

Jamie Strange_Audio_V1







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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host)

-  **S** Scott Hilton (Host) 00:15
Welcome again to That's my dad. This is Scott Hilton got it. Oh buddy Jamie strange here. Thanks for coming in. Jamie. Rob long way to get here.
-  **i** 00:23
Well, yes, not, you know, my old stomping grounds, I guess. Yeah. Pleasure to be here. I appreciate you having me. Good. See,
-  **S** Scott Hilton (Host) 00:28
Jamie is an FCA Fellowship of Christian Athletes. What did he call it? Uh, what's your job title,
-  **i** 00:36
I guess Area Director, robber, a five county area in northeast Alabama.
-  **S** Scott Hilton (Host) 00:41
But more importantly, he's, he's a husband, 26 years to Rebecca and three kids. Right. So great guy, thanks for coming in. You know, Jamie, you came out of a situation in terms of your family that's a little different. So let's talk about that. It was a divorce situation. And I feel like there are a lot of kids out there that can relate to what you went through, kind of tell us about that.
-  **i** 01:04
Yeah it was you know if there was a good divorce as far as how your parents handled it mv

Yeah, it was, you know, if there was a good divorce, as far as how your parents handled it, my parents did a pretty good job at it, you know, you know, trying to help me and my brother, I was six, my brother was nine. And, you know, we didn't really know what was going on other than my mom was moving to another place and and they arranged all the, you're gonna stay with your dad, this this week and mean this week? And, you know, if they weren't, you know, what, in a hostile environment, they were, you know, cordial and, and did the best they could for a bad situation. So basically, from six, six on, you know, I, you know, parents were divorced. And, you know, I knew how much time I spent with Dad, how much time I spent with my mom, I didn't choose, they chose for us. And so, all in all, you know, it was it was hard to look back and say, what I thought maybe this is normal, honestly, a little kid. I mean, I guess this is just what happens. But as you get a little older, you kind of figure things out a little bit more. But yeah, did grew up in that environment.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 02:10

What do you think that your parents did? And that unfortunate situation for the sake of somebody who might be going through the, what did they do? Right, in terms of parenting, you enter that



02:21

through that? You know, like I said, I think they kept us out of it. And we were, you know, really, my brother was maybe at an age where he was getting into, you know, a little bit older, and, but I was really young. And, you know, I think they just again, they, they they maintained in front of us, you know, respectful relationship, and they really didn't have a bad relationship. Honestly, they just parted ways. Yeah. And, you know, I look back on it, and, you know, a hate hate to, they went through that, and even now, I'm 50 They're, they're both alive, even to this day, you can still see some of the effects of it just because, you know, they live, like 10 miles apart, but you know, we go home at Christmas, you know, or a holiday, who do I go see, I gotta make that decision now. But it complicates a lot. It complicates a lot, you know, big events in life, my son's getting married. And a few months, you know, you know, who stays here, you know, who does what, you know, but, but as a child, they did, they did well, you know, getting us through that time, and so on. Both remarry saw my dad remarried twice. So, you know, had to step moms and my dad's been married now for, like, three years longer than I have. And, and then my mom and stepfather been married for over 40 years. I mean, they got married, you know, when I was maybe eight,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 03:48

but you ended up having a great stepdad as well, I believe. Yeah, that's



03:52

right. You know, my, again, my, when my mom and stepdad married, they, they they weren't following God. But they got married and my stepfather really had a, you know, a amazing life change. He was in his early 40s. I was probably 11 or 12. And long story short, you know, he asked God one night if you're a real show me, you know, and he got a call. He had a daughter

in college, back in the mid late 60s. At that time, abortion was not legal. So his girlfriend at the time they she went away to a home in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where you could go through the process of having a child and they put him up for adoption. And, and so that's what happened to his daughter. He never met her. When I went away to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and a judge there, adopted her. And when he prayed this prayer that night, you know Got a few real show me in the next morning this judge calls him and it says, Do you remember having a daughter? He said, Yes, sir. I do. So it was she's 19 years old, and she would love to talk with you. If you're open to that. And he's like, yes, I've never seen her never seen her never saw her as an infant, never saw her born. And he got on the phone and talk to her, they arranged time to meet, he hung the phone up and got on his knees and said, I surrender, you know, and I saw that happen in this man's life, a 180. I would say he would be what would be called an alcoholic, he drank every night, and, and sometimes drank himself, you know, into a mess. And over time, just literally gave up alcohol, and started doing devotions. Like my grandfather, did, you know, in our home, we, for dinner, we we'd have a little devotional time and got us in church. And that's when I really started getting involved in in church. And

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Scott Hilton (Host) 06:02

so your stepdad had a huge impact on you. Oh, yes, definitely. You're as well as all both? Yes. Both parents? How has how has their influence on you affected you as a parent?

