

# SHOWNOTES - Willie Sayles (36/50)

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dad, church, daughter, wife, kids, mom, people, father, raise, girls, started, instill, relationship, christ, day, life, birthdays, teach, seek, single moms

## SPEAKERS

Willie Sayles (Guest), Scott Hilton (Host)

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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:15

Welcome back to another episode of the less my dad podcast got a new friend here with me Willie sales. You know, Willie, people say, Well, how do you select people to be on your podcast? And I like to think it's an honor to be on here. And I think most of the people that we bring on to, but I had asked my wife, we were praying about some people that we could bring on and, and she said, You know, there's a guy at my school. That is just the most the best dad I've ever lived I've ever seen. I said, What about his kids? And she said, He has three daughters. And they're the most highly respected kids that you ever may say, everybody loves his daughters, and as well as your wife. Don't forget that. But but my wife works at the school where your daughter is a student. And I think she knows you got one in college, you got one in middle school and one in elementary. Thanks. She knows two of them. And once he told me was it, man, this guy must have something figured out because his kids are the most respectable and respected kids anywhere around. So you've got something I want to try to learn today. So I did a little background check. You know, we went and checked you out. And I thought, yeah, we gotta get this guy. So thank you for being here.

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Willie Sayles (Guest) 01:30

Thank you for having me.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 01:31


Tell me a little bit about yourself because we've just met.


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Willie Sayles (Guest) 01:33


Okay. I'm Willie Sayles. Um, I work for the USDA. That's my I say my real job, but I have a catering business on the side sales catering. been doing that for 15 years now. I'm just a all around guy. I'm also a minister. I go to the people's place, church,


 Scott Hilton (Host) 01:53  
great church,


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family oriented type guy, family. And that's what's been instilled to me a lot to my dad. Okay. He's about family.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 02:03  
All right. So we were talking some about maybe your granddad. We'll talk about those. Well, besides

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how my dad's mom passed when he was 16. I think a lot of my raising from my dad because he didn't know his mom died at such a young age. He actually started working a lot. And he moved to Gaston to live with his grandmother. And she helped raise him. He got maybe 18 I think he went into the Army, but he sort of helped raise his younger siblings as well, because when his mom died, she think my one baby, his baby brother was like maybe six months. Okay, very young. So,

 Scott Hilton (Host) 02:42  
so you kind of have a step up into that

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sort of being a dad and my granddad and he had nine other brothers, no siblings. So my granddad they know they stayed in Elmore County. So my dad when he moved here, I think the younger kids, like four of them came to live here. And so my dad helped raise them he worked. No gay man says my mom to help

 Scott Hilton (Host) 03:01  
raise so your granddad had nine children Xterra T in total. 10. Total. And in your wife, his wife passed away has to wait. So he was left with that many children to raise and they were all different ages I'm assuming? Most definitely. So he had to have some help. He had some help. Okay, he reached out to your his.



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His his mom's mother? Mom. So my grandmother, okay. His maternal mother. Yep. Right. You know, some of the kids



Scott Hilton (Host) 03:31

here. Yeah. So you don't have to start working real young. really young. Yeah. And you were telling me what a hard worker he was. My dad



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is a super hard worker. That's where I get a lot of my my drive from. After he was in the army. He got on it and good year. He was a year for like, 20 something years, he took early retirement, but he got called into the ministry, really. And so he started pastoring the church, Mount Zion Baptist Church, and he's gassed. And so it was like, that was his life. When I say that was his life, church was his life. Yeah, um, besides working in church, and gonna probably get into some other things about that. To to, to his not say to his detriment, but my dad was like, really involved in it to the, to the, to the church. Sometimes I feel slighted, ya know, growing up, because because he spent more time at the church, he spent more time with the church key is, you know, he's like, you really give your life over when you have something like that. And if you're not careful to balance that out with your own family. We felt slighted a little bit. Yeah. So



Scott Hilton (Host) 04:40

how many of you were there?



