

SHOWNOTES - Andy Hiti (08/50)

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host)

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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:15

Welcome again to another episode of The that's my dad podcast we got, and Tahiti here with us. And he's a longtime friend of mine. And as full disclosure, Andy's wife, Belinda is the person the only person I would let take over Eagle Rock Boys Ranch when I retired. But we're not here to talk about that. I just wanted to disclose that I want to talk with you, Andy, about this, the program is about fatherhood, and I've heard your story. It's a rather moving story. I kind of started out I want to start out by saying I knew you for several years before I realized that you really had sort of a difficult childhood and a lot of ways tell us about that.



01:05

It just grew up in I guess a rough a rough childhood. Looking back dad was that was kind of hard on on all of his kids in the fact that and I guess just from my perspective, I guess I won't even say about my I've got four other brothers so I can't even go into tell him you know, some of their stories, even though we've talked about it, you know, some of my brothers and I, but from my personal perspective, he was he's very, you know, harsh with his words and didn't really didn't really come across as a very loving person. I think I think I told you that. When we talked the one time that at like, five years old, six years old, somewhere around that those early years, he told me, he loved me for the last time and then ever heard it again. You know, and it was something that me personally, I really wanted that because I'm I'm a words person, you know, spoken. spoken words are a big deal to me. So I was kind of longing to hear those words, but never really did get that from him a whole lot. So,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 02:21

so you were how old when he told you that for the last time? I



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want to say four or five, somewhere four or five, six, somewhere around around in that area?

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Scott Hilton (Host) 02:30

Did you? You obviously remember that your that's been many, many years ago? Do you feel like that affected your mentality as a as a teenager as a little boy growing up that the fact that your dad just quit telling you that He loves you?



02:47

Yeah, I mean, I know Mom always said it, you know, and so there was there wasn't that void that I never heard it from anybody. But I think you kind of look at your dad and you want a dad's approval. There's something in you that just kind of wants that approval. And so to hear the harsh words all the time and never hear the the affirmation words very much, it's it's kind of it does affect you a lot, I think.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 03:14

So you mentioned harsh words. And I know a little bit of the story, I want to prompt you to tell it but your dad was, let's say the end, in the end, things turned out good, we'll get there. But as a teenager, and as a little boy, you kind of had, he was he was a little harsh with you.



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He was and of course I can't say all the words that he said to me, but they were, you know, very Cutting Words for a young person to hear. It got into my spirit as I guess the best way that I can I can I can put it

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Scott Hilton (Host) 03:47

how did you How and when did you finally kind of come to reason with that to kind of move forward.



03:56

I think it's taken a lifetime of, of really, you know, processing through it. You know, just a relationship with God and, and different small groups and conferences and stuff that I've gone to along the way that that God has, you know, just revealed different things and kind of brought to my knowledge that, you know, God's Word speaks greater things about us, and that I can look for my identity in Christ and what God's Word says about me is really what has ultimately kind of healed me and made that better for me as a person.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 04:00

 SCOTT HILTON (HOST) 04:36

So even though you didn't get the affirmation you needed from your, from your earthly father, you got that from your, from your heavenly Father.

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I did. And I mean that. I know it's kind of cliché, but not a better place to draw from than then having that, you know, really revealed to you through God's Word that, that I'm fearfully and wonderfully made, you know? The Bible tells us that and Psalms and just so many other, you know, affirming words that that lift our spirit up and begin to make us think that, well, you have those words may have been spoken to me for over maybe for whatever reason but But God's word is so much more powerful.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 05:18

So just to kind of let let the listener know the extent, you told me a story about how you dad would take you out and you and your brothers know you had three brothers right or four brothers, y'all are all big guys. By the way, Andy is a fireman. He's not wanting to mess with. And you're what 6'6" He's a big tough guy, but your dad was big, too, right? He was. And he would take you out and tell us a story about going out and playing basketball.