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06:15

Well, you know, definitely, I've got three boys. So I'm raising three boys 20 to 20. And then 14. That's something that I, you know, taken from both of them, I guess you'd say you've kind of merged those two together. And that's, well, one thing I do know this, my dad, my biological dad, and my stepdad. Whether they knew it or not, they disciplined me, you know, they, you know, when I hear the word disciple, it's a follower. And I botched not my choice, I had to follow them, you know, they were my father and stepfather. And, you know, how they function how they operated? You know, I find myself doing some of the good and some of the bad even to this day, you know? Yeah, just they just, I just saw it happen and, and so, one thing for me and parenting, I've realized that my three boys if I'm, if I'm going to, into my life, sit there and say, who did that influence? Who did I impact in my life? I know three boys, for sure. I've impacted and will impact as long as I'm alive. Good or bad. You know,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:35

what do you have to do? What do you have to do to be a great father?

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07:39

Well, I you know, I don't know why I like to find out.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:43

What's your best guess, my my best

what's your best guess my my best



07:45

guess is to be conscientious of you are vile that you are discipling them, whether you know it or not. How can I be intentional with that? You know, with FCA, we teach a character class. It's called habitudes. Got him Dr. Tim Elmore. He's with John Maxwell. And, in this character class that we teach has different subjects. And one of those is called, and it's an image that they show a picture. And one of them was called Life sentence, and it has a tombstone and it has, you know, some words underneath a tombstone to describe in a sentence, or a few words, the person who's buried there. And, and the basically, the lesson goes that you have a life sentence, you know, with, with people that talk to, and what does it say, you know, I look back and I lived here in Anniston Gatson. area for seven years, I have a sentence here with people went to college in Virginia, have a sentence there with college classmates, worked as a youth pastor in Tennessee and in Florida, have a sentence with them. So, you know, what is my Senate say? What does that word that describes me? Or those words that describe me? And I think about that, as a parent, you know, when I'm not here anymore, you know, what is my kid? What are they gonna say about me? Are they gonna say he was a funny man? Are they gonna say, he was fun to be around? Are they going to say, you know, he's a good guy. He worked hard. He loved his job. He was a great minister. You know, I don't want those words. They may be flattering to some, but I really want them to be able to say he, he followed Christ.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:34

You know, so you gotta be intentional about it. You gotta



09:37

be intentional. Well, because, you know, they have seen it. They've seen my failures. They've seen my mistakes. And I know they have I know, they've seen how, you know, my job sometimes has taken precedence over them.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:51

Yeah, tell me. What mistakes do you feel like you've made as a dad?



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Well, I think for sure I've been in full time. Ministry my entire career 27 years and worked in churches that I just transitioned to FCA. My little son, he was four at the time. I remember the year before we made this transition, I remember, you know, my son not eating dinner, I came home to eat dinner, and he wasn't eating dinner and and, like, Hey, come on, you got to eat. You know, why don't you want to eat dinner? Because when I finish eating dinner, deadlifts, oh, you know. And, you know, hey, I was out doing ministry, I mean, I'm, I'm serving people. I'm giving my life and sacrifice in my life to serve. But what does that mean? I mean, you know, as

a parent, you know, I mean, you know, I'm glad they saw that a guy that cares about somebody and serves and sacrifices, but do they know that? They were my priority? You know, and, and I, and I still, you know, struggle with that we gets busy in ministry sometimes. And what am I showing to them? As far as how I treat their mom and how I put make her a priority? I pursue her and, and, and, and thought and intentional about finding time with her and serving her? Or do I get so important in my mind to other things, you know, if there's anything, I've served in four ministry areas in my life, and if there's anything I've learned, is everywhere I've left they've made it without me. Okay,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 11:40

what is the balance? And what do you see happening? In our society? Are parents keeping sports in balance? Are we out of balance? How do you maintain that? How do you know when you need to spend more time with sports and not?