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It was three, three. I have a brother and a sister that lives with us. So we felt slighted a little bit of always about the church. It was to the point when I got rid of the graduate. They was having a revival. And they was because revival was that we and because of the time we graduated, they wouldn't even make it To my graduation, I didn't know. But something changed. They changed our time. That's the only reason why they made to migrate away from my dad was he's able to church. It was churches going on.



Scott Hilton (Host) 05:09

So a lot of preachers, kids, I think, feel that. Yeah, you felt that? How did you? How did you deal with that as a preacher's kid?



05:16

Well, I didn't want to do that. I guess I got into the motion. If we had to go to church, I went to church and my brother on the other hand, once he started working, it's fine. And when he started working, I think he requested to work send the direction it got me. I caught something in it. So and they helped me out with it non stood and um, became no okay. I started having a relationship with Christ. I'm sold out so no, but it bothered

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Scott Hilton (Host) 05:44

me. So you didn't resent that? Right? Right. Right. So now your dad and you have good relations. Your dad's still living my dad still living? Yeah. Tell us about your relationship. Now.

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My dad and I have a better relationship than we've ever had in life. Because my dad is I guess, because I don't I get I gather now, a lot. He didn't learn from his day by being so young. You know, dad was working, you know, to raise the kids. My dad moved down here with his grandmother. I just remember one store. We went. He's from Mr. County, we Tomko, Alabama. So me and my little me and my brother. We went there one Saturday, you know, to do something, pick up something. When I say it was no conversation in the car. My dad is that type person. And the only thing he said to us when we got there, hey, we used to live in a house within the field. And on the way back, he said, Are y'all hungry? Only conversation for those two and a half hours that we had.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 06:39

But it was it was time it was time you spent time when you spend time. Yeah, that's just his personality.

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06:44

That's his personality. That's my Learn to wait. It's funny. My wife, we talk about hair. So let's do the other people like my dad to be in the room. And I may ask him something, but I actually do my mom and I call myself and my wife called and wanted you to watch it. I'll do that. Just I don't know why. But they're just part of it was, hey, I wanted to talk to my mom that my mom would say something to my dad. It was just crazy. Just have that. Yeah, me my dad can see it and tall.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:10

Was there a turning point? Or is there a change? Or I think it just just kind of occurs you grew up and understood things and and

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07:19

started understanding one another. When I understood that he was doing the best he probably knew. And you know, his dad probably didn't give him that. So he was just modeling after what he brought out. So when he had that, but just because you're doing you know you had been taught that doesn't mean you can stay that way. I'm always about to change that. Yeah. So I mean, Hey, Dad, how you doing today? You know, and that started just doing?

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:43

I've been different? Yeah, I'm sure he's proud of you to hear.



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He said that one day. I overheard him I think it was like I said, I heard him telling somebody else. I'm proud of that. Boy, I guess he was saying something about how I was raising my girls. Yeah. I have three girls. So he was just saying Sunday, my day and he said, you know that boy, he's he's doing the right. And that's stuck in your mind stuck in my mind. Yeah, I heard my mom say it one day about something. She said, You know what? I'm so proud of Willie. It's funny, but it was necessary to say it to me by overhear them saying the same thing that was their way that just was wrong. So how does that make you feel one day and I was overjoyed with the likes. I'm doing something right. You know? Yeah, I

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Scott Hilton (Host) 08:23

think we all crave that. And we've heard that over and over. Do you try to do that with your girls? almost definitely.



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I'm, I've learned that you can always learn something whether to do or not to do in life. So I try to over compensate with my girls. You know, I try to get in there like, Hey, how you doing today? You know? How was your day? You know, just just being a mom, let them know. I'm appreciative of them. I'm proud of them. We say that a lot. My wife is a wordy type person. So that's just in our household. We don't We appreciate you. We love you. As every day every day. Yeah, I'd be able to build a model for life.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:00

What do you think? What are some things that your dad did really well?



