

# SHOWNOTES - Keith Owensby (12/50)

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dad, kids, life, home, family, pastor, keith, father, integrity, church, important, day, pond, told, stay, talking, man, today, walk, yellow jackets

## SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host)

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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:15

Welcome back to another episode. That's my dad podcast where they were Keith Owens, me. And Keith, you and I hadn't known each other too long. But we did get a chance to meet about a month or so ago. So appreciate you coming into the podcast, we were just chatting a little bit before we came live about what the podcast is about, and what our hearts are really about. It's really about inspiring young men to become great dads. And we're really trying to reach a population of guys who maybe didn't have the benefit of having a father at home. So I'm hoping that they can learn some from you. And I'm going to learn as we go, because I really don't know that much about your story. So let's just jump right in here. And you tell me your your personal story, kind of for you started, where you've where you're from, I want to know about your relationship with your dad, and then you and then we'll talk about your children and some other things. But first of all, introduce yourself to us.

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All right. I'm Keith Owens beyond the lead pastor at Valley View church and silica. Org Alabama. Been there a little over 20 years now. It sometimes it doesn't seem like it's been that long. Just Time flies when you're having fun in ministry.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 01:36

It's hard to stay somewhere. 20 years. That's awesome. Yes.

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But today, just a little bit about about my story. Like I said, I've been there for 20 years, I evangelized. For 11 years prior to wow, take that back over and a half years prior to that I was pastor at Plainview church in Rainsville, Alabama, and I evangelized for 11 years prior to that. And so basically been in ministry all my life.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 02:04

All right, so you're 19 years old now. I was at the people put that many years ahead. And they look you don't look any older than if I had done all that stuff. I'd had to start when I was 10.

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I started when I was 18. Okay, yeah, yeah, good.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 02:19

So tell me about your dad, your relationship with him.

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Okay. I was thinking today, just because I knew we would be talking about about Dad and about his impact on my life. And it was several things that came came to my mind. And it was this. My dad was was strength for me. He was that. And still is today, he's still with me. And I think the Lord is still with me. He's always been that constant in my life. He is a man of integrity, a man of character. And my dad is one of those kind of guys. And there's an old saying that I remember that you don't hear about much anymore. And that that saying is this is that a man is he's as good as his word. If he tells you something, he's going to do it well that as my dad, if he if he told me something, that's what he did, and still to this day, and he has made such an impact on on me, all my life. And I feel like he taught me how to be a man. And he taught me how to, to be a father. And you know, I've I haven't always gotten it right. But I've tried to be the best dad, I could be. But I learned many of the things that from him.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 03:54

Anything that you can think of particularly that he might have done that kind of sticks out in your mind and that regard?

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Well, yes, so there's a lot of things I guess I could share with you. But one particular thing I wanted to do share with you is something that is what he was just talking about. And you're talking about preachers, kids, you'd be amazed at how many preachers kids actually struggle, because of difficulties that they face or their fathers have faced that families have faced, that bleeds over into their homes. But my dad he, he one thing he taught me and I feel like it has to do with integrity has to do with so many different things. Is that for me was to always be there with his family, no matter what, no matter what the situation or the need might be and there's one particular thing it sticks out in my mind. I've told this story so many times about my dad and he had a very busy schedule, he was always on the road he was always going and, and my

dad did a little different than some he stayed home he drove back and forth from home to all of his preaching engagements. And one particular day I was a young boy. And back behind our house we had and they still have today a pond. And I had been wanting to go go fishing. And I had been talking to dad about it and talking that about our likes that was younger and, and wasn't quite old enough to go by myself. And one particular day I remember I came in from school. I'd been wanting to go and dad was already dressed for to go preset and not had a suit and tie when he was ready to go fixing getting ready to leave. And not come in, I'd said something about it. Well, I looked around and it didn't see that anymore. Here in just a few moments, I saw him come out of his bedroom, he went back to his bedroom, he took his suit and tie off, took all that off, put on fishing clothes, went grab the fishing poles were talking about went out to that pond, he fished with me for probably about 20 minutes, maybe 2025 minutes didn't have long. We got finished, he went back to the house, he put it down what route back to that route. But result back home run, jumped in his car took off. And that has stayed in my mind all my life and such an impression on me. Because it made me realize no matter how busy he was, no matter what his schedule was, nothing was more important than me in that moment. And that's something that I've had to learn. As time goes on that our families, even though we're in ministry, and we were doing the work of the Lord, and we're doing what God's called us to do. Our families are outside of God, they're the most important thing in our life. And we have to show that how old were you when that happened? To be honest, I don't know. I was just just a young boy, I don't,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 06:51

I don't remember not probably not even a teenager.