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It's, you know, I think that, again, is a tough one. You know, working with FCA, we have leadership teams, and we have summer interns. And we found that a lot of times students that have been involved with sports, they're aware of discipline, they're aware of goals, they're aware of expectations, sometimes that you wouldn't get if you were not in sports, if you miss practice, you don't play if you are late, you're gonna have to go do spreads. And, and so and then in my own family, you know, I try to encourage our kids to be involved with the sport all the time. There was several times where one of my sons weren't involved in a sport. And it seems like they struggle more in school, oddly enough, you know, when they had get home at three and and you got till you got to bed at 10, you got seven hours, as opposed to you get home at seven, you've got three hours to get this done. It's almost like there's a little bit more of an urgency, I think pressure, yes, pressure. And I'm just saying that's what I've seen in my own life with my kids.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:07

The My wife is Hispanic, as you know, they have in Spanish, they have a phrase, the weight makes the donkey wall. So the pressure sometimes causes you to move forward. It

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13:19

does. I mean, and I've seen that, and I you know, but I do think that again, going back to the word balance. I've seen this with three sons. When you're young, and you think, Oh, you got to be a part of this, this and this, you got to go to this training, you got to do this travel ball experience. I think there's definitely a balance you have to find, because I think it's around 12 or 13. There's little thing called genetics that kicks in. And, you know, you can't do anything about size or speed. You know, you may get a little bit stronger. But you know that you know that things happen when

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:58

you're What's your God, I tried my best to get over five foot six. I mean, I was like Barney five hanging in a clause. Oh, I stretched myself. It didn't work. It's I ran a four 940 and it would just wouldn't I mean, I even tried it downhill and I wouldn't do any better. It just didn't happen. Yeah, you know, I

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14:14

heard the story too. We had Charlie Ward on if you remember him, he has been Trophy winner. He played 17 years in the NBA. He came in spoken and FCA event we were hosting. But interesting story about him as his father did not allow him to play organized sports until he started high school. And he said two reasons why one is he my dad wanted me to really know the proper technique of how to shoot a basketball. He didn't want literally to mess that up. You know, you know he loved those three pointers at seven years old because you got the strength to do it. But you may not have the technique down. Yeah, he wanted him to learn how to shoot basketball in the driveway. He wanted him to learn how to throw football in the backyard with him properly. And then he didn't want the experience to burn them out. And so can you imagine this Heisman Trophy future Heisman Trophy candidate showing up for football tryouts? Where is this guy been? You know?

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Scott Hilton (Host) 15:09

Yeah, if you're if you're the starting quarterback, and you're a senior and generally war shows up as a freshman, it's a bad day. It's

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a bad day because he was not in the you didn't see him anywhere in the system. I didn't know this guy was coming. It was

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Scott Hilton (Host) 15:21

like, do they have a transfer portal in high school? Out here? Yeah, he was something else.

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15:26

Yeah. And his dad was also was a spiritual leader in his home. And he just, you know, that was their conviction. They didn't want to take all that time away. You know what it Charlie Ward, he's either going to have it or he's not going to happen. He's either going to have it in his genetic makeup, or he's not. So there's nothing that we can do that's going to change that. We can just, you know, we just want to help them.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 15:47

Yeah, I actually wrote about that. In a book as so many parents buy the lie, right? Somebody's gonna whisper in their ear. And so he's got talent. Right, exactly. Sign him up for my camp. Exactly. And it's either gonna happen and I have I play with some great athletes. And I can tell you from experience, the talent is what got them into college. And there's no doubt about it. It was I mean, you got to work hard. And I'm not saying that. That you don't, but you don't have talent. Just enjoy it. Enjoy. Thanks. Sometimes parents, they, they buy lots of lies, because there's a lot of people making money off of,



16:23

Oh, yeah. sportsmen. And then they found out they probably could have paid for college. Yeah, instead of investing in all those.



Scott Hilton (Host) 16:31

Yeah, for what they spent. Yeah, we're not gonna go into that. Right. Right. Right. So what do you see as you work with a lot of kids, this fatherless generation, it's an epidemic, we have 18 point 4 million kids that will go home tonight, and there won't be a daddy there. What do you think that does to a kid psychologically, emotionally, in terms of just their whole outlook on life?



