



Podcast Episode 201
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“How I Stay Inspired While I Work Each Day”

David Loy: Hi and welcome once again to *In the Loop* with Andy Andrews. This is part two, of, what are we going to call this? I guess we'll call it, describing the items on Andy's desk? What's on Andy's desk part two. So Andy let's jump right back in here and let's get to the next item that we were talking about from last week. If you haven't listened to last week's episode, go back and listen to that. But we're going to pick up and keep describing these items. So here we go. Ok, the two books that look to be the same book but different colors, Words of Wisdom?

Andy Andrews: Yeah, on it says, Word of Wisdom, you can see they're both pretty fairly beaten up. The red one or the burgundy or whatever that is, it's beaten up more than the grey one. But they're both the exact same little book. And inside those books have all the psalms and all the proverbs, the things that king David wrote and the things the king Solomon wrote. And then there are some other contributors there but it's basically David and Solomon. So this is a father and a son. This is a father, David, who was kind of a mess, you know. He was a mess, he was, you know, he wanted to do the right thing and he knew what the right thing was and he walked right outside and do the wrong thing. And then he'd be sorry for it and oh God, forgive me, I can't believe. And you know, here's the guy that sometimes he's happy, sometimes he's sad, sometimes he's on top of the world, sometimes he wants to kill himself, he's just a mess. And yet, David was the father to the man that history records as the wealthiest person who ever was and the wisest person who ever was. And so I think, I'm a dad to a couple of sons, and sometimes

I'm a mess too. And so if somebody as big a mess as David can raise a kid or be the father, a parent to a kid that becomes the best, then there's hope for me. Now what they wrote in there, you know, it's curious that David, when you read what David wrote, when you read the psalms, and that burgundy one is the first one that I got, and I've had that for, I don't know, 30 years, 30 plus years. And I've read it every month in its entirety for 30 years.

David: Really?

Andy: And I continue to read that. Every day I read, with a lot of the other reading I do, I read five psalms and one of the proverbs. And if you read five of those psalms, and one of those proverbs, at the end of the month you're through with the whole thing. And so I would start over. And there was a long period of time that I thought, God, I read this, why am I still reading this, what am I doing? I question my sanity about, or the time. And now I find I am shocked that today, today, when I sit down and go through this stuff, with the intention that I have, and the thought process that I am developing and the questions I'm asking God, I'm shocked that I get new understanding from some of these, in ways that are available to help people today. I mean, today.

David: Yes. Right.

Andy: And so in any case, when you read what David wrote in the psalms, that, I have always seen that as me talking to God because it's a conversation David has with God. You know, God, why are you doing this, God, why is this, God please do this, God I'm sorry for this, God thank you for this. And so I find so many times that it parallels my thoughts and my feelings at the time. And then Solomon's stuff, I see that as God's wisdom that he put in Solomon,

and that's God's conversation with me because with Solomon's stuff, God's telling me what to do with my money.

Me, how to run my family, me how to be a dad. Me, he's telling me, how to build a business. And so in any case, through the years, I've read these with highlighters. And somewhere along the line, I realized, I've got two boys. And because my parents died when I was 19, I don't have anything of my parents. I have my dad's handbook, my dad's Bible, my mom's Bible. I don't even have a lot of pictures of my parents. Because you know, nobody expects to die when they're in their early forties. No kid expects their parents to die. And so I am being very, I want desperately to somehow make sure that my boys know some of the stuff that I'm learning.

David: This is one of those ways.

Andy: I want to them to know where it came from. So when I die, whether that's after this podcast or during this podcast or in 50 years, when I die, that burgundy one is Austin's, ok. The grey one is Adam's. And I got the grey one about ten years ago, and it is now, when I mark in one, I mark in both. And I go back and forth, I read one for couple of months, another one for couple of months, I carry one with me on the road for couple of months, then another one. It's because I want them to say, my dad carried this with him and he read this every day and he marked this for me. And so

David: That's amazing, that's really good. Alright, let's move up to the very colorful plate.

Andy: Yeah, and we're all through, I know this is getting long.

David: Yes, it's almost; you said it's wood plate?

Andy: Yeah. I was given this, this was, you know how people give you plaques or something like this. This was an award I got from The Center for Healthy Families. It's an award called The Bridge Builders Award. And so for some reason, this means a ton to me, that I think healthy families are critical to our world, to our society. And that somebody would consider me a bridge builder between society and healthy families. I mean, it's just awesome. And they put, not just Andy Andrews, they put author Andy Andrews. So I know that it was specifically the books that they were referencing. And this, you know, it's a plate, wood, it's a plate, plaque type of thing. You see it's a piece of wood and they had this made and if you look at this David, there's family faces all around the edges, but in the middle of it, look at this, this is, I guess that's supposed to be me, typing on a computer. And this is all carved aged. Some artist carved this and colored this. So there's me typing on a computer, there's me sitting under a tree writing, handwriting. Now look up here, it's a butterfly. Here's the clock from one of the books. Here, there is the sword of a fighting man, the cross swords, see the cross swords, The Traveler's Gift? Here's the ship, the Columbus, the crown on the head of king Solomon. I'm just, I was just blown. Look at the angel, angel wing, there's Gabriel's wing right there. So you know, I put that out there, I have that on my desk just really, I think it's beautiful but I also have it to encourage me that, ok, you know, I'm trying to be obedient, I'm trying to seek wisdom. And I want to be reminded that I make a difference.

