

SHOWNOTES - Arthur Crumpler (07/50)

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host)

Scott Hilton (Host) 00:14


All right, welcome back to another episode of The that's my dad podcast. We got a great guy here with an incredible story. Arthur Crumpler is our guest today. And I've, I've decided that what I need to do today is to just be quiet because this guy has a story. I've heard it. But I think your story, Arthur is a story that the whole world needs to hear. And it couldn't come at a better time in our society, but you never know your dad. Yep. So I just want you to to, you're an incredibly successful guy. Now we'll get there in a little bit. You've endured tons of tragedies where I want to, I want to I want to share some of that. But I just wanted to take you back to just been a poor kid and single mom home and just let you run with it.


01:05


I grew up in Attalla. Sometimes we jokingly referred to it as La lore and talent. Here in Alabama, and the irony of growing up poor, you hear all the cliches? Well, that was me. I was a little poor kid from the hood. I was happy though. I was poor. And it was all good. You know, I'm just a little poor kid. I guess you could say My story started at I finished high school. My mom was tough. She didn't play. Okay. So when she said if you create a problem, you're gonna solve it on your own. She had a philosophy, you go to jail, you get seven jail, you're gonna get yourself out. She was saying you make a baby, you go take care of it. And mom was just bled to death. She didn't say things just to be saying that you knew that. If she said it. It was gonna happen. And that that shaped me. Okay, my mom was both my mom and my dad. And she worked very hard. Grew up towards the end of segregation. And my mom was a domestic, she cooked, she cleaned houses. And she would come home just doll to just sit on the feet all day long training. And the last thing she wants to do when she came home was cook and clean. So she had a philosophy. If it was a refrigerator, you go figure out what to do with it. As a result, I learned how to clean I learned how to cook. Okay, moving forward. I'm getting ready to finish high school Scott. And my mom had no love philosophy. When you turn 18 You're getting out of here. And


Scott Hilton (Host) 03:14


 Scott Hilton (Host) 03:14
played in a fire?

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No need for that's one less. one less headache for her. So I was really thinking, man, what am I gonna do? Mom's gonna put me out. And mom was 18 I just graduated. My life really started at this point. And I was literally walking down the street, kicking the can literally kicking the can. And the friend of mine drove back. This is a friend that had been a lifelong friend. And we shared a similar background, but he didn't have a dad. And he had a mom. So that was pretty impressive to me. That was little country. In fact, his dad owned a tractor. And his dad made money by plowing people's gardens. So I thought that was cool. But uh, like, man, he was poor. So good. So to low friends that were poor, hanging out. So I'm walking out in the street, and I'm literally kicking the can he pulls up, say, Hey, what are you doing? I said, I'm just hanging out. And at that point, I was really worried about what am I gonna do because I'm I was 18. And in my household when you 18 you go get your own place. When you get out. You get your own place. So I was literally pondering my future and worried about my future because hey, I'm almost 18 He says, Come on with me. I said, Where are you going? He says, I'm going over gas and state and pay my tuition.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 04:52
That's a junior college community college. Yes.

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And state Junior College. It was this it was 1975 and the school was About 10 years old, and I went to the counselors for the first time. I've never seen anything so pretty in my life. The grass was green, the building nice and clean windows, this spotless and none of them broken out knocked out,

 Scott Hilton (Host) 05:15
didn't like home. Oh, no.

 05:17
Oh, no, it was just the predecessor to just a beautiful, a beautiful campus. So, but still, in my mind, I was thinking that he was going to apply for our Genesis job. Or he was going to apply for a summer grass cutting position. We're going inside, we go upstairs. We go to the business office, and he pays his tuition. My head just exploded. I'm like, how you get money to go to college? Because I know you're as poor as me. I don't have any money to go to college. So how did you get money? Like I got a Pell Grant. The Pell Grant, a Pell Grant was I made me sound familiar. You said I sat down do the science all over the hallway in the school? I said yeah, I didn't remember starting about saying certain Bible Pell Grant, I know what it was, is to come

home, I'm gonna take you to the financial aid office. And this guy were explained to you for the Pell Grant deals, then you may get lucky and get went to so that they will not found myself in the financial aid office. And you are my mom's numbers. And you were her income was for the year. I knew what taxes she was gonna get back. Because she always shared that with us. That was one of her adult lifetime skills.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 06:45

Do you ever thought about going to college? No thought, because you just couldn't afford it.

