

SHOWNOTES - Mike Davis (34/50)

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host), Mike Davis (Guest)

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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:15

Well, welcome to another episode of that's my dad, Mike Davis is here. And if you don't know Mike Davis man, he's one of the most incredible people I've ever met. Just a super humble guy. Mike, tell us a little bit about your background. I think everybody in our little town knows who you are. But for those that are outside of our little town here, tell us kind of your background and what you've done and so forth.

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Mike Davis (Guest) 00:41

Well, I was born in Gaston, and someone asked me what sign I was born under, and I said, the Holy Name of Jesus Hospital, which is now Riverview, by the way. So this is all I've ever known and chosen to live here. I think this is a wonderful, wonderful place. I cannot begin to express the gratitude that I have to my parents, I was born into a Christian home. And that actually lived what they believed. And were true to that. With a little bit of effort, I can remember both of my parents being baptized when I was about four years old, I still remember that. And we attended the same church then for 49 years. And just a perfect if it can be perfect, a perfect example of Christ's likeness in our home. I don't remember my mom and dad ever having an argument, have never seen my dad lose his temper. He almost lost it last Saturday when in Alabama, Tennessee. But I mean, that kind of I grew up with that. I guess, thinking everyone grew up like that. And as I got a little older and begin to realize, you know, I've really got something here. I'm standing under the shades of trees that I did not plant. And the best I can do, what I should do is to be grateful. So I've tried to express gratitude and have gratitude because I realized, my sister and I have just one sibling that we were blessed beyond measure, and still are. And again, praise the name of the Lord God is a great God, he would be a great God if we hadn't had those kinds of parents. But for some reason he chose to give those to us and I'm eternally grateful.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 02:35

I'm curious to know, I know how you feel about your dad, but I'm curious to know, did you know

your grandfather? Your dad's dad?



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Yes, yes, he died when I was 21. So I got to know him. He's very similar to my dad, in that he was very calm and very directed. And what he did, I knew my grandmother on my dad's side as well. And the grandmother on my mother's side, my other grandfather died when I was a year and a half old. I don't remember him. But yes, and I do think grandparents have a great, great influence. For some reason, both of my all my grandparents had been dead now going on 50 years. But I still have recurring dreams occasionally that I'm at their house when I was a kid. And just I think I'm not trying to be, you know, something kind of eerie with that. But to say that it had such an impression on my life that 50 years later, I still remember those times. And it's deep in my, my consciousness, in semi consciousness about the influence that they had.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 03:43

Yeah, we have so many people come on this program. Oh, as I was telling you, before we went live, we have we try to have a balance of guys who came out of really good situations like you and guys who came out of terrible situations, because we want people to see that generational blessings are frail, and you've been the recipient, probably of several Yes, generations. And you're passing that along to your kids. But but you also had a heart for kids who were not. You didn't bring into the world. You became a school teacher. One



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thing that benefited me greatly was the church I attended. It was watched chapel that would become Crosspoint, which is now the church at Will's Creek, started a church bus ministry in the late 1960s. I was only 12 or 13 years old. But at age 14, I started working on that bus ministry. And that was one of the great blessings of my life because I went into homes where it was not like my home. As a young person I begin to see and God just put a burden on my heart for those young people. But that changed me that did much more for me than we I could ever have done for those kids. And it just showed me that. And the Bible says that if we've been given much, much as required, that God has given much for us to give back from that. And so I've tried, and I hope I've had some success in giving back a portion of what God has given to me.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 05:21

Yeah. So you, you from that bus experience. You went on to college?



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Yes, I did. I actually got an accounting degree and did that for three years, worked for a local CPA firm for three years, and then just felt the call of God to go into teaching. And that's all I ever planned to do. After teaching one year, they asked me to be principal, and which is a

whole different ballgame than being a teacher. But at the same time, I taught the whole time I was principal, I taught at least part time and sometimes basically full time as well. So I did that for 27 years and then left from from teaching and being an administrator and going back to accounting, when I retired just a few months ago.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 06:09

Yeah, yeah. So you, you, you're right, you and your wife, Phoebe came to work at Eagle Rock when I was there. And y'all, y'all were a tremendous blessing to me. You know, Mike, the thing I remember most about you, not only that y'all were dependable. But I remember after I retired, you continue to go and help. And y'all were y'all are trying to help the house parents who were overwhelmed. And sometimes you get overwhelmed, because everybody was overwhelmed. But I remember going up there several times after I had retired, and you'd be out on the court playing basketball with the boys. And I was just so meaningful to me to see that you aren't just a warm body there to fill a slot. You were investing in those kids? Just kind of say you invested in a lot of young people through the years, what do you what was your motivation for that? And what are some of the rewards for for investing in,