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So he built a lot of things and he built us a basketball goal back out in our backyard, he he laid patio blocks down and kind of made us actually a paint area that was kind of like a full court and and put a basket up and so we'd go back there and play because he he was big into sports and wanted us to, you know, be big into sports and we got back out there mixing it up and and he would turn and he might elbow you in the face. And you know, it didn't feel good when it you know you kind of full blown elbow across the face as a youngster and he does laugh and go no blood, no foul. And come kind of that's how we we played we learned. I don't know that I really thought a lot about it other than I was thinking well when we're getting tough flying this. So that's I think what his kind of mentality was his truck trying toughest toughen us up is as young boys. And so as we played and we grew, I was now he's you know, six, four. But when I finally got to the age, that I grew a lot, which was in ninth grade, and we were out playing I turned in, caught him in the in the nose and busted his nose pretty good. And blood was flown that was raised. And I think at that point, he he realized we had grown big enough to not want to play anymore. So we really couldn't get him out to mix it up with us anymore and get that kind of revenge. And we were looking for how

 Scott Hilton (Host) 07:15

to bust him in the nose. And he kind of kind of laugh about it now. But at the time that was That wasn't funny to y'all when he was busting you in the nose was it? It wasn't

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funny, but you know, even thinking about it right now, I guess you you have your normal grown up. And so that was kind of normal. You know, the the, what I guess I would think of right now is in people would say abuse. It was kind of the normal of what we what we grew up in. So I didn't think a lot about it. But no, it wasn't. It wasn't pretty. It wasn't

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:50

right. I mean, you wouldn't do that now to your kids. No way you do that. Do that. Thank you told me when you were about nine years old. You made a conscious decision. Do you remember? telling me what? What's you about that?



08:06

Yeah, I remember sitting in the bathroom one day, and I'd kind of gone in there to to lock myself in. Because it was the only real place you could kind of go to to be by yourself. I remember looking out the window saying God, you know, this is what I want. And a wife and this is, you know, I don't want the family situation I have right now I want to have this kind of family and all I'll love my kids and I'll raise them this way. And and that eight years old, you know, I guess it's funny. I've told Belinda about it. And she's like, you know, you're not normal. Most eight year olds don't sit and look out the window and think about something like that. And I'm like, Well, now you realize that

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Scott Hilton (Host) 08:45

you made a conscious decision. I did. And you remember it. You spend a couple of years ago you told me about. But she remembered exactly where you weren't exactly what you were thinking. You basically said I don't want I don't want to raise my kids the way I don't want my kids to go through what I'm going through. Yeah. What is the message to the kids out there that are listening to us today? are living in a situation that's not good? What is your message to them?



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My message to them is that no matter how bad things are, I'm an example of how God can get a hold of somebody's life and change that that script, you know, in and something that I wanted as a young boy at eight years old. God was faithful to me and has brought me to a place where I got all that. And if there's hope for me, there's hope for anybody. Because I was nobody special. I didn't you know, I didn't deserve it. I didn't earn it. But God was faithful to allow me and I really believe her heard that sincerity of that eight year old boy, asking those questions and just having a heart to heart with God. And the only way I knew how

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Scott Hilton (Host) 10:03

to simply talk to him and he understood, yeah. You, your dad passed away a few years ago. And you were going through some letters? Yeah, you're I remember the day the storm hits your

house. And so there's trees fell through the roof, you had to go dig some stuff out that had been packed up for years. You know, tell us about that letter.



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And it was, you know, something that was given to us on our wedding day, I'm pretty sure is what it was, it was a card. And in that card all these years later, and I remember reading it thinking, I don't remember this. I don't ever remember seeing this. I don't ever remember reading these words, but in those words, or in those in that card. He said, The words I love you. I'm proud of you of all the all the boys i had i i expected you to be the one that would that would prosper and become the most of all of them. So that was just a pretty interesting thing. I hate that it happened. And I found it after he'd passed away. But it was still great to find those words, you know?

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Scott Hilton (Host) 11:18

So all the all that time that you felt like your dad was maybe rejected? Did you feel rejected?



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Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. I think when you when you're spoke to the way that I was spoke to you, I think that's that's what happens is you you just you get this rejection that comes all over you. Because if you can't, if you can't please that one person, how can you, you know, fulfill? And please, really anybody I guess is how you feel? How do

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Scott Hilton (Host) 11:47

you think that affected you as a as an adult? As you grew up that rejection from your dad? What do you think? Were the implications of that as you were growing up?



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I think it was something that I don't really know that it was always on my mind. But I think it was always something that was a looming in the background, making me feel that way. I don't I don't think it was this crippling thing that made me not do anything and you know, make certain choices. But I think it did have an effect on me in a in a great way. I think, you know, decisions were were made or are not made because of feeling that way. Definitely.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 12:27

Somewhere along the line, you had to kind of learn how to be a father, who was there. Is there a trick to that?



