

SHOWNOTES - Brian Mintz (35/50)

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host), Brian Mintz (Guest)

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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:15

Welcome to another episode of Ask my dad I'm Scott Hilton here with Brian Metz. A lot of people know Brian, no high school football coach is now working with a Fellowship of Christian Athletes and played high school ball Crosstown against me, Kenny, he's a little bit, maybe a year or two older than me, so Brad's gay guy, a lot of people know, Brian, his wife cam and he had been married 36 years, we think. Yeah, for kids. So thanks for being here, Brian.

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Brian Mintz (Guest) 00:45

Thank you for allowing me to be here. And yes, we've been married 36 years and it's been 36 good years, at least on my end, she might say differently. But

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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:54

so let's just jump right into this thing. We were talking before we came on about your your granddad's and how generational blessings get passed down. You're the recipient of some good generational blessings. Tell us tell us what you know about your granddad and then we'll move into your dad as well.

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01:13

Well, both of my granddad's one on my mom's side, Lamar Pruitt was a he was a Methodist minister, by vocational he worked at bottom at the Army Depot and you know, farmed. I remember the tractor and I remember the vegetables and shelling peas sitting on the front porch and all those kinds of things growing up, and I can remember going into the attic and seeing it was like walking into a canned vegetable grocery store, you know, where they had put everything up and stuff right after, you know, the beginning of the fall, when you had first walk up there it was, it was amazing. The work that my grandmother did, and and then my granddad working. And, you know, I think that's the big big thing is is I remember about and my other

grandfather was Fred, Fred Manse, and Frederick mints. And he was he was a farmer. And same thing. That's all I ever remember. Him being and I remember, when I was very young, I mean, they didn't even have running water inside their house, you know, still had an outhouse and that kind of thing. So I got to see a lot of that. And, you know, very fortunate and, you know, not too long ago, my dad had a bout with cancer, and I was sitting with him during a treatment. And this just got to hear him share some stories of when he was young. And as we sit there, I just kind of took that opportunity to kind of ask him some questions. And you know, him talking about hitching up the mule to go to church and stuff like that when he was young. And so all those things are not that far removed from us. Although we think that, you know, in our society today, you have cars, and now electric cars and all this kind of thing, that that's just really ancient history, but it's not, you know, and seeing my, my grandfather's and then my father, you know, growing up in that, and not of not people of wealth, but I can remember, you know, swimming in the creek and things like that, when I were little and we would go to my grandfather's house and, and bring them fishing on the back and a little little lake with a poll. And, you know, this this past week, I've just had on my mind, the, the significance of insignificant, the, and how just little little moments in daily life turn out to be the greatest, the greatest gifts that we have, and, and remembering it, people. And it's not the it's not the trip to Disney World or overseas, you know, to go on a trip to Paris or something like that. It's going to stand out in people's mind. It's the the daily, just a being there, the power of presence, being in someone else's presence. And I think those are the things that stick out generationally about my grandparents and my father. My father worked at the at the steel plant. From the time I was very little and you know, thinking about that, I don't think he ever missed one. My games room and he would he was fortunate enough that there was men around him that would he rotated shifts, you know, working first shift second third. And the men around him oftentimes would swap shifts with him so that he could make make it to a football game.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 05:22

And you're so well, yeah, it was 5859 years.



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I'm 59. I'll be 60 here in about 22 days, I think so.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 05:31

But see, remember my point is, after all these years, you remember that your dad was just there? Yeah, I was just there. It sounds like, you know, he didn't have to do anything spectacular. But just be there for you know,



05:42

and I don't think that I don't think that's the thing of being a dad. I think being a dad is a lot of times just being there and involved in daily activities. And, and again, we weren't wealthy by we were just, you know, middle class kids. And really, and truly no one had a lot necessarily, there wasn't a lot to be had to be honest with you of, of these gadgets and gizmos and fancy

cars. And, you know, growing up when we did, it was cooler to have an older car that you kind of fixed up, you know, and that's one of the things I remember about my dad was is him getting me getting me a car. And I think he paid \$500 for it, you know, and we worked on it. And those little things, you know, people always joke about, you know, Hey, you can't hurt my feelings, because I held my flashlight for a flashlight for my dad, you know, and that's true. I can remember. He might you Lilly with me, but I can remember us going to junkyards together and hunting out parts and pull in this and that and, and stuff to work on that car. And those are things that stand out. I just remember a lot of things like that, that dad would fix or repair or whatever, so that I would have something.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:07

Yeah. So it was a simple things. And yeah, just just be hopefully doing. So many of the guys we've interviewed have said that same thing, you know, you always ask, is there something in particular versus story? A lot of guys have a story, but a lot of them. So you know, you know, my dad was just there. Yeah, he was there for him, are we and then then they begin to think of those moments. Yeah, how that impacts them.