16:56

I think it definitely seen it, you know, yeah, we work with the student athletes and students, you know, all over the area. And then, you know, me being a father and seeing my own sons, how they respond to us, my wife and I, they're good kids. But you know, I don't know if they would have passed school with, you know, with without us, supporting them, and pushing them and telling them, you know, hold them accountable. Do you have your homework done? Did you finish that project? Are you, you're gonna get a bed so you can get up in the morning and be ready for school and to have a fresh mind? I think it affects them in a major way. And I don't think anybody has an excuse. But I think you know, I want to look at so if any of these kids have excuse, I mean, they've got it. I mean, they you know, man, they don't have anybody supporting them, or pushing them or holding them accountable. That's the practical side of things. But I think even bigger, you know, like I said, I'm unintentionally, and trying to be intentionally my kids are following me. So they're able to see kind of how I respond to adversity, how I respond to process, prosperous moments in life, how I respond to setbacks. They're witnessing that with with with their own eyes. And I can't imagine a kid not being able to witness that, you know, they're having to figure it out on their own. And how do you deal with the circumstances, we just got to kind of share one story, sir, I won't mention the player's name, but I was at Jacksonville State. And had a player that had mornings and he was a star player. He was going to be probably a preseason all conference player for us. And he grew up in inner city Atlanta, from a fatherless home. And he was a phenomenal athlete. I mean, he was just a phenomenal athlete, but they gave him several chances. And they finally had to let him go starting player for us. And he didn't want anything to do with me. Honestly, I've represented the preacher role. And I walked through the locker room hey, man, what's up, you're not taught Satan and I could hear him kind of joking about me. You know, man, no preacher, man over there, you know, just joking about. I'm alright, that's fine that you can joke about me. So we didn't really have any kind of relationship at all. Until he got kicked off the team. And I called

him up. I said, Hey, man, I just heard the news. Can I can I meet you for lunch? And he's like, sure. We met and talked and I'm sitting right across the table from him at Jefferson was there in Jacksonville. And started just talking, I said, Just tell him sorry, you know, just want to let you know, I'm here to support you in any way I can. And, and literally, this tough kid tears rolled down his face. I didn't ask these questions. He just said nobody ever really taught me how to treat a woman. I was like, really? I didn't know where that was. You know what that had to imply? So nobody really talked to me about what I want to do with my life. It's just Then football. I'm over here in college. And I'm aimlessly going to class just so I can play football. And I don't have any kind of plan. And any, any just share with me, you know, nobody talked to me about what I want to do with my life, what kind of major I want to have. This is a college. So he's 20 years old when he he's probably 21 years old with tears in his eyes. And anyway, that to me opened my eyes, you know, here's a kid that just didn't see, you know, any example in front of him about, you know, going after something other than football, he didn't see a father that had to deal with maybe a layoff. So, being let go from their job or having to start a business or having to provide for their family, whatever it took to provide for their family, and hey, you just got to keep going. Even if it gets tough, you gotta find another way.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 20:57

To us, that seems so common sense. But to a kid who's never had it modeled, it's we forget that there's so many that really happened with literally they don't have a clue.

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21:07

They don't have a clue. And and I'm like looking at him. And I'm thinking, you know, what, if there's anybody's got an excuse to be in the position that you're in? I mean, you would have you know,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:16

so what would you want your kids to say about you?

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21:22

Well, guy I worked with, he's Gary Kramer, he's Alabama, UFC, Alabama, FCA person there that works with football, as three kids that are that are great kids from what I understand. He he was talking to them one night. And for some reason, this tombstone thing came up, you know, what would what would my tombstone say, you know, and, and one of their kids said this, and they agreed, they said, my dad was the same with us as He was with you. And I thought about that he thought that meant what a great compliment. He said, you know, that I was not projecting something to the world that I wasn't, you know, they saw a God who was authentic. And that was real. I will, I would want my kids to say that about me, I would want them to say that my dad was authentic and real. That my dad, you know, loved them and cared for him. But that my dad, you know, who he was, was real, you know, particularly in ministry, ministry career. You know, you can you hear stories. Yeah. And you know, because you do, I mean, hey,



Scott Hilton (Host) 22:48

there's people in ministry that just aren't real. Exactly. They're faking it. Right. And their kids know, their kids. No one, there is no hiding it for me. Right.