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I guess. And I guess I don't mean this in a in a really negative way. But I do think that a lot of the things that I learned from my dad were what not to do. So I knew that I wanted to be an affectionate person towards my, my kids, and my grandkids and everybody around me, you know, that I could. So I went out on my way to always make sure that my son Ethan, you know, I don't think there's a day that goes by that. I haven't told him I loved him. You know, and I'm sure that there's there's shortcomings that I have had. Because none of us are perfect in any way. And I do realize that and dad looking back on things is that I think he did love me. I mean, I know we love me, because he provided for us. And he did. He did the things that said I love you in different ways that just weren't the ways that I wanted to receive it. He spoke a different love language, didn't they? Yeah. And I think that's, that's a key in, you know, being a good father is that you learn because we're not given this book of here's how to, you know, parent, kids, and we're just supposed to be a natural at it. I think you have to sit down and focus and you have to look at your kids. And you have to, you know, because each one of them are going to be different. Each one of them are going to have a different love language and you got to invest in finding that out and pursue that so that you can minister to them as a father the way that each of them want to be ministered to, because that's what it is, is it's it's a ministry being a father is is full time ministry. And I think you know, one of the things that I think is key to being successful at that is having that relationship with God to go back to you and and learn from him how to how to do that.



Scott Hilton (Host) 14:36

Your dad, when he passed away, you were able to go and see him. Tell us about that.



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Yeah, I went back the first time in 26 years I had been home in the wintertime. It was it was I don't even have a word right now to to to this ascribe it it was because there's just there was so many dynamics you know there. My parents divorced so there was always going home to when I did go home to see him there was I had to go see Mom and I had to go see dad and I had to make sure that the time was spent with each other down to the second are they kind of held that over me. So now they're now I went there and there wasn't this anymore, you know that it was just mom was going to be there. So it kind of changed. The whole dynamics of that trip was just different, you know, and it was interesting to sit back and kind of watch my brothers and how they, they went through this process too. Because now, you know, that affected all of us in a different way. And I remember my oldest brother kind of made all the arrangements and everything. And we walked into the viewing. I looked at him and I said, so when they bring the casket out, he said, oh, did I forget to tell you they cremated him? So there was just a lot of different dynamics, you know, going into that and you know, my, my son, Ethan, he, he saw it in a whole different way. Because I mean, if I have a great story to tell about my dad, I guess the great thing is that he treated Ethan like he was the greatest thing in the world. So there was that redemption of what I didn't get Ethan got, because one of the last times that I was with that. That I remember, we he took us to the to the airport that last time and dropped us off. And I got out of the I got out of the truck. And I said, Oh man, thanks, dad for everything, you know, because I stayed with him for the last, you know, couple days I was there. So thanks for everything, you know, appreciate it and love you. And he was like, didn't say anything. And

Ethan gets out of the truck right behind me. He's like, he called my dad Papa do and he said how to do he said, Man, it was great to see and and thanks for everything. And I love and he said I love you too even and I'm like, What the heck?

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Scott Hilton (Host) 17:16

What about me,

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but but in the same sense thinking about that now, I'm grateful that he had that ability to, to tell Ethan that and maybe he just couldn't do it with me, but, but he was able to do it with Ethan and that, for that I'm very thankful and grateful.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 17:35

Why do you think he was unable to be that way with you?

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Do that with me? Yeah, I really don't know. I mean, you know, he and I had such a difference in and really everything. He was a he was you know, to him, he was the man's man. So you drank you smoked? You did all those things. And, and I remember him asking me one time, why don't you just go out to the bar and, and have a beer. And I'm like, because that's not what I do. And I said, you know, one of the other things is, I'm one of the biggest people going into the bar, I'm gonna have to fight everybody. And I don't feel like getting a fight every time I go somewhere. So and he just didn't understand that mentality of why I was different from him in that way. So I just think that that had a lot to do with, you know, maybe what, where we didn't see things eye to eye.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 18:27

So I wrote a chapter about you and your dad and one of my books. And the chapter is titled, live to forgive. Tell us about that process that you went through. And it last it was years later, I think that you kind of came to grips with the fact that your dad was harsh that y'all didn't have the greatest relationship. But you figured some things out. And I think there's a lot of young young guys that are maybe some older guys that are working on that now. Can you tell us about that process? And once you finally came to the conclusion.