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I was. I was I was just a young boy. But like I said that stay with me all my life.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 06:58

So you've remembered that now for 50 years, 4040 to 50 years, I



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probably was probably at least 45 to 50 year.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:08

Well, I love to hear stories like that, because that was 20 minutes of your dad's life that has impacted you for 40 years.



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20 minutes, I've never forgotten.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:20

So let's move to tell me about your kids. And I want to know kind of what you think you are like as a father and how did your dad's influence affect you as a father yourself? So you got many kids? And three? Okay. And they are boys, girls,

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two girls and a boy.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:40

Okay. What do you think? What kind of father do you think you've been? Are they grown? Are they all the house? Or?

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Well, I have one that's married and and have other two are still at home with me. I have one, it's 31 is 27. And one it's a thing. Okay. But to answer your question earlier about myself, I I've tried to incorporate in me the some of the various things, same things I've seen in my dad, I feel like that. For them to be there for them, to be there with them in all different areas of life or wherever they may be, I feel like is something that's very important. That's something I've always tried to do. And I was thinking about something. And when we just talked about making time. I feel like that's an important thing. In every issue. And I remember once when I was on the road as an evangelist I, God had blessed us to our schedule was pretty tight, and things. I remember one time and particularly when I was going to take a vacation for my family, because we really needed it because we'd been doing ministry week after week after weekend. And I had this one pastor who wanted to schedule me revival meeting. And I told him, I said, though, that particular week I have scheduled for my family. And I'll never forget. And I know some may not have agreed with this at the time, but I'll never forget. He looked at me and he said, Well, you got to decide, do you want to preach? Or do you want to take off? And I'll never forget, I looked him in the face and I just told him I said sir, I said I'd love to come preach revival for you. But I scheduled that week for my family. This is a time that we need

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:48

to describe to us one sentence. What does it take to be a great dad. You think you could put it into one sentence

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love being there being a constant, being steady. And always, I'm just gonna say it the way I feel it. Let leave be number one and show that to your family.

it. Let Jesus be number one and show that to your family.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 10:23

So the message that I want to send out to the young guys is that being a great dad is not complicated, right? It never has been. It all boils down to those things that you said, Love your kids, be consistent. Be there. That's it. You don't have to be anything fancy. You know, show them. And you've pointed out that when we do things for our kids or with our kids, so they remember you, you remember the 20 Minute incident that happened over 40 years ago. That wasn't complicated. It didn't, it doesn't take much for a guy to change his clothes, and walk out to a pond. Right? You know, that that does, you don't have to have an advanced degree in biochemistry or whatever. To do that. You just do it. You just show me this do those things. So what advice would you give to the young dad out there who's who's maybe has not had the advantage of having a father at home? And he's trying to sort through this? What kind of advice would you give to that young man for for? How do you? How do you make this fatherhood thing work? What's important?



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Always let your family feel like they're important. Always make them feel that they're outside of God, they're the most important issue in your life. Guys, number one, and then is my family. But I go back to where the word of God tells us if we gain the whole world, but we lose our own. So what have we gained? I think about that with my family. If we gain everything else, but we lose them, what have we gained, then gained it? So my statement to them would be always let them know they're important. Always let them know that you care, and what they care about you care about. And that they're the most special thing in your life.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:37

You think you've made any mistakes? Or what were some things that you think you could have done better?



12:43

Of made many mistakes? Starting out would be like what I said earlier, as an early on, Pastor, you know, missing some things I shouldn't have missed, because I thought that some of the things were important at the time, but I found out they wasn't as important as as they, as they were. Or they weren't as important as what I did where I needed to be with my family. I feel like I've failed a lot of times in listening, and maybe not hearing some of the things that they would tell me, because my mom would be so preoccupied with something else. And that's, that's so easy to do. Your mind can get preoccupied with other things that are going on, that one of your children can be telling you something that is very important to them, and you're missing it because you're not really hearing what they're saying. And I and I've done that. I hate to admit that. But I've done that at times. And I regretted and I've tried to learn from that, that no

matter what I'm thinking no matter what I'm doing, no matter what kind of pressures are going on. If one of my kids are trying to tell me something, stop and listen, nothing's more important. And in that moment,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 14:01

how do you flip that switch where you come in and you've had something happen at work? And it's on your mind? And that happens? I mean, we can all say that it's works for homes home, but it's not you everybody brings work home with them. So what's the key? And I'm asking because I need I need help with this. What's the key to flipping that switch when you walk through the door? The Have you figured that one out? Yeah.

