

Wisdom From Others

9 Life Lessons From My Dad

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C H A P T E R 1

Introduction

“There is a wisdom of the head, and a wisdom of the heart.” - Charles Dickens

A PARENT’S LOVE is difficult to explain. It’s hard to understand how you can love another person so much. It’s different from romantic love. Honestly, I’m not sure I really understood parental love until I became a parent - even though I have parents who loved me dearly.

Understanding the “why” behind that love is a challenge and awkward to express in words; it really is best to be felt. When my oldest child was born, I felt so vulnerable. I loved her so much; I would do anything to protect her from harm.

I gave my dad, Ken also called Kenneth or Kenny by some, the draft copy of this book as we hiked on a warm December day in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He, my sister Danielle, and I had all been training to hike the Cades Cove driving loop.

This hike was a different hike for us – it was paved, which is odd for a hiker to want to conquer, but conquer it we did. We trained and planned for it for several months, as it was eleven miles long.

WISDOM FROM OTHERS

The letter on the next page is how I first told my Dad about this book.

In John 3:16 NKJV, the writer says: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

We are told that God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to save the world. I can’t imagine how it feels to give your child to save others.

As parents, we give a little bit of ourselves every day to guard our children’s hearts and minds. My dad, Kenneth Taylor, did the same thing for my sisters and me; he gave so much of himself. The lessons contained in this book are testaments of his gift to us.

If you are a parent, I want you to know that you are enough. It may not seem that way at times, but you are. I do not know if my Dad knew he was enough for us while my sisters and I were growing up. I’m sure he had questions and doubts about that many times. As I reflect on the contents of these pages and when these stories took place, I realize I never thought about how Dad was feeling.

I did not consider what he was going through at the time.

Parents, I want you to know your children see you as heroes. Today, I can truly say that my Dad, the main character in this book, is a hero. He is my hero.

The stories you are about to read are true and happened as I remember them. Some of the stories occurred many years ago; others are relatively recent as I have shared some of the stories of my own family.

Time heals all wounds, but sometimes, it also clouds reality. It was only a couple of months ago that I understood what my Dad meant when he said: “There will always be someone better than you.” But, all the stories are rich in family culture and love.

My Dad, an unassuming guy, raised three daughters. At the age of 20, he married a lady he loved or should I say, thought he loved, and they quickly started a family. Unfortunately, they could not make the marriage work, and they got divorced. Unlike most family stories like this, my Dad was left to be the primary caregiver for my

WISDOM FROM OTHERS

sisters and me in the late 1980s. That was during a time when fathers did not usually have joint custody or full custody. He and my mom co-parented us before those terms were mainstream.

Dad was not a perfect father, but he tried hard to give us a great life, and he succeeded. In his quest to provide an excellent life for us, he imparted profound and candid wisdom that has stuck with me throughout my life. It has provided a roadmap for nearly every decision I have made.

I remember when I was pregnant with my second daughter; I confided in a co-worker who had two children that I was so worried about having a second child because I loved my first child so much. I was concerned that I would not have enough love in my heart for another child. She reassured me that I didn't need to worry, "Your heart will get bigger," she said. Her message was simple: when you have more to love your heart grows; it does not divide.

Love is like wisdom; it grows when there is more of it to share. The more people you love and the more opportunities you have to love, the higher your capacity to love others.

DONITA M. BROWN

Wisdom also multiplies the more it is lovingly given. My Dad gave my sisters and me both love and wisdom. He fostered those two qualities in us. I am so grateful for his influence in our lives that I am compelled to write this book as a tribute to my Dad while he can still enjoy it, not after he has gone from this world.

WISDOM FROM OTHERS

There are three parts to this book:

Part I - Wisdom from a grieving parent

Part II - Wisdom from an adventurous parent

Part III - Wisdom from a caring parent

Part I shares an inspiring lesson that there are everyday heroes among us, doing great things, being stronger than you can imagine, and sharing wisdom, always. You just have to listen to find them. My Dad, is an incredible man, he offered no more or less wisdom than anyone else – I only listened. *There is wisdom all around us, we only need to listen to hear it.*

Part II focuses on adventure, the lessons learned from days and nights spent camping, exploring, learning, and discovering.

Part III, the last section, you will see how my Dad graduated from parenting young children to parenting teenagers and adults. Every day, he still shares some wisdom with me, as there is rarely a day that goes by that we don't talk on the phone or in person. I don't always have the ears to hear, but he continues to plant those seeds of knowledge.

My Dad is a caring father, and now, he is a dear friend. Even in my forties, he still lets me know he's still my Dad.

He doesn't have a college education. He has worked for the same company for 40 years; he's an optician, which means he works with his hands and his heart, connecting to people. He's a studier and lover of people.

As you read his words of wisdom, I hope you will be as inspired and blessed as I have. May you reflect and give thought to the wisdom others have shared with you and together, let us start a movement.

So jump to Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and share *Wisdom from Others* with the hashtag #WisdomFromOthers. Let's make wisdom grow.

You can buy the book [here](#).