

James Spann

32



James' dad abandoned him when he was five years old. He literally walked out one night and never came back. James talks about the pain brought on by this act - pain that he still feels today. He and his mother had to work hard to survive because his dad never paid any child support. Through this, James developed a work ethic that has carried over into his adulthood. Today, he is one of the most well-known, hard-working TV personalities in the United States. Widely known as an award-winning meteorologist, James is one of the South's most respected and loved individuals. He speaks in schools almost daily and attributes his motivation to the fact that he had a teacher in elementary school who reached out to him and encouraged him. James went on to marry well and have two boys who deeply admire him. During the interview, he tells the story of locating his dad 30 years after the abandonment and trying to share his Christian faith with him. By then, his dad had developed alcoholic dementia and James is unsure if his talk had any effect. Soon after that visit, his dad died. No one wanted to claim the body so James had it cremated. He tells the story of the day he picked up the ashes. On the way to the cemetery, he had a final talk with the man who had so deeply hurt him and made sure he had forgiven him. No doubt, James Spann is one of our script flippers.

Abandoned at Age 7