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I feel like that having an impact. And I think the only eternal impact we have is when we share Christ. And when we share the Word of God with young people. I told my small group class Sunday, I can only think of three eternal things, for lack of a better word. A number one, God is eternal. Time spent with God is eternal time can never be lost or taken away. God's word is eternal forever, oh, Lord, Thy Word has settled in heaven. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Word shall not pass away, that when we can inject the Word of God into a situation. And then thirdly, people are eternal in the sense that a million years from today, everyone will be somewhere, heaven or hell, and that everything else is temporary, that I can think of, I can't think of, you know, whatever else we deal with, is not not that it couldn't be important, but it's not as important as those three things. So what we attempted to do, and what we're still attempting to do is to when there's a conflict when there's a problem, and what I found from being principal, it seemed like I was constantly dealing with conflict, which you might think that you wouldn't have been in a Christian school, but Christian schools have is a hospital for sinners, just like public schools are, and the conflict is there. And you know, someone took this and someone said this about me and someone wrote this bad note, I guess today would be sent a text back and I was writing know, well, how do you deal with that conflict. And so I had to go to the Scripture and try to biblically deal and teach how to deal with conflict. And so the privilege of being able to share that in a Christian school was a great blessing. So I pray that that had some effect. And then one of the great joys of my time as being principal and teaching was I taught senior Bible mines.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:09

I have to think that your kids watched you and Vivi because they were there to school with you. They watched how you treated people. And your actions as a parent often speak volumes. And I watched how you treat people, I had kids in your school. And what the one thing that sticks out in my mind is you you had a every child was an individual. You as the principal of that school,

did not have any boxes that you put kids into. Every kid was an individual and we would bring kids in that that might have a background in the past and that have issues and records and stuff. But you wanted to look at every one of them and know what they're, you know, what makes them an individual and what are their talents and skills and what it got. How did you gift them. And, you know, we had kids in private school, we had kids in public school, we homeschooled, we've done it all. Sure. But I've never forgotten, Mike that every time I ever took a kid your school, you weren't concerned about what are the other people in the school gonna take or what's the board game, you may have been concerned about it and you probably needed to be. But your primary concern was always what's best for this child. Thank you. And I think your kids probably picked up on that haven't been around to see how you've treated people. And that's a message I want to send out to dads, your kids know how you treat people. One of the guys here, he made a comment during the interview that your kids don't care what you know, they care how you treat people. That's the most important thing. And I think the fact that you were very busy, you spent a lot of time doing stuff for everybody else's kid. But your kids saw that. And they saw how you treated people is a message that we all need to take into account. And by the way your kids are, you know, we usually do a little video at the end of the podcast, we're not gonna be able to do that because your kids are doing the Lord's work. And



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I have to tell this without telling too much. But my wife was a missionary for a year to Guatemala and they plan to go back again. And that's how she ended up here. became a missionary to here, then I guess, but from the time our daughter especially but I think she also prayed the same for our son. But from the time our daughter was born, she prayed I guess daily, that she would be in full time Christian work. So fast forward 25 years, we're taking her to the airport. This is before she was married, taking her to the Atlanta airport for her to fly to Johannesburg, South Africa for two years. Stay there doing God's work. We're leaving Atlanta, and my wife is just crying like a baby. And you know, and I finally answered, okay, okay. She said, you know, just two years as such, I said, Listen, you can't pray your entire life. Yeah. And when God answers the prayer you be upset about she said, I'm not upset. It's tears of joy. We, we had a good time with that. But



Scott Hilton (Host) 12:37

I remember that I remember that specifically. Yeah. So there were some reasons we were just can't get videos from,



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from from your kids, but they might still come in. So hopefully,



Scott Hilton (Host) 12:49

well, if they do well, sure. But there were some reasons we wanted to let people know and both your kids extremely successful. And but not only you got one is a very successful businessman, and you've got one that's doing God's work. But just successful people. Just solid people.

and you've got one that's doing, do it God's work. But just successful people, just good people. In fact, when my daughter decided to get married, I told her, I said, you need to call Hannah. And she did. And because I knew that if she was raised by you, she was going to be in good hands. And she did. And my daughter learned a lot from your daughter and like your mentor and kind of got passed down. But you got some grandkids too. You want to tell us we have



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five grandsons. And they are the apple of our eyes to say the least. And just such a such a great blessing to us. And we pray we pray for them daily, and they're still young. And we're praying for them to accept Christ and to follow Him. I mean, they're in church and Alia has not yet reached that age to where they've made the decision for the Lord wonderful kids. And God's doing some some powerful things in their lives. And so we're just most grateful for all of that.