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14:27

Me honestly, I haven't completely. I'm still working on that. But I try because sometimes steal even now. Sometimes when one of my family members might be telling me something, and I catch myself thinking about something else. I try to stop in that moment. And just tell myself, I can think about that later. I need to zero in here, right? And now, that can be done later. And it's not an easy switch to flip like you said, but it's just, sometimes you have to make that choice. And I know how to make it quite often.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 15:12

Yeah, I still struggle with that. And I'm an empty nester now so my wife comes home and she works all day. And, and, and she has lots of things to tell me, does that ever happen to you?

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I learned a long time ago, another one of those lessons I learned as a pastor. I came in when one day, and my wife was doing as you're talking about, she was sharing several different things with me. And it was one of those moments where I guess I had kind of zoned out. And she picked up on it. She said something to me, I've never forgotten. And I think it helped me so much with her and with my kids. She looked at me, she said, if I was just if I was a regular church member,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 15:56

you'd listen to me, Oh, man.

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She's a church member. But she said, if I was a regular church member, you'd listen to it. Oh, no, that then, but I was so proud. She shared that with me, because that was an eye opener for me, that helped me for her and with my kids.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 16:14

Wow. I think I would rather just go ahead and get the knife out of the drawer, stab him in the heart that was rough. But you know, part of part of what you have to do to model for your kids is you have to, to show that respect and appreciation for your wife, you know, young guys, you need to know that your your your kids need, they need to see you respect their mother. And even if you're not together, you know, ideally a kid's gets to grow up with a mom and a dad in the home. But if you're not together, you still need to respect that Sal's mother want to kind of move along and get to a part that might be hard for you to do a lot of guys find this difficult, but your dad and he and yourself are close and you're fortunate to still have him sometimes. It's hard for us man to, to verbalize to our dads, just what they mean to us. But I think it's important that we do. And I want to give you an opportunity to look into this camera. And just speak to your dad, and just just pour your heart out to him and say the things that you need to say to and this is this is an opportunity because he'll get to see this and do the best you can.

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I'd like to start out by saying that I want to thank you for being an amazing man and amazing person in my life and, and setting examples before me that I believe has helped me to become. And as I said earlier, I haven't always gotten it right, I've made more mistakes than I care to think about but but the examples you set before me, this helped to shape me in the man into the man that I am and also in to being able to lead my family the way I feel like God wants me to leave. That's because you set that example before me. And I just want to say thank you. And when I talked about integrity, and character, and, and strength and all of those things earlier, you are such an amazing example of those things and, and still are today. And I respect you and I honor you and I just want to say thank you to you that I love you with all of my heart. And I appreciate you and I'm so thankful that God has allowed you to still be in my life. And I pray that we have many, many more years together. And I just want you to know that love you and appreciate you so very much.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 18:58

Thank you for doing that, Keith, we we have a little gift for you. And we collected some video from your from your family. Just like to show that to you and maybe have you get a comment after you see this

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19:21

one of my favorite things about my dad is his consistency. Sometimes when you take on the role of a pastor, it can be easy to be one way in church that be completely different. You know if you run into that pastor at the store or just being with him and other places, but one thing I can say is that you are very consistent doesn't matter. If you're at the grocery store or if you're just at home or if you're a church. You're just the same and you love people so well and you serve people so well. And I want to thank you for showing me how to do that. I wouldn't be who I am today without seeing that for me. I can remember one day. Sorry. I can't remember one

day I came at Walmart. And this man stopped me. And he said, your dad pastors value, right? And I said, Yes, sir. And he said, he prayed for me one time, when I was just in desperate need of prayer, he said, I want you to thank you for that for me. And I had no idea who this man was, I couldn't even tell that who he was, because I had no idea. But there have been countless people that have come up to me, in our city and in our state that have just, you know, told me that he has prayed for them in different times. And he's not afraid to do that. There have been so many times we've been at Walmart or gas station, or just wherever, and we'll lose him. And we'll get to the car. And we're like, where's Dad? And he'll get back and we're like, Dad, what were you doing, and he was praying for somebody or, you know, talking to somebody about the Lord. He's not embarrassed or shy or ashamed of the God that he serves. And I just want to say thank you, Dad, for teaching me to love others the way that Jesus loved and to serve others, the way that he served, I love you with all my heart.