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It wasn't something that that. In my mind, it wasn't something that someone in my socio economic background would think about.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:02

So you're filling out a financial aid package. don't really even though what you're doing

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07:07

now. Now, I'm thinking, well, this may help get me in college. And I wasn't sure what that means. But just the opportunity to fill this paper out and someone may pay someone may pay you to study sounds interesting. I also was trying to avoid going to the chickens

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:28

to go and work at the chicken plant.

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07:29

So there weren't a whole lot of jobs around. I thought for myself. And the chicken plant was one of them. And everybody that I knew where the chicken plant just complained about how hard it was. So by filling out this grant application, and if I can get into college, then I haven't gotten to work in chicken plant for a while I feel the paper out paperwork out. And the guy says, Well, you qualify for a grant. He says, you follow these checks out. And I was confident because I knew the numbers. Mom had always shared it with us. I need numbers. He says if all this shakes out, you're gonna get a grant. I'm like on cloud nine. Like, what did I just do? What does this mean? I'm going to college. He says, but that's the Oh, is it we got a problem. I got deflated for a moment. He says tomorrow is the last day to pay tuition. So if you can't register and pay tuition, back tomorrow, you can't start until like January. I was against the flight. I was really sad. I was on cloud nine because bam, I'm going to college. It's come I know where I'm going to college. And then the man the wind came on my cell when he said you gotta have tuition tomorrow. So as as okay, I go home. Mom gets home from work. And I said, Mom, you got a

minute. Can I talk to you? She said yes. So I tell mom the story. I've gone over to gas and State Community College. And I tell her about being accepted in college, and about getting a grant binder what a grant was. I gotten a grant. And I said the bad news is the grant won't be here for about six weeks. And tomorrow is the last day paid tuition was just on me. Yeah, my sister. She said, Well, she says, I'll get off tomorrow early. And we'll go to the Exchange Bank and we'll borrow the money. I was just speechless. Goes change bank. We mom borrow money for a whopping 450 bucks. And believe me that was a lie. Ah IRA money. And when she bought that for him for the books, ran over Gaston state paid my tuition. And the rest is history. I mean, it literally that literally changed my life. It, it literally set my life in motion. Okay, the direction that that my Savior had for me that I had no ideal he had for me, began to take shape. I live in our town, Gaston was like, five miles, four miles. Right, I got my grant, I got no money leaving the door. I'm only I'm only five miles to batalla. But I had money to live in the dorms, Scott.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 10:48

It was, you hit the big time.



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air conditioned dorm room. I had a meal ticket with three meals a day. Life was good. And in order to keep his God, all I had to do was study. Like, man, life is good, okay. And I grew up very poor, no air conditioning. fan in the window. If this, if this ad outside this ad inside took the heat, it just moving. So add condition was a big deal. And then three meals a day was a big deal. So I thought I'd died and gone to heaven, Scott, and my life began to change immediately.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 11:34

But I want to I want to take go back. The only thing you knew was to not have a dad at home. What? So it's hard for you to know. When you don't grew up with a dad, isn't it hard for you to know? What is like what was going through your mind? What did you think it was like would be like to have a dad did you ever think about that



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going through my mind was I do not want to be like my dad. Every day, I will get out of bed saying I did not want to be like my dad. I didn't know him. I knew nothing about him. What I didn't know was he wasn't in my life. So when I said to myself, I did not want to be like my dad. I was saying to myself, I want to be in my child's life. I want to be in my child's life. So at that point, that was my philosophy in life. I want to be in my child's life. I want to be a part of my child life. So I set out on the quiz. Even before I found myself in college, I was on a quest. And that quest was what does it mean to be a good dad? And how can I become a good dad? And how can I make sure I'm not like my father?