Scott Hilton (Host) 14:09

Yeah. And your your, your your son and daughter have carried on that tradition of reaching out. Beyond there are a lot of kids out there all over the world who don't have this true set of birth parents and your your kids have voluntarily taken on the role. And I think we can maybe leave it at that. You've got an incredible family. And they love you and appreciate you deeply. Your dad must be a special guy.



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He's 92 years old, ready to turn 92 Two weeks ago,



Scott Hilton (Host) 14:46

and I've heard you talk about your dad. I've heard that. You're just another image of him.



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Well, I would hope so that's a great compliment. I'll tell a quick story. You're But my dad, well, let me go back to say gamma, my dad is so even keel. He's cool, calm and collected. Like as I said, I have never seen him lose his temper his entire life. And just a model person from the time that I can remember, we were in church Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, Thursday night choir practice Monday night, cleaning the church, you'd I mean, it was like, our whole lives revolved around the church. And my dad was a work for the Postal Service. And so, but there was always time, every revival service, we never missed a service. We were there for everything. And I look back and appreciate that so much. And my mom and my dad, were faithful, to my knowledge, never missed a payroll of giving their tithes what they believe they should give and offerings and all of that, to this day, my dad is still doing that. And so it's just consistency, someone has said that our impression of God is somewhat based on the impression we have of our father. And unless very hard for kids who don't have fathers or don't

know who their fathers are. But without thinking, my I think of the Lord as being kind as being generous as being calm. I don't think of me coming to God and He lashing out at me, because my dad has never done where. So, you know, again, I would hope I could be the least a portion of that, that he's been let me tell you one real interesting story of how God works. And this is just every time I think of this, it just makes me excited. But it makes me like, wow, my dad was in Korea. He was drafted to Korea in the early 1950s. He was actually playing professional baseball for the Cleveland Indians organization. He was he was quite good. He's only 18 years old, and they were paying him to play. So that's how you know when you get good at some. I know I'm not even good at golf, because I have to still pay. And I'll be paying, that's for sure. But anyway, he was playing professional baseball, he had just moved up one rung and on that as a teenage boy and he was then called to Korea, he goes to Korea ends up in a survey squad that is attached to an artillery group that's attached to the Seventh Infantry. You that's a famous infantry division in the US Army. Well, they were actually ahead of the front lines, the survey group would would walk, you know, many meters ahead of the lines find where the enemy was in this case was North Korea and Chinese in Korea, and would walk ahead of them find out where they were in with radio back to the artillery on where to drop the artillery shells. So he was ahead of the frontlines. I mean, he was in the place of danger. he and a buddy of his were carrying a cross cut saw that they used to cut bushes down to set up their instruments and all in a sniper shot a hole in that saw about six inches behind my dad's head. He's got a picture of it, they took a picture. But anyway, one morning in November of 1951, one afternoon, I think it was that he and two of his buddies that were not in their unit but these three were were close together and they walked in a triangular formation on purpose that that way a sniper could not kill all of them at one time. You wouldn't walk in a straight line so that you know they thought all that through the military head. So his best buddy was at the point and he and another guy were the legs of the triangle. Well that fell out front tripped a landmine and it in a matter of a split second it flies up in the air about chest high and explodes. And my dad thought that man had been killed because he had tripped the landmine my dad was carrying a tripod that was used to set up the instruments for the artillery group. His arm he doesn't completely remember this because there was a tremendous explosion that knocked him out for several hours, but he thinks he his left arm became tired carrying it and he shifted it to his right arm, which just seconds later the landmine goes off. This tripod absorbs a large portion of the blast. Had it not had it been in his left hand. It would have probably blown his head off to say the least. He says sustained very severe injuries to this day. He still has a shrapnel in his face and literally blew his nose just off of his face. somebody that had to kind of reconstruct it back on me that's gory to think about just to say how severe it was, he woke up, strapped to the bottom of a helicopter flying to a MASH unit. Here's the interesting thing that I've thought about, among many things, is how that he had he not shifted that tripod. And this is how fragile life is. And this is how God has this in his hands, then I wouldn't be here. I wouldn't be me. If I wasn't me, who would I be? I mean, you know, and I'm like, wow, that's just that's, that's just amazing how, just a simple thing of shifting from one arm to the other. Yeah, now get this 50 years after this occurred. Now, this was in the early 1950s. A few people had telephones, but not a lot. And so my dad assumed that his best buddy was killed. His best buddy, we found out later assumed he was killed. And they, they didn't try to find each other, it would have been difficult to have done to have tried. My dad really didn't want to know he didn't, it would be better for him not knowing that's a yes, you know, your buddy died in surgery, you know, two hours later, whatever. In the 1990s, almost 50 years after this happened, he gets a phone call one night from this best buddy that he thought had been dead for 50 years. Enemy Oh, and, and somehow he had traced him down. This was previous to Facebook, and all you know all all the ways that you could trace someone today. Somehow he had traced my dad down. And they talked for two hours that night. And both of them having thought before that night that the other was dead for 50 years for 50, almost 50 years. And I'm