07:31

And the other thing is, is me playing quarterback, and God gave me a lot of ability to first of all, I guess I had a very, and I'm not saying this and bragging but you know, God gave me a great understanding of the game of football. But he also gave me an arm. And I played football and played quarterback and pitched in baseball and stuff. But I'm saying this to say that when I was young, I remember my dad getting in the backyard and just throw it, you know, throwing and catching women. And that's pretty powerful. And I say that to you. Because I didn't always do that with my boys. Because, you know, when you when you work all day, and you practice football, and you've thrown the ball with everyone else's kids, you know, you come home at six 630. And you want to sit down and yeah, the kids want to play steel and stuff. And I didn't always do that. I wish I would have more.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 08:33

What do you think your dad did? Right? What are some of the things he did? Right?



08:38

Well, I think, first of all, just taking care of us. And being a first of all, being a good husband. I think that's often overlooked. And I think our society's paying a price for that today because of the lack of fathers in our society. And, you know, it's not just in our society, it's in our churches, too. You know, the divorce rate is just as high in the church as it is in society. And you know that that's scary. But I think a lot of us fail to recognize it. You know, when we go to that before that altar, and we take those vows to a little girl the vow is to God, it's not to the to the girl and that is strong. And when you realize that you can you know, you can't let God down and you can be in love with that girl, but you also got to be the level god.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:47

Did you ever did you ever have any doubt that your mom and dad would be together?



09:52

No, no, I never did you know and with that is great security.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:58

How has your dad and fluence you as a father and how you your approach to Father and your own kids?



10:05

Well, I think that I think that if I've done something well, it's probably loving my wife and given the kids a home of security of of knowing that dad's not walking out. And, and I can't overemphasize how important I think that is, is that, you know, and I just can't imagine, I see some, I see men walk away from their families. And that blows my mind, really, the thing that I wish I would have done better, and you didn't ask that, but the thing that I would say that I wish I would have done better, is, you know, when I was younger I was, and the kids were small. Of course, you know, as they were teenagers and stuff that was more in my wheelhouse, a little bit. But at the same time, when they were small, I didn't enjoy that as much, because I was busy trying to win all those football games, you know, like, that was gonna really make a difference, you know? And like I said, you know, I should have spent more time playing with my own kids, and then worrying about playing with somebody else. And sometimes I think,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 11:15

what kind of advice would you have? For dads,



11:19

be dad, I think and and just try to love, love your kids and give them discipline, have expectations for them. And not let them just have run of the house and the neighborhood and the county and everything else. But I think to hold their children more accountable. Now, I won't share something. Because I had this on my mind thinking of dads and families and stuff. It's one of the teams that I coached. This has been several years ago, but I had to I had two football players on my team that saw their dads kill their moms. Not one, but two, had two guys, when they were children, saw their dads killed her mom's. Now you don't think that that has an effect on on a kid? You know? And I just, that's something that really stuck with me through the years after that, you know?



Scott Hilton (Host) 12:28

Yeah. And how do you how do you help a kid overcome that that's the trauma involved in that it's just enormous.



12:36

Well, and that is the thing is, is we don't all always know what these these kids are going home to, you know, ah, you know, I grew up when I Leave It to Beaver home and stuff. Just lock on so many of those old shows, you know, the family and stuff. And man, I had an awesome home life and stuff. But as a as a coach. And I don't know where this came from really. God gave me a heart for those kids that didn't have that. And just try to try to love on them and give them give them some discipline and have some expectations for them. And, you know, I think that everyone wants to know, especially young men, that someone is watching them, and someone has an expectation for them, and is willing to hold them accountable to that vision. And once they understand, they understand that man, they're gonna bust their butt to try to impress or to do meet the standard that they're being held



Scott Hilton (Host) 14:01

to. Yeah, so I can I know what to say. And I attended so many ballgames as the director at Eagle Rock, not because my kids were great athletes, I had some but most of them were not tremendously gifted. But they wanted to look in those stands and see that somebody was there for me when I couldn't be there. I made arrangements for somebody else to be there. Yeah, it's just so important for them to know that there's somebody that cares about them.



14:29

Usually, I think mom and dad had reserved seats, or at least I kind of like at church. I always sit in the same place if I didn't, so I knew where they were at football games. But you know, when I was in college, you know, when I'd come out onto the field, I was usually one of the things I would always find my mom and dad,



Scott Hilton (Host) 14:46

you're a grown man stands. Where did you play college ball?