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:49

Scott Hilton (Host) 12:15

Do you recall like, was that a conscious decision? You made it? Was there a certain time or place? Or do you just wake up one day and think it was

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a conscious decision? Not no, my dad was very painful. And every year when school started, it was time to fill the forms out. I put down mother and Lee father blank that I hated when school started. Because every year we're going to have those forms to fill out about your mother and your father. And every year my my father space was left blank so that they shaped me a lot. It shaped me more than I realized it was it was shaping me and it was motivating me. So I borrow any mail I sell. I was looking at that mail to see what could I glean from that mail. If I saw him doing something positive. Okay. A good dad washes his car. All right. A good dad keeps his yard clean. Check. A good dad pays his bill. Check. A good dad is at home check. A good dad keeps his home. Nice and well maintained. Check. A good dad a good dad stays I jaya, check. So I borrow characteristics from men that I saw in my neighborhood. So I didn't say this man was perfect. This man was perfect. It didn't matter if he was a bootlegger. And, and one that I knew he was a bootlegger. I didn't like that characteristic. But he kept his your clean. His house was always neat. And he taught me how to wash a car when I washed his car, and he said I want this clean and I want that thing and he just scrub that. So I learned how to wash the car. You know,

 Scott Hilton (Host) 14:48

so you took the good. You looked around you and took the good pieces of everybody

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looking for anybody perfect. I just wanted some good traits. To be a good day.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 14:59

What do you think? What do you think made you function that way? I mean, you were you're apparently doing this as a kid like teenager

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pain. I, as much success as I've experienced in life, I still have some childhood pain that came from not having my dad. Not have my dad there. So pain drove me the pain of not knowing my dad, the pain growing up. Poor, motivated me. And then when the opportunities came, it made me work harder.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 15:39

So coming from a from a dad, maybe maybe you can look over here and just address. Maybe

So coming from a mom a dad, maybe maybe you can look over here and just address. Maybe there's a dad out there. That's not a dad, maybe maybe he's fathered a child and he's abandoned them. Your dad abandoned you? Yes. Could you just speak to that guy and tell him what it feels like to be abandoned?



16:00

I'm gonna tell you. It's the worst pain on the planet. And I was lucky I didn't get angry and attack the world. I took my pain and went within a lot of young boys. Take their anger and they attack people. I'm gonna say this to you, dad. That's not there. You don't have to be perfect. Okay, just be there. You don't have to have a lot of money. You have any money? Just be there. It doesn't take a whole lot. I've learned to be a good father. Number one, be there. Number two, be there. And last, be there for an only be a good day. Be there haven't got to be the most intelligent person on the planet. You haven't got to be the smartest person. You haven't got to be the most handsome the most money. Just just be there.



Scott Hilton (Host) 17:02

And what do you say to the young man who's? Who's growing up? Like you grew up? What? You something happened inside of you? At some point? What? How? How do you speak to that young man to say, don't get angry, don't get frustrated.



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At that. Very good. That's very good. I decided that I wasn't good. Gonna get angry. I said that if I get angry, I might become that Dad, that's not gonna be there. Getting angry, increases your chances of getting in trouble and getting them frozen. So if I get angry, and get in jail, then I'll become my dad. The last five years of my retirement not counting this year, I got a chance to, to really, really spin Thor Tamkang got my mom. I was really, really honored there. While I spent my life preparing to be a good dad. It also helped me become a better son. Okay. My mom, I used to jokingly say to my wife, that my mom was my cat woman. Because I was able to provide a comfortable home for my mom. A comfortable life for my mom, she spent her whole life taking care of me. So I guess that's her last 20 years of her life. I was really blessed to shower my mind with the love and compassion and caring. And that was a byproduct of trying to become a better day. So by trying to become a better dad, it made me a better son. It made me a better husband. It gave me a better life. Crazy, what kind of do things for other people? And and it also rewarded me?



Scott Hilton (Host) 18:56

That's a great, man. That's inspiring. That's inspiring. You know, my hope is Arthur, that there'll be that there's many young men who are sitting where you are. It's when you were 1618. And they'll say there's hope. Yes. Hope there's hope. Hope you had a tragedy. Unfortunately, I want you to talk about that if you can.