just like, wow, that's just a way that he ended up being able to go to a reunion actually see this guy again. And in fact, went to a couple of reunions. But my dad has a purple heart. He's got the emblem from that. And, again, just came back from the war and and tried to play baseball, but because of his injuries from the war, he just really wasn't the same physically that he had been prior to that. But you know, there was no such thing then as, as the treatment for the P, PTSD, all that kind of stuff. My dad came back with all of that. I mean, he had bombs blowing around him, you know, shrapnel flying through the air holes in the back of Saul's he was carrying and all that he just had to tough it out, make it on his own.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 22:37

So he figured out though how to be a wonderful dad, despite all of his trauma,

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an interesting thing he did not come back as an alcoholic didn't come back as he didn't even smoke. I mean, it's amazing. And our even drugs were available, they and they weren't as readily available as they became in Vietnam and all that he came back just as clean as he left. That's amazing. That's amazing. I'll tell you one other amazing thing of the nine guys in his main unit that that he was with and that artillery group. They had a reunion in the 19, late 1990s. Amazingly, all of them were still living, I get this. All nine were still married to their first wife,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 23:22

really. So these are the guys who have gone through severe trauma.

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And they say there's no camaraderie like that that's on a battlefield. When your life's at stake, I can imagine your buddy next to you as carries a place in your heart that no one else will ever carry.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 23:39

So there's a message because in today's world, everybody wants seems like wants to be a victim of something. Everybody's almost looking for something to blame their problems on it. Here's a guy. Here's nine guys. Yes. Who had trouble beyond what? Yes. I mean, the stuff we see domestically in the United States is really nothing compared to what he went through. And they came back and they were committed husbands. They were committed fathers. They didn't get mad. They didn't play the victim card. They were overcomers. Yeah, we need more of those guys. I'm gonna ask you to honor your dad, publicly. And hopefully he'll see this. We'll see. We'll see. If you'll just look into that camera right there. And just just tell your dad, what do you want to say to your dad?



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Well, I couldn't. I couldn't get this done in a couple of minutes. And I know that it needs to be that time. But you take as long as you want, again, the consistency, the kindness, the understanding. There's never been a time I've ever had a problem that I didn't feel like I could talk to my dad about it the way he listened. And I'll just say what I've said to other people, if I could just be half the person that my dad has been then I would feel very, very successful. So you Dad, you know, I love you, you know that. You mean everything to me. And I'm so grateful that I've had all these years with you, and I'm praying for even more. I'm praying that God will continue to bless and help you. And I do believe that God blesses to the third and fourth generation that our grandchildren, our children, our grandchildren in law are blessed by your influence. And again, I just thank you and honor you. And one of the first scriptures I learned as a child was Honor your father and mother. And my case, that's been easy to do. But that's my desire is to show you the utmost honor. And may God continue to bless you. And thank you. Thank you. Thank you for allowing the grace of God to work in your life. I love you, Dad. Thank you. That



Scott Hilton (Host) 25:51

was awesome. Your dad's a great guy. Thank you. We need we need more of them. And the more you Well, thank you. Thank you. Appreciate you. That'll conclude this episode of that's my dad. We're we're inspiring young men, young fathers to become great dads like Mike Davis and his dad and granddad. And we're seeking to break cycles where there's generational fatherlessness. We're open, the guys will look at this. And they'll say this is how I can be this is when you do it. Right. This is how I can be and I hope that there'll be guys that look at this and say that's what I want. That's what I want because there's it's never too late to break that cycle. Did things right? Thanks for setting that example



26:34

like you so much.



Scott Hilton (Host) 26:36

Thank you for joining us. We'll be back next week with another great episode of The that's my dad podcast.