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Yeah, I think I think finding the card was a key thing, you know, you know, even though like I said he was after he'd passed away, but still reading those words. And knowing that they were from a time ago, you know, that had been probably 2928 years earlier. That that was a key, I

guess. Also looking back and thinking his love language was different. And I didn't take the time to find out what his was. I was telling Belinda, you know, even preparing to come in here. Earlier, I thought, you know, one of the things I guess I realized is that as much as him pushing me away, I pushed back, you know, because I didn't feel loved. I pushed back and I think and one of the small groups that we we help lead at church The the lesson that day and I was helping lead it was on words of affirmation of all things, and or the power of words. And as I was preparing for it, I just felt like God prompted me and said, You know, it's time for you to quit being the victim, or having that victim mentality. Because you had as much a part of pushing him away as is he did. And I never really realized that. And as I got to thinking about it, I thought I didn't, you know, I didn't, I didn't say I love you as much, is just as much as he did. And I could have, and I guess, you know, looking back, I wish I would have just said every, every day or every time I talked to him that no matter what the response was on his that, that I would have said, I love you, dad. And I did some, but I didn't. I didn't go out of my way. Because I guess I thought, you're not gonna say no, I'm not going to say it, you know.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 20:56

And that's, I think that's the case with a lot of dads particularly, kind of the bravado, you know, the macho kind of dads, you know, you don't get affectionate with your son, you don't say I love you to your son, you grow them, you raise them to be tough, big man. And I think we dads need to remember that that are Yeah, you can, you can do both. You can raise a tough young man. And you can also show some weaknesses if you need to. And you can show some affection and some speak their love language, so to speak. So I think that's a great message. Let's move forward a little bit though Europe, you're a father. And you're a good one I've watched. Tell us about your three boys.



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Well, Ethan, is almost 30. He'll be 30 In a few months. And he's he's a chemist right now. And just a great kid, you know,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:59

just got his PhD in chemistry, I



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believe, and just just regular chemistry, just regular chemistry, I'm sorry. Yeah, he's just one of them smart kids, it takes after a PhD and written a PhD. And then, you know, James, great young man. got so many characteristics that are like me, it's so interesting to see how God has weaved our lives together. Loves to build things, loves to work with his hands. He's a great dad. He's learned how to do that. But he's doing a great job at it. And you know, can't say enough about him, you know, that he's excelled the way he has. And then there's Andrew, who is got such great qualities of himself. And he's got two young boys and Andrew is you know, in my my definition is a great dad, you know, he loves his boys, he's, he's with them. Talking to them

playing with him, you know, all the things that I would have done and I did do you know, growing up, you know, wrestling with them playing with their toys. So, so they're great. They're great at their, what what they're doing is as dads as well.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 23:22

And they've, they've learned from you. As a matter of fact, we as we've made a custom here we sneak behind your back I don't know if you're aware of this. Just turns out that your your sons think the world of you. And we asked them, we didn't have to twist their arm we asked them to give us a little video clip we'd like to share with you

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that I want to thank you for being a great father. Thank you for showing me and giving me examples of what a father should be. And thank you for being a role model. Thank you for everything that you do. Thank you for the kindness and in the patience that you show daily. Thank you. I love you.

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A Pop's is me. I just want to say that I love you. And I thank you for not only being just a great father to our family, but also a great upstanding man of Christ. Also want to thank you for accepting me in your home in my time of need. And not only that, but being a great grandfather to two wonderful boys. Even though you're a man, a few words. When you speak, they're the most impactful, inspiring, encouraging words any soul wants to hear. Thank you for accepting me is one of your sons. And it's been a great eight year journey. taking every step with you, and I just want to thank you and let you know that it's been an unplanned experience.

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Hey, Dad, I love you so, so much. And I'm so thankful that you're my dad. I'm so thankful that you've taught me so many lessons and that you've taught me how to chase after God and be a godly man, I'm thankful that you've taught me how to be a good husband and a good father. For when that time comes in my life, I'm so thankful that you have shown me how to have fun and laugh and thank you for giving me your sense of humor. Thank you for making jokes with me and figuring out how to make me laugh even when I'm upset. Thank you for sending words of encouragement to me and praying over me and sending me scripture when I need it thank you for for just whenever I need help for at the drop of a hat, you'll you'll come down here and then help me do whatever it is that I need help with. Thank you for do just loving me unconditionally and supporting me with whatever I've I've wanted to accomplish in life. My Ph D would have been a whole lot harder without you. I can I can promise you that. I just love you so so much. And I'm so thankful that you're a part of my life and that I get to get to have you as my dad. So I love you so so much and I'm so thankful for you. Love you.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 26:45

Scott Hilton (Host) 26:15

So does that make you feel



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a while? Feels like I did a good job.



Scott Hilton (Host) 26:53

So you're an inspiration, Andy. Our intention here is to get people like you out there so that young fathers can be inspired to become great dads that have completed this episode of the Best my dad podcast where we're inspiring fathers to become great dads and we're seeking to break cycles of generational fatherlessness. Thanks. See you next week.