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work ethics. He taught his work ethics, if nothing else, the work? One thing I remember when I was working at one of the FASB, I was a manager I wanted to fast food restaurants, it was stressful. And he said, Boy, I tell you so you know how many times I want to quit my job. He

said, I had a family to raise and that's stuck with me. You have some you know, when you are responsible for something you just can't quit because you mad that day, going out, you know, haphazardly and say I'm gonna quit no responsibilities. You got to sometimes suck some things in.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:34

So your dad got up every day and went to work? Yes, most definitely. Oh, most definitely. In terms of raising your girls, what do you think some things that you've had done, right?



09:46

Well, the first and foremost, one thing we ensured instilled in them have a relationship with Christ. That was that was one thing we know. That's how me and Tiffany got together. So we tried to steal that they would have a relationship with Christ or above everything else. One of the things we try to instill in them education, you know, do your work, no study, you know that I have, right some very bright students been told and your wife is working on her doctors working on her doctor. They are we gotta

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Scott Hilton (Host) 10:18

mama did



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you know that I did, because I didn't know I went to college, I started college, but I was working so that that's when I'm gonna say I live a life of regret for that, because there's still time, I still go back to college for one to two, but it's like, I gotten into the workforce and I never turned back when I could have went on to finish the college and all that but um,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 10:40

so So some things that you've done right? To teach them to love Christ, teaching them the importance of an education.



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And also we teach them to it's about others. It's not about you all the time. My daughters have but they have a willing heart to help others sometimes so they did for me, you know, they love my oldest daughter she is strong wheel but her heart she cares burdens like it's sort of like my wife. She's a psychology major. My oldest daughter like she tried to be a fixture for others. He was promised a name because people bring it to you. But I told her that's part of a ministry to that has to do you know, now and later on in life, you got to just pick and choose.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 11:18

How do you roll? How do you model that for a kid to? We all want to have kids that are generous and giving and caring? How do you teach them to be that way that they just turned out that way? Or do you think they're



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just not the way it's a lot of different things you have to do let them know it's others minded to be others minded. By Christmas? Um, we believe in Christmas. Yes. But we never believe in just 1000s of gifts. 100 skills, we always believe in three gifts, something you want. Something that you need is something educational. We kept us up. But we'd go all out on the birthdays. You

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Scott Hilton (Host) 11:52

mean they didn't turn out to be terrible kids because they didn't get everything they wanted. They did not turn out and that amazing how that happens.



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They were very appreciative. But we will go out on the birthdays with the National Day. Christmas this this this Jesus birthday. So did you see a little something but we try to keep others mind and what can we give to someone else?

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:11

So what do you think some things you might have done wrong? Oh, they're still young, you might still be doing something? Where are some things where you think you could improve?



12:21

Some things? I think I can prove just spending more time with them. I do have dated or two dates, um, but not as often as I would like. What's that? Like? Oh, oh, they love it. They look forward to it. Really? And I don't do them. I do them separately.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:35

Really? Yes. Daddy daughter dates and what kind of stuff do you do? We go to



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the movies out to eat sometimes just one of my daughters. She just want to chill at home is

what have some pizza, watch something on it. Now you got three daughters, three daughters,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:48

and a wife and a wife. So you have a lot of dates. A lot of dates. And you do this one on one, one on one. What do you think is gonna do for them as adults when they get older? I know I know you're doing it just because you want to do it. But in thinking about how that might affect them. How do you think that might play out?

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13:08

I think it's gonna play out well with them. Because not only why you know why we're out I'm talking to them. No, it's stealing some things into him. You know about relationships about life. So it's no it's a two part. You know, I've spent time with him also trying to I watch out for this in life. Watch out for the you know, don't nobody just come you know. Take advantage of you. Yeah, my dad so I'm using those moments to teach them as well. Okay, I think that's gonna carry with them because daddy, daddy taught me that during that time. Away from everybody else one on one. Hey, that relationship and they were playing song.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:46

That's advice that I would give any dad have a daughter? Yes. And I spent time with my daughter we didn't do daddy daughter dates. I guess we did. Maybe it was yeah, it's been a week may call it something else. But I think that gives them a you know, if if your daughter doesn't have intimacy, proper intimacy, obviously with you, they'll seek it elsewhere. And that's that's that's an epidemic in our country with 18 million children growing up without a dad in their home. Those little girls are going to look for attention from from a male figure. That's the way God designed us to be right. And if they don't get it from daddy, they'll go seek it out somewhere else. You're building you're building a foundation with them that they can grow on and not be seeking out the wrong kind of guys and not just taking the first guy comes along that's it. You know, what are some things that they've done like activity wise that that you've been able to support?