14:49

I was at Jacksonville State. Okay, like quarterback at Jacksonville.



Scott Hilton (Host) 14:52

So you're the quarterback at a division one school looking in the stands. We were division two at the time, but yes, it's it most definitely. Like looking into stance to try to absolutely find your

parents you never outgrow that. You don't deserve it. Do you still crave having your dad say he's proud of you?



15:09

Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. And just to, to kind of give you an example that is that, you know, my dad always took pride in doing a lot of things himself, as I said earlier, you know, so last night I called I actually spoke to mom, but I told her, you know, tell Dad, I got that windy. And you know, that wouldn't, because he had a good like, he has a good job.



Scott Hilton (Host) 15:35

Yeah, so so deep inside here we are old man now. Yeah. And we're still a little boys deep in our heart. Oh, yeah, absolutely. I don't think we ever outgrow one. Our dad's approval, though, you know, if it's that strong, and again, our age. Imagine how strong it is to a kid. I think they don't realize it as much as we do, but it's just as strong. Let's talk a little bit about FCA. Tell me what you do with a Fellowship of Christian Athletes?



16:04

Well, to go back a little bit Fellowship of Christian Athletes. You know, I first started that when I was in about the ninth grade from from one of our coaches. And then when I got to college, and I will say this right here, although I grew up in a Christian home. And like I said earlier, my grandfather was a minister. It was when a coach presented the gospel, that I felt the tug on my heart, that made a huge difference. And I can't really tell you why. Because like I said, I had plenty of godly examples around me every day. But that was the part that when I came, I guess that pointed out to me that I had to be accountable for my life before God myself. And, and then when I got to college, you know, having that weekly huddle, which is what we call a small group, having that weekly huddle was so important. You know, I love that and that gave you something to participate during the week to look forward to, and share your faith, you know, go in here I message of, of inspiration, and, and, and hope from the gospel. And so, so my, I have a strong background in FCA. And then as a coach, I always had a huddle and we had meetings and stuff. And I tried to be a godly influence through that using that with my team. And man, I've just seen FCA grow. And I'm looking at some different areas around us and stuff. And as I began to think about departing football, this is just something that God laid on my heart that I felt like that I needed to be doing. And in some ways, some days, you know, I go home, and I don't, you know, I don't feel like I'm that vital of a cog, but yet at the same time, other days, I feel like this is the most important thing that I've ever done. So,



Scott Hilton (Host) 18:22

so you spend your days, encouraging coaches and starting huddles, and teaching and



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I do and I go to practices, because, you know, when whenever I'm in front of kids, and have an opportunity to just share with them a little bit about Christ, or whether it's sharing a football experience, or whatever it is. I want them to know that I'm not just the speaker that shows up, you know, I'm invested a little bit and so I try to get by each of the schools to a practice, at least every other week or so, you know, and I know that doesn't sound like a lot of schools or so. Yeah. And so by the time you make the rounds, and then during the winter, you know, spring is the hardest, because there's everything is a boy and a girl sport. And so And there's, I don't know, five or six teams going in and spraying at each school. So plus, so at Mike's 10 or 12 time you count the you know, both the male and the female teams. So

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Scott Hilton (Host) 19:32

sounds like you're a good fit for you're enjoying it. Well,



19:35

I am. And that's what I always tell people is that I love it. And I get to spend my time with coaches and athletes and just talk about Jesus a little bit. So that's a pretty good day when I go home. You know, I've spent it with coaches and athletes and got to share Jesus.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 19:54

Tell me about your kids.



20:00

Uh, well, my oldest son is an accountant and he's in Nashville right now. And my my middle son is in Texas, he works for Texas a&m University. I think he is, as I understand it, he is helping me immigrant students and getting registered and anything that they need. So he's doing that. And then my my youngest son, Denmark is currently coaching. While he's teaching at Rainbow Middle School and coaching at Glencoe High School, coaching football. And then then my daughter melee, who we adopted from China, she is at Rainbow Middle School. So I've got two kids still at Rambo Middle School. So the guys, man, they've, they've all turned out, I'm really proud of all of them. They're all very, very different. What's really crazy, though, is that my, my daughter, is I didn't foresee that coming when I was a young man, you know that I was going to have a daughter from from China. But she, she's in charge of the house, you know, she, she's the princess. And she's full. What's so funny about that is is that you see God in that because she is a perfect match for our family, her sense of humor, her just her demeanor, everything about her other than appearance, you know, you would think she was one of our biological children. And you know that God is in that when you're when you're in that

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:53

I want to give you a chance to do something. You know, we don't, we don't need to let our dads go without knowing we appreciate them. And oftentimes, I've heard guys say, Oh, I wish I had said something. I want to give you a chance to look into the camera over here. And just address

said something, I want to give you a chance to look into the camera over here. And just address your dad. What do you want to say to your dad?