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And we'll try to hang in there. COVID here. And when I hit my family, hit like a ton of bricks. My mom and both my wife sisters at COVID same time the same day. My mom had her caregivers. She lived next door to you if you live right next door to me. So myself and my siblings, we would go and care for mom every day. So when mom came home with COVID But guess what? All of her kids got cold. cluding myself, my, my wife was caring for one of her sisters. That was also going to Dallas, Dallas, when she came home from Dallas did with COVID. But guess what? My wife that COVID Unfortunately, my wife and my mom didn't make it. They didn't make it. And right now I can calmly talk about it. But it was very difficult. It was very difficult. So



Scott Hilton (Host) 20:29

you lost your, your mom, and your wife, and your sister in law



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in a four week period allows my mom purse. And a week later, my wife died. And before my wife died, what am I my wife sisters? That about two weeks after that, the husband of one of my wife, sisters, that few weeks after that they feed one of my wife's sisters dad. So we have five today from COVID. And like a six week like a six week beer, you're



Scott Hilton (Host) 21:15

actually having a memorial for one when the other died?



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Yes. Yeah, back in. February was the first year anniversary Hey, it's been it's been hard. It's been, it's been very hard. My wife and I, we were together for over 40 years. So we weren't just husband and wife we were habits had been together. I was with her and more than more than I, my life more time I spent as alive. I spent it with my wife. So it's been it's been pretty



Scott Hilton (Host) 21:50

difficult and your mom had lived next door. My mom lived next door. It's just it's a heartbreaking story. But I admire the courage you've had to I guess you didn't have much choice. But



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that's where having a personal relationship comes in with savor. Because if not, I know I'd be I'd be stone crazy, yo, I'd be on top of the creeks. I've read somewhere that my whole world, you know, fell apart in a few short weeks. And like now, even times are rough. But that was our quiet time together. And I guess foods, a wife, my daughter finished college 97. So we had a lot

of internet time, which made us grow even closer that we had a lot of times it's been with just us in our golden years. So we grew even closer. And then all of a sudden now are the nest is really empty. So it gets pretty rough. Well, we're having a savior, that it's probably one reason why I can function.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 22:58

Well, after you've you're an inspiration to me, you know that you just honored i i selected you to serve on the board of directors at Eagle Rock Boys Ranch, you served for a number of years because I think that you're an inspiration. And it's a story that a lot of people need to hear. And not only were you a great son, and a great husband, you've been a great dad, actually. So our as an adult, our production guests, they sneak through behind your back and got a little video from your daughter. And we just like stare that way.

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23:39

We have no tissue

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23:44

I have a huge appreciation for my dad. And the thing is it's not really one of those things that often say but I tried to show it, you know, out of respect and things. He's always been a leader for sure. He's always been a leader. He's never backed down from a challenge if I have an issue he's gonna make a way to figure out how to solve said issue. And even with what we've gone through the past couple of years, he losing his mom. And then a couple of weeks later, his wife in the midst of a couple of other family members passing he still has stepped up and been the dad that I've needed him to be and I just that's that I just absolutely love that. And it's been hard. He you know I can tell he has his days but he get pushes through and never stops and never gives up. And that's what that's what I love about him and I just I appreciate it so much everything he does for me. And I just thank you that's my reason for being that was my goal to be a good day. I learned just be there trying to follow

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Scott Hilton (Host) 25:37

up the urine aspiration to a lot of people. And my, my hope and my reason for inviting you here is because the world needs to hear your story. There's a lot of young men that need to hear. There's a way they can make it. You're living proof.

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Just Just be there. Just be there. Just just be that nothing fancy. Just just be up just thinking.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 26:04

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I can't think of a better way to and thank you for being here. You're an inspiration. That concludes this episode of The that's my dad podcast. I hope you've been inspired. We're trying to inspire fathers to become great dads like author and to break the cycles of generational fatherlessness. Thanks for joining us. We'll be back next week with another inspiring interview. See you.



26:36

Thanks so much for tuning in today. This has been the that's my dad podcast with our host Scott Hilton, where we're on a mission to break the cycle of generational fatherlessness and inspire fathers to become great dads. We'll be back here every Monday night at 6pm. We'll see you



26:52

there.