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Pretty much everything they do I support my oldest daughter she got into oratorical speaking real public speaking and and I I was at everything she done she was in the band and you know, I can't make every game but you know just supporting them and that my my daughter's dad did some triumphs I say try him there try something in a minute and my daughter was okay or belt be on the bowling team she would have been oratorical you know just so many things, but we supported me that

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Scott Hilton (Host) 15:19

it was a family affair for y'all you and your wife and your age





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has been deep in their lives. I'm very much involved in four h ambassadors, my oldest daughter's Ambassador my youngest my middle daughter, now you know what they all involved in four h and all the programs that for each and just other legacy club so low for young girls and boys now. They are involved in that and button a lot of community. I played my daughter used to wonder she used to just go to the the pound to the animal shelter to animal shelter and volunteer. Yeah. Beat the dog. I'm not Yeah, I could do so much else with your time. But that's



Scott Hilton (Host) 16:01

hard. That's too hard. It's too hard. What kind of advice would you have for other dads out there?



16:08

Advice for other day is, is um, even if you don't know how to do, um, I think, I think I believe in divine intervention, I believe the Holy Spirit allows me to, hey, do this. And I'm led by the Holy Spirit, and a lot of things of how to do it, because you don't know how to be he does. God our heavenly Father knows. So it was like when you when you tap into that he can direct you in your individual way of how you need to do whatever. So I will say, for those days have have relationship with Christ in if you don't know how to do seek, get some help from someone else. model after someone else do this somebody else in the community, if you look around somebody, they can give you some advice or whatever, and just take the advice and go with it.



Scott Hilton (Host) 16:53

Yeah, that's good advice. So you part of what you've done is you've you've just listened to God speak to you and give you these great ideas for raisins.



17:03

And it's been modeled to not only you know, I see it, I've learned what to do sometimes and what not to do by looking at my day, you know, nobody will do everything, right. But I can also look at a deacon in church or a pastor, my pastor, you know, and see how they do when I say, okay, I can model after that.



Scott Hilton (Host) 17:20

Because advice. We live in a society where fathers are not honored, the role of the father is not honored. It's almost like we've reached the point that people think, well, you don't need a father, I've had Pete, we've been on the podcast, people respond, you know, online, and it's like

we, you know, you don't really need a father. They're just needed to contribute the biological material to make a baby. And then they go off and leave. What do you think that does? First of all, what does that do to a child to have to grow up without a dad,



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I think a child to grow up without a dad and it's gonna be owl is gonna be always to them a missing part, it's gonna be something missing in their life, and they gonna start seeking that, like you were saying earlier with the girls, they, you're gonna start seeking something other than what you really need. Like, I think a lot of guys get into gangs, because they stick them in, they love them. They know that father, whoever give them attention, or show them a little love. They're gonna gravitate towards that. Good, bad or indifferent?