21:11

Dan, one of my favorite things about you is that you are a man of honor, and integrity. And I think anyone that's ever had a conversation with, you could say the same thing. It reminds me of the verse in Proverbs chapter 22, where it says a good name is to be chosen rather than great riches. And that verse reminds me of you because you have chosen the good name. And you've left such a rich legacy, for myself and for our family and for my kids. And I couldn't be more grateful for that. One of my favorite stories about you is the time that someone gave mom a glass vase of flowers that the last thing he told me was Lesley don't break this vase. And I remember that's exactly what I did. I fell up the steps and broke the vase glass went everywhere, I cut myself open and had glass in my hand. And the last thing I said was dad helped me. And I just remember, you run into my rescue, you took me inside, claimed me off, got the glass out of my hand cleaned up the mess. And not one time did you say I told you not to break that not one time, were you angry with me that you just helped pick me up and clean me off, and got me going on my way. And so that story has stuck with me. And I hope to be the kind of parent that you have been to me in that aspect. And I appreciate that so much. I just want to thank you for being such a good and godly man. Thank you for showing me and modeling before me what it's like to stay true to Christ and stay faithful. Even when things seem unbearable. Even when life gets tough. And the season is dark. You've stayed faithful and true. And I'm grateful to you for that, for modeling that before me. And I will never forget it. And I pray that I can be more like that. So I just thank you so much, dad, and I love you with my whole heart.



23:02

That one of my favorite things about you is you're a strong man, not just physically but also spiritually and in leadership of our family in our church. And I want to say I'm grateful to you for that. One of the most memorable stories that comes to mind about you is a time I was out cutting grass in the yard and I got stung by several yellow jackets and had to go to the ER. And when everything settled back down, I saw you letter on walking through the yard with a gas can in your hand and you looked at me and said, Son, you're never going to have to worry about those yellow jackets again. And that time and so many others you've always been quick to defend your family and your house, your kids, everything and I want to say I'm thankful for that. I also want to thank you for modeling before me the life of a godly man and teaching me to also be a godly man. Thanks that I love.





23:54

Some of the greatest things that I love about you as a father and watching you being a father is that from a young age, our children were led to the Lord by you not just as the priest of our home but also as the shepherd as their pastor. And I think that's just amazing. And also I love how that each one of our kids have picked up traits your very best qualities. You're a man of character and honor and I'm so thankful for you. I guess I'm just thankful that you're the real deal and that when things have been tough in the past that you have been rock solid that you have surely planted your feet on rock the rock Christ Jesus and I'm so thankful for you

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Scott Hilton (Host) 24:38

that's quite a quite a tribute Keith. How's it feel? Awesome. Awesome. Awesome. Not good. No, but think I had a friend several years ago who told me this and and you made me think of it. But he said And, theoretically, if we could sit down with God and say, God, tell me, give me a list of the 100 best Christians walking on the face of the earth today. And theoretically, God could give us the list. He said, we probably would not recognize one name. Because it's people like you. And people like my dad, who daily, daily consistently lived the life. You're not a flashy guy. You're not boisterous. You're not out there trying to make a name for yourself. You're just day in day out, living the life in front of your kids. And then those testimonials. That's what I heard. And I think that guy's like he are heroes. Think that the world needs to see more guys like you. And more fathers need to strive not to be rich and famous and not to not to be well known. But just to day in, day out, live with integrity, consistency, and love your families. So appreciate you doing that. I think the world needs more of you. And I hope that through this podcast that we've inspired some young man to know if you want to know what a real hero looks like, look at a guy like Keith, but a guy like you. Thank you for being here. Hopefully we've inspired somebody. It's been my honor.



26:34

Thank you so much.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 26:35

That'll conclude this episode. That's my dad podcast where we're inspiring young fathers to be great dads, and we're breaking cycles of generational fatherlessness. Thanks for being here and we'll look forward to seeing you next week.