22:20

I don't know if I can do this or not. But I will say Dad, just thank you for all the sacrifices that you made. For me and my brother. Growing up I know there was a lot of times that you hadn't mom probably wanted more to do more. And you said so many things. It's out of your life personally to, to make to microwave for us. And thank you for all that. And I love you.




Scott Hilton (Host) 23:02


In closing, tell me the adoption story. Story of your daughter.





23:09


My wife had always wanted to daughter. And we had reached a point where that wasn't going to happen. And so, you know, we I just, you know, came home one day and I said I listened on the radio, I'd heard a guy talking about adoption and stuff and and we had already previously talked about that. And so you know, I just came home and I told her I said hey, what do you think about this, let's let's look at it. And she began looking into it and slowly begin the process and then more rapidly. So a lot in getting paperwork and all that together. That takes that takes some time. About a year actually. So from the time we got our paperwork turned in, in China to the day that we got word from Melee, that that we had a daughter that was waiting on us. That was about six months. I mean six years. At the time when we first started people were getting children and about a year but it was nearly six years before we got we got a child and you know always go back to the the I guess it was the first time maybe I'd seen this story but you've probably seen the little short stories, a couple of paragraphs of the man picking up starfish on the beach and throw them back and someone else scoop. Why are you doing that? And it's not gonna make any difference. There's me example. And he's to this one, it makes all the difference. And that was, that was the way that I failed. And when I saw that, I just felt like that was God telling me that we needed to make that difference in a child's life. So going, so I was willing to leave and go, my son was in his senior year, we were heading into the football playoffs, and we made the decision that that it been his senior year and everything that that I should stay rather than go. So my wife and her mother, her mother went with her to China to get melee. Last night here, and funny story. We the last game of the season, we were playing at Collinsville. And I was at Raglan at the time, we were undefeated. They were undefeated. So it's a non non raging game, though, so. But we're both undefeated, and we're playing big game cold. And so we play and then she had given me the number of one of her friends as soon as the game was over with the messenger to call her and then she was going to send an email to Kim so that she would know. So we did and then So Kim gets the email and opens it while she's on the Great Wall. I mean, she is standing on the Great Wall, when she hears that, that Raglan has defeated Collinsville. And so what was funny though, was Is she she told us and everybody on the trail, you know, there was traveling with another with a group of people that were adopting. So all of those people were there and they knew that I was coaching and so forth and stuff, so they all kind of cheered and stuff. And Kim said all of the Chinese people that were there, right, well just immediately started cheering


 Scott Hilton (Host) 27:26
it stuffs here for raglans Yeah.


 27:28
Raglin meeting Colin Zool on the Great Wall. So that's, that's a great story, but

 Scott Hilton (Host) 27:35
I was mainly changed your life.

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I think that I'm, I think I'm all I'm still not an excellent dad, but I'm probably a better dad, a more loving dad and more considered dad. And, man, I can't even fathom I can't even fathom all the way she's changed my life. But uh, it's been a it's been an awesome journey and a lover. You know, and a funny thing. I didn't think this but you know, people are like, Well, how do you how do you love a child? That's not your own. You know? It's not just my child. It's the child that God chose for us. The one that he put in my charge. And that's a pretty awesome responsibility.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 28:35
It is. We snuck behind your back and got a little video clip from Melee. Okay, want to share that way? Yeah.

 28:49
Hi, my name is melee Mets. And my dad is Brian Mintz. My favorite thing about him is that he is kind and he loves Jesus. Thank you, Daddy for letting mommy go to get me in China. I love you. Bye.

 29:02
That is, that is her. She is a joyful child. And she's great. She really is. So was it worth it? Absolutely. Absolutely. Do

 Scott Hilton (Host) 29:17
it again. 1000 times when?



29:19

Yeah. Yeah. No doubt. Awesome.



Scott Hilton (Host) 29:23

Well, thanks for what you do for kids and have done for for years. Coaches had such an impact on me, personally. Yes. And I've just have such a high regard for coaches and thank thank you for impacting so many kids and for for what you're doing now with FCA appreciate you coming in going to inspire somebody.



29:44

Thank you for the update.



Scott Hilton (Host) 29:45

That'll conclude this episode. That's my dad where we're trying to help fathers become great dads, and we're trying to break cycles of generational fatherlessness. We'll see you next



29:56

week.