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Scott Hilton (Host) 18:21

Yeah. Well, it's, it's, we feel like and I know, you agree, we feel like the fatherless epidemic that's going on in our country is at the root of most of our social problems. Yes, I believe it's not economics. It's not race. It's not law enforcement. It's not teachers. It's the father not being there to teach kids how to be how to be respectable, responsible, hard work, and people that contribute to society, because



18:48

God has set it up, you know, the woman, the woman has a role and the man has a role. A lot of times, I just remember one story with my, my, my wife. She felt like I was talking harsh. You know, every day, it can't be, you know? I said, No, sometimes they need a stern voice from a dad. Yeah, guys, you know, young boys need a stern voice from another male. To get them lying note, a lot of times you can say something, that's one thing. My my girls growing up, I can just say one thing to him and yesterday, No, Mama can probably say it over and over and over again. And I say, Hey, what's your mom's? And it's just that father's voice. And when I seen that, that's what it's like you're saying what society is missing this this stern, strong hand boys because we raised differently, you know, our, you know,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 19:33

women raised differently than male. Yeah. And you know, a lot of people will argue with us about that. That's all we know. Women are strong. They can handle it. They can do it. But I mean, women, a mom can't do the same things a dad can do and a dad sure can't. They wouldn't monkey man, regardless of what people think. Now, I do respect single moms. I do no doubt in my mind. I respect a tremendous amount Respect, some of them are doing the best they can do. And doing a good job. A lot of guys been raised by single moms. But to have a dad round, it's just the replaceable, replaceable, replaceable, even the guys, and we've interviewed here whose dads had passed away, they still had an empty place in their heart, even though that their dad loved him. He was gone, and there was just a void there. And you can only imagine how a kid feels if he's been raised by a single mom, and he knows his dad's out there

wandering around somewhere, choosing not to have anything to do with him. Yes, I just think is detrimental. To what do you think the role of the church or as Christians should be in reaching these fatherless kids?



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I think the role of the church to reach these fathers skiers is just there to reach them. So love to him doesn't have to be someone you know, you know, like out my church, we go to the East Gaston Community Center on on Fridays, and we have a group a couple, they're gonna instill, you know, just spending time to kids and kids. They don't, they gravitate to love the show toward the end. That's all in that's what we need to do as a church to reach out to those fathers. And we think recall to do that, when we know what we can do. Whenever you notice someone doesn't have a fall in this net, we honestly want to step in, that was me in the church, I don't want to stepping in to help you raise your kids, whatever you want to, you know, instill some, some good things into some other kids as well.



Scott Hilton (Host) 21:29

Yeah, let me let me get on to churches a little bit here. They're not gonna come walking in your door. You have to go out you got to go out into their world. They they're not, you know, churches, we tend to think, Oh, well, we're gonna have our singing Oh, God, the great singing. And we're gonna have gray preaching. But then we're not going anywhere. You're telling me your church is out there and? And beyond those four walls? Yeah, you're out there.



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We just we just kind of gather and worship and get geared up, you know, get energized and go out.



Scott Hilton (Host) 21:58

What do you think it does to a kid who's out there and he's struggling? He doesn't have a didn't have a dad, maybe his mom's not got her act together. And he's, he sees this group of people at the community center. And they, they they're nice to him. They smile at him. They tell him he's got talent. They just they complimented What do you think it does to that kid? It's gonna



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build up that he has self esteem to the point where they want to do better. My pastor just told a story how in a previous ministry, he was in the head Men's Ministry and his little boy coming in at Yale. No one does that. He's in a group. Each guy was respectful one. Yes, sir. They said what they were saying. Yes, sir. One other guy left. Yes, sir. He wants his environment, the atmosphere that you create, it changes.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 22:46

I'm so glad your church has taken taking it outside of the walls of a Sunday morning. That means the world what do you think, are some of the greatest joys of being a dad?



23:01

Somebody the greatest joys of man. And that to me is like when you think you've missed, you know, you missed it, yourself or what you missed, or what you know, what you didn't get, you can instill it in them. So it can be flipped around, you know, try to do it better. If you can, do you think you'd done so great. And then what they still tell them when they pass it on today key is just even greater, and that legacy is built upon just doing it, it's just getting better and better and better and better.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 23:28

I want to ask you to do something I want, I want to ask you to pay honor to your dad. Okay, we're gonna we're gonna give you a chance to do that in this camera here. Okay, first thing you'd like to just say to your dad.