22:56

Exactly. Yeah. I want my kids to know. And that's, that's for that reason, I tried to be transparent with them and just say, Hey, I messed up. I missed it. I'm sorry, the way I handled that situation, as you guys witnessed that. I shouldn't have said that. I shouldn't have done that. I shouldn't have thought that. I shouldn't have voiced that to you. I'm so sorry. I apologize. And I think that's the one thing that I think, honestly, when I went to school for ministry, they really the scourge transparency, it seemed like, you know, they're teaching us how to go through interviews and like, you know, hey, just put your best foot forward, you know, kind of put aside the weaknesses, and we have



Scott Hilton (Host) 23:42

a very perceptive world. I can see right through all that



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they can see right through it. And I really think it helps us gain trust and credibility. Particularly their own family. They know their dad transparent.



Scott Hilton (Host) 23:58

Yeah. You. You said something to me. I know you don't remember it, because it's been probably 15 years ago. But I remember very vividly, and I've shared it several times. It's speaking engagements. But you said that if you had a hypothetical situation where you could ask God to tell you the 100 best Christians on the earth today, you remember right? And he gave you a list you wouldn't recognize anybody on the list. Exactly. That's always stuck in my mind. But you've kind of lived your life by that. That motto to you. I know you have because you're very transparent. Here I am. I'm not perfect. Right. Here I am. You want to take a minute to you had two dads, right? You want to take a minute to just pay both of them honor and say what you'd like you can look at that cow okay.



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Yeah, man. Yeah, I'd be glad to my father first biological dad. Um, Edie strange taught me and teaches me today about humility and taking care of his family. And, you know, being a someone that's that serves. And I learned that from you, dad, and I thank you for that example. Thank you for being there and caring for my brother and I, and appreciate your love and support and to Bill, my stepfather. Thank you for the opportunity to see, God just changed your

life and change your your way of thinking, change who you are, because of heart change in you. It was amazing to see that happen and to see how you have led and followed him for over 35 years now, I guess, seeing that happen, to me was impactful. So both of you have impacted my life in major ways, and I cannot thank you enough and love you both.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 26:11

Thank you, Jamie. All right. Got a little something for you as we close.

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26:17

That thank you so much for everything you do. You're always there when we have a need and always supportive of any sport we do. And I really just can't thank you enough. I love you so much day. Hey,

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26:31

it's Alex strange here, some middle son of the great Jamie strange. And I'd say the thing I love most about my dad is how hardworking he is while still showing humility, love and care for our family. And he's also a super funny guy could be a comedian in day to day life. But he's a great guy, for sure.

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26:51

The thing I love most about my dad, I think about it in a sports analogy. What makes a good team great is when they have guys that know how to fill their role. And that's what I've noticed with my dad, you know, growing up, I was the oldest one. And so when when I was young, he knew how to raise me. And now I'm 22 years old and new phase of life. And he has a perfect advice for me now like he's done it before.

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27:11

Hi, I'm Rebecca strange. And Jamie Strange is my husband. And God is my everything. But on this earth. He is my very best friend Jamie strange, and He is funny and humble and loving and kind and most of all, he loves the Lord. And he loves us so wonderfully. So thank you, Jamie strange for all that you do. We love you more than you'll ever know. And thank you to God for one of life's greatest gifts that I could ever ask for.

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27:39

Oh, man, that's awesome. Thank you so much. Golly, you want to come in on that man. It's humbling to hear. And I'm grateful. You know, as a father I and as a husband, I feel blessed and privileged to have them and and one thing that I've shared with them is that they're not mine. I'd love to hold him as my home but they're there. They're gods and he's allowed me the

opportunity to just be a steward and help take care of. And it's humbling to have that and but they have been a blessing. And I'm most grateful for them. And I know that that outside of my relationship with the Lord. I mean, that's it. I mean that they're everything to me.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 28:31

That's awesome. Yeah, exactly. You're gonna inspire somebody. We appreciate you. I appreciate your friendship. I appreciate you were kind of like minded. It definitely can a lot of ways I wish we were closer distances as far as travel time, but thanks for coming on. Thanks for sharing. Thanks for what you do with FCA right organization. Thank you. That'll conclude this episode of this But dad, we're inspiring fathers to be great. That's breaking cycles of generational fatherlessness. We'll be back next week with a great interview.