that you know, my dad's dead, my dad's dead and I was like, what's going on? So they brought me back and it was just chaos going back to the house. Really chaos there. And so the whole time I'm thinking, I know something that they don't know. It's my fault. So that stayed with me for I want to say about 3035 years really you were 12 years old. Yes, in whole time, I'm thinking, I did this. This is my fault. And the thing about it is Scott, it was like three days before Christmas. And now this was the worst Christmas ever, you know, 12 years old, I'm thinking it's my fault. And it was no longer a surprise anymore. Christmas just wasn't Christmas anymore. You're taking down trees preparing for funeral. And I'm like, Man, I can't believe it's my fault. never shared it with anybody what I did, until really until I actually got saved. And then I really had to share it with somebody. And then I felt at that moment I was released. From depression, I was released from anything that was really holding me back from being I really, I guess, the father that I needed to be to my kids. And you know, and so it was, it was really beneficial to me to release that. And so that was a really difficult time. And that moment, because here it is, I had a father who wasn't, you know, my biological father, but he was always there for me, provided for me, and you know, when I was there, as a husband to my mom, but yet not killed. So it just imagined me at 12 years old, I'm going back to school after Christmas. And I'm like, this is in my head that I really messed up.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 11:29

Really, totally. This first time I'm hearing this story, our mutual friend David Williams said, You got to hear Charlie's story. Why? That's incredible.



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It's crazy, man. And we didn't have much of the time. And so now I'm having to depend on my brothers and everybody else to counter, you know, the the helpers, we all had to chip in and, and be a poor, but thanks to my dad for really showing me the way, you know, through those years, though,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:02

through those those 12 years that you had, where he had an impact. So you spent the next six or eight years, I guess, kind of going through high school, middle school without a dad. What was that like?



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The interesting thing here was that when I was playing baseball, football, basketball, or even on in track, I never had a parent to come to the games. Neither of my friends ever had parents who come to the games. So we thought it was normal that the parents stay at home and, you know, do home business and take care of that. So it wasn't a like, hey, my parents not here.

No, we just go out and yourself and come back home. So I thought that was a normal thing. But as you get older, you're like, what are their parents? There's always at the Games. Why is it so important for parents be like, Wow,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:56

so you went through all those years that we were fighting against each other middle school, high school, you've never had a parent come to one of your games.

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And I take that bet my mom came to two games when I was a senior. And I'm both games came to I got injured. She said, that's why I never came to the game. So

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:18

you know, I'm thinking totally you're, you've I want to get into a minute into kind of the rest of the process. But you're, you're a successful guy. Now. You're you're highly respected in the community, very highly respected. Was there a point in your life where you kind of said, I can do better? Or? I mean, what, what, what, what is it? I guess I'm what I'm looking for is because I've seen so many young guys who were in the situation that you're in, and they just feel beat up and beat down and they're never going to amount to anything and like, I don't think you'll look at it. Look at Charlie, what what, what's the difference?

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13:56

I tell you the difference here. I was course, in high school. As a senior, my thing is, I guess because of the work ethics of my father. I knew then that and when I graduate, I need to work. I need to, you know, to be a provider, I need to, you know, take the pressure off my mom and actually, you know, be somebody in the workforce. And so what I did after my senior year, I never forget Coach Young, who was really a really good coach. He would say, Hey, I guess some people looking at you in college, I think acido coach, I really don't think college is for me. I said I just, you know, get get a job and work like everybody else in my family. And so I kept getting a call from Coach Saunders from Jacksonville is a true story. He kept calm and said you cannot say no coach. He said I heard you didn't go anywhere. I said no, I don't play football. He said Well I really love to see you come down. I kept sending letters kept calling home. And he says, Hey, what? Terrell James. He said, He's He's a senior this year. He's doing a good job. I had a while. And so once you just come down with him for a video, I'll get together and come down. I said, we won't hurt. That's it. And he's still calling me. So I say just to keep him from calling me. I said, I just go ahead and go. So. So I went and man and been exposed to Jacksonville, which I wouldn't really great big, big college, but Jacksonville. So I was like, Man, this is unique. So I'm not seeing anything like this.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 15:33