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First of all, I would like to say that I love you. I appreciate and I'm honored all that you instilled in me, whether you've done it verbally, or I've seen you do with work ethics, relationship with Christ, your diehard Jesus fan, when you got into the church, and you were into the church, and it's like it was a church and nothing else. To that to the extent and I'm grateful because of that I have a relationship with Christ. And my daughters have relationship with Christ. And that's funny still beyond the time that you're gone, I'm gone. Their relationship with Christ is gone forever be with them. And for that I'm forever grateful for what you've done. Not only for me, my sisters, my brother, and for the family in which how you reached out to all your family, your family, man, he wants us all to be together and do things together. And I'm a dad, I'm grateful. I love you for what appreciate you. I'm proud of you.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 24:41

Tell me what your kids mean to you.



24:44

Oh, Mikey is? They mean? Absolutely the world to me. I am so honored to have three beautiful girls. And when I say I was trying to be a heart, you know, heart my daughter, my oldest daughter just went off to college. And I was like, Oh, I'm ready. If you go, you know, I feel like we've done our part. But one day at work, it hit me like a ton of bricks. And I just started like literally bawling. And it's like, my daughter's, I mean, it just, it just hit me. All of a sudden, I was one heartbreak, so I'm ready to go, you know, you know, but No, later on about a week later, it

just hit me, I was really crying. And just, they've just mean the world. To me. It's like, it's like a part of me. But I'm happy. I'm apprehensive that I know we've we've done right by them. But just to see them go and to go off and make their own mistakes. And, you know, the trials and tribulations and triumphs. A part of me is discounting. Yeah, I can't make quick

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Scott Hilton (Host) 25:46

so that I went through that with my daughter. And in fact, a security guard on the college campus was getting worried that I wasn't gonna leave. But I couldn't see because I was in the parking lot crime. I couldn't see to drive home. And he kind of kept circling around the car until finally my wife said, Honey, you're gonna have you need to you need to go before we get arrested. She's, she was in her dorm room, having a good time. Well, what would you want your kids to say about you when they're grown?

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26:18

I want to say No, Dad, first of all, we have relationship with Christ because of you. And mom, too. We learned how to work, learn how to provide for ourselves not dependent on you know, be better for the society so to speak. Whatever in we can obtain the goals and dreams, you know, we put our mind to it, and work at it. And he did honestly,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 26:44

we got a little video from your kids. We want to present that to you and just just get your reaction to how they feel about that. I love surprise from your wife to

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the thing I like best about my husband as a father is that he's a man after God's own heart. And he models that before our girls

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died, I want to thank you for just pushing me to have success. And just let me know that you love me and you will always be there for me.

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27:24

And the thing I like most about my father's house hard working kids in a love how he's always trying to put a dish first. We salute you our Prophet, priests and King of our home.

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27:40

Daddy, I just want to thank you for your unwavering love support and wisdom. I love you.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 27:47

As I feel willing I'm on it. So worth all the hard work. Worth doing things right to have this moment

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28:13

is not in vain. It's not in vain. It's not in my God be the glory to God be

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Scott Hilton (Host) 28:19

the glory. Well, you've, you've been quite an inspiration to a lot of people and you're, you know, you're a role model. And when my wife told me about to my wife's not wanting to hang out compliments just for nothing. And you stuck out in her in her mind. It's been a guy that a lot of people need to look up to and say, I can be like that guy. So it's my prayer and hope that there's gonna be just maybe just one young man out there. And you're you're you're thinking you know, I'm just not I'm not good enough or I can't make it. Look at Willie. Look at Willie look at those tears rolling down as as you can. You can have that same feeling one day and have have kids and a wife that honor you. You can be a man of respect in the community. You can be a man that everybody looks up to you as a role model. Thank you for coming on anything else you want to say?

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29:17

I'm just I'm I'm extending its you know, hi. Things worked out with me. I don't feel like I should. That's how God works. We're talking about I've got new

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Scott Hilton (Host) 29:29

friends. That'll conclude this episode. That's my dad where we're aspiring fathers to become great dads and we're breaking cycles of generational fatherlessness. See us next week. Thanks.