You're not seeing anything like that. So

you're not seeing anything like that. So



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it's different going to a college football game. And wow, this is interesting. Now, my eyes are open. And so I was like, this is pretty good here. I said, I come home like this. So I go back and he kept calling and kept sending letters. I said, then this isn't I had a conversation with my mom. I said, Listen, I didn't prepare for college. I don't know anything about college. I said, But I'm is anyway. What do you think if I gave it a try? And then we got to talking in results. She said, You know what? We both come to agreement that if you don't like it would just stop. But now I'm trying to figure this thing out. How do I enroll in college? On my own? How do I get prepared. And so I went through a lot of steps on my own trying to figure it out, because I really wanted to go. And so once I get there, first day of college course, I'm communicating Coates on this, and this is how we're gonna do this thing. This is what's going on. And so I finally figured it out, you know, on my own paperwork, tons of paperwork, but I'm figuring it out on my own. It's just a matter of persistence. Right? Yeah. And I said, I really want to do this, I'm gonna do it, I want to make sure I do it right. And so that's how I actually got to college. And my objective was to play football only. That was it. Nothing else. If I, you know, keep my grades up enough to play football. I'm good. Gregory from college. That was the last thing on my mind. I get up that next morning, we have practice. And so I get ready, we go and dress out, we go in there. And I never forget this man. I'm out there. This is the worst practice I've ever had in my life. I'm in tip top shape. I'm not running everybody. But I couldn't breathe. I couldn't make it was hard for me to do anything. And I just felt like, you know, one of those players that come in who just started, everybody just love to hit and does love to put your arm because it was like, you know, just, you know, just kind of was there. I felt like that player. That's the sign God's telling me I don't need to be on here. And so I went back to my my room, I said, I'm gonna call my mom and let her know that apparently, you know, I am not playing anymore. And so I was call my mom. I said, Listen, I'm coming home, I'm not playing football anymore. She said, and my mom to say, this is what really got me she said, Where are you gonna stay and stay at school write a post. And I never wanted to disappoint her. At this time, I'm already feeling bad because of what happened with my father. And I was like, Yes, I'm gonna stay in school. I'm just not gonna play football. And that's what kept me in school by her saying that, are you gonna stay in school? That from that point on, I was able to actually act at five degrees. Since then.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 18:40

Let me just wrap my head around this from it. I'll let you. You. You come out. You're you lose your biological dad. When you're five. You lose your dad, who you can was more bad than I think, for 12 years and you lost him when you were 12. You're living in a house with nine siblings? Yes. And a two bedroom house.



19:04

Well, three of them. Were basically welcome in my parents room. And then

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Scott Hilton (Host) 19:08

and then you had a boy's room and the girls for you get out and you go to work at Walmart. And you're mowing grass for the city. You stumble your way into college. You play football for a year and you decide that God that God had different plans for you. You end up with a bachelor's degree in business, you end up being a supervisor at a large company. You end up then with an administrative, go back and get a master's degree in education. Then you get an administrative degree in education, then you get an educational specialist degree. Then you get a doctorate in theology. And you're to me you're this this kid that I ran around with and on playground in elementary school, then you as a result of all the hard work you put in and people liked you You ended up being the principal in school. That's, that's really an incredible story. He told you that.



20:08

It was it was interesting. And I was an assistant principal at the high school for some years. Yeah. Oh, transition into that. So yeah, it was it was, I never imagined that it was never my vision. Throughout the years, it's just as I as I kept pushing. And it's kind of like, when you in a bad place in your life, and you just carrying on you just now you're dependent. Just say you're in the darkness, and you did in a bad place, you just kind of feeling your way through. And you've got to be kind of sensitive to the Holy Spirit. And that's kind of how my thing was, I was just trying to feel my way through, didn't know what's direction that I was going. But I had to be sensitive to a lot of things to say, you know, this is probably the way you need to go, this is probably where you need to go. So the whole time, it will just following. I just want to say just following and led by the Spirit at the time to do the things that I did, because I knew that God has a great work for me,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:11

we're gonna do something, I've not not done this yet. But your mom had you butter, no choice of her own from 12, Arizona, so she had to be mom and dad to you, and your mom's still live in. So I always ask asked to speak into the camera, to their dad, but your your mom kind of had to be dad to write, I want to give you a chance to just speak into that camera to your mama.



21:37

Mom, I want to thank you for all the years that you've been provided that you've been. And I know it was difficult, raising the nine kids that you did, and definitely having, you know, six boys to raise. And you being a single mother at the time. And so I know that was difficult. And I appreciate the love and the care that you that shown and displayed towards us. And I know a lot of things you had to do as a single mom, and able to, I guess for as I will say split for lack of a better word right now divide your love between all your nine kids. And I know there's some things that you felt that you probably didn't do and and as a mother, but you did the best that you knew how. And I'm grateful and thankful for you. For the time that you've shown us two way with your unique way of loving us your unique way of just telling us to, we need to do something that we didn't have us show us and I appreciate that all the guys along the way, you really don't know how effective you were. And you made it and say a whole lot and shown affection. As much as you thought we thought that we should have from you. But you did what you needed to do to, I guess, be a mother and a father for your children. I appreciate you for

that and, and you're 85 years old at this time and you're still with a sharp mind you got that wit about you may not be in good health and you don't force mobility wise, you're not getting around like you used to. But you still have that sharp mind, and always willing to put us back in our place and realize that, that you are always the mom, that's something She always tells us that I'm still your mom. And I do respect that. And I honor that that you are still my mother and I appreciate all the things that you've done, and will be forever grateful. And I really, really love you to the moon and back. And you'll never know how much I do love you. And so I want to thank you once again for all that you've done for us and that you're doing now. Why are you still you know, living now. Thank you for that.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 24:01

That's awesome. My mom had to be there to not happen sometimes. So that's awesome, Charlie, thank you, thank you for



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sure. Appreciate that. I appreciate that. And it was some difficult moments and and really she she provided for us and and you know thing that she obstacles that she had to endure and overcome and still provided for us.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 24:25

Well, so you're also a father. Tell us about your wife and your



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you know, my family and my kids wouldn't take nothing for him in the world today. They are interested in they definitely keep me on my toes. Good thing about my kids. My oldest child, she's in Phoenix, Arizona. She has three kids of our own. And so they they're beautiful kids and I love my grandkids and so Simone is in Arizona Um, I love my kids, grandkids love them to death. And then my other child Kiandra. And she actually graduated from una. So she's growing on on to as well. And my son called, let's see, because he's in a month. So he graduated from Jacksonville, actually, this past May. So they've gone on to do, I'm proud of them pressured them to do it, but I appreciate them for, you know, doing what they're doing and, and my oldest daughter, she's in the process of getting her degree as well. And so grateful for that. And so the things that I'm, I'm proud of them for that. And so, and my wife, she's always been really, you know, supportive, and anything that I'm doing, she's always there and giving me support and, and we definitely have a good relationship. And I think we feed off each other, we try to support each other as much as we can. And then we try to be the example in front of our kids as well,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 26:07

you're what we call a script flipper, you, you change the use, you flip the script and and you know, you're gonna have generations to follow you, they're gonna be successful and, and honor, honor God and bring honors to you. That's one of the things that one of the things that

honor, honor God and bring honor to you. That's one of the things that one of the things that we've done is we were able to get in touch with I think one of your kids really kind of went behind your back. You're such an incredible person to me. But I think that the true value or the true the true picture of a man comes from what his children say about him. So I want you to watch what we found.



26:53

Hi, it's me, your daughter, Simone. I'm here with your lovely grandkids, they wanted to get a video. So here they are. I want to say the thing I love most about you, is your love and your compassion for not only your family, but for everyone. You are very personable. You give the great advice, I can call you up at anytime, hour. And you will just literally I feel like drop everything and speak with me. And just conversate with me. My favorite story about you is actually like there's many but I love when you would come and pick me up we would have this like routine that we would literally go to Burger King. And he would sit and we would eat and catch up on everything that we've missed in the past month or so. And we would always go to the store and get those Vienna sausages, the hot ones or I don't think they're called the they're not probably ancestors but the big ma hot leaf sausages which my kids love now because I have passed that now to them. I just want to say thank you so much for being in my life and giving me encouragement and not hesitating to tell me you love me and letting me know how proud you are of me. Thank you for loving my kids and my family. You have done so much for us and I cannot thank you enough for that love that you have shown us and I miss you and I love you and I just thank you for everything. Hello, I'm



28:50

Candace Parker on my dad's middle child. Sneaky one the rebel ELS me one thing I love about my dad is just his consistency his drive to do better at all times and doesn't matter what age he gets to he's always going to be a better him um he's persistency and doesn't matter what the task is in front of him he's gonna get it done he already knew he was gonna get it done before he became his way that's how much confidence he has himself as well that is a motivational force in my life because I I want to be like Him every day just because of that. A stories about my dad I've heard so many stories about my dad from just his friends and his siblings and his mother but for me, I think something that I take away from him and I use in my everyday life is shifts when he used to be my coach for any lead that I played, whether it was softball, basketball, etc. Um, he was always there he's always saying you know, once you start something don't quit, you know, go hard. Always go hard because you don't never know who's watching you. Etc. Like that's something that I take with me He and I use in any aspect of my life, whether it's at my job, whether it's just me, you know living my everyday life I take that with me it's always in the back of my head. And Dad, I want to thank you for just always being there for me. I mean, you've never not been there for me you were always in my life, even though we made it but his as, as a child, and when I you know, got to growing for myself, he was always there and you always there to give me advice. It doesn't matter if you agree with what I was doing or not. You're always there to give me motivational advice, and loving advice. And I and I love it. I'm grateful that you are my dad. And I'm grateful that you know God saw fit that you know, some matches up. And I love you.



30:15

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What I like best about my pops is is the fact that he's a hard working man. He made things happen. He made some necessary sacrifices that he has to make. My favorite story about my pops is probably all his football stores from when he played back in the day. And parks. I just want to thank you for all your love and support that you're showing my whole life.

 31:06

Oh, wow. And that's my son. He didn't talk much, but he don't talk a lot, but he was talking. That's awesome.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 31:13

I love you. I just want to thank you for setting an example. Because you know, I hope every kid that I've ever worked with can watch this. And they can know there's hope. And look at Charlie Parker. You want to see has done look at Charlie Parker. Thank you so much for

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just taking me back down memory lane and seeing those things that started at some people call it for Street School. Tell Elementary. Wow.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 31:48

That concludes this episode of the Best my dad podcast where we're inspiring fathers to be great dads. Breaking Chains of generational fatherlessness. This has been so much fun to see you next week.