David: Yeah, absolutely.

Andy: That when I come into this office, I make a difference, that's a reminder for me.

David: That's great. Ok, what is the other feather in hook, sticking out of the other side of your computer? Again with the hooks in the computers, what is that?

Andy: As a father, let me grab this. As a parent, I'm very aware that we're busy. Man, there's so much going on. And there's so many times that our kids will say something or do something or ask something. And there's so much going on that we don't show, I guess proper attention. And, so Adam had gotten a fly tying kit. And he loves to fish and so he's tying flies and he's making these flies and he's, you know, they get better and better. That's a hard thing to do. I mean, this is like a profession, this is something that people, it's art. And so he gets better and better. And I want to be very tuned to these boys, ok. And so for Father's day, Adam took a part of a goby lure, see that? It's a big heavy lead headed jig, it has the lead head and then the bear hook. And you can buy these and you put like a rubber skirt on it or something like that, and just fitted over there, and the rubber skirt gets torn away by an amberjack or a goby or whatever. And you just put another on. Adam took this and he used this as like the head of a fly. And you can see the wrapping that he did. And he took a pheasant's feather and several other pieces of fur and feathers and wrapped it and glued it and he created a big goby lure for me, an amberjack lure. Now I was blown away and it's beautiful and it's such a piece of art, that I'm not going to use it to fish with. I wouldn't put this in the water, right. But that afternoon, after we had done whatever we did on Father's day and Adam said, dad did you like the lure that I made for you? And I went into it again, yes, I liked it and how awesome I thought it was, and how good I thought he was becoming. And then that night, we were going to bed and he said, dad, what did you think about that lure? And I told him again. But that night I went to bed and I realized just how much

he had put into that. I mentioned to Polly and Polly said, oh he like stressed over that, he worked on that. And so I wanted somehow to show, I wanted Adam to understand how important that was to me, how grateful. Because one of the things that I really try to put in the boys, is gratefulness, to show gratefulness, to express it.

David: Yes.

Andy: And so because I really believe you want your child to grow up to be an awesome spouse. Well teach your child to be grateful. You want your child to grow be an awesome boss, that a leader of people, teach that child to be grateful. You want the child to grow to be an awesome employee? Teach that child to be grateful. You want them to be, I mean, it just covers so many things. And so I thought I want to show Adam how grateful I am. So I knew he was likely to ask me again. And sure enough the next day, he said, dad what did you think when you saw that lure? And so I said, you know, I went into it again, you know, just about how in awe I was, how great I thought he did. And I said, come here, let me show you something. He said, what? I said, come down to my office. So we went down in my office and I had taken the point of this hook and I put it on the top of that main monitor right there. And the feather sticks up about 4 inches above it, and the lead hangs down into the picture a little bit, there on the corner. And I said, Adam, you know this is one of a kind work of art and I could not bear to tight this on a line and have, you know, be fishing for amberjack and have blue fish cut it off and I'd lose it. Or a king cut it off and I lose it. It would kill me.

So I can not fish with this. You can make some awful looking ones in the future to go fish with, I said, but this is beautiful and you did this for me and I am so odd by this and I appreciate it so much, so beautiful, that I'm going

to hang it right here. So not only when I walk in my office I see those feathers up above the monitor, it's the one of the first things I see when I walk in my office, but when I sit down in my desk, it's in my computer screen. I see this, I'm looking at this constantly and every time I look at it, I think of how grateful I am that God somehow picked me to be your dad. I think you're going to be such an incredible leader of man. I think you're already such an incredible young man, I appreciate you so much and I'm so glad that for whatever reason, I am the one who gets to be your dad. And I said, so that reminds me of that. And so that's why that's there.

David: That is amazing. That's very good. Ok, three other items real quick. What is this, what I call it earlier, nature's hanger, taped to the front of your desk? What is that?

Andy: That is another reminder of, you can find a way where there is no way. Ok, so in the islands, in the Pacific, years and years and years ago, and I'm talking about hundreds of years ago, before any of the islanders had metal, ok. They would see these massive sharks beyond a reef, they would get out there and they would, you know, they had no idea how to catch these things. And so you see, it's kind of like a hook. It has rope that is encased in wood, that's woven fiber, ok, that's there, encased in wood. And it's not even a hook, it's like a carved triangle with a very sharp point on the end. And so the wood would extend for five or six feet up there. And what these guys would do, is they would take a live chicken or a little pig or something, and they would somehow fasten him to that thing. And then they would take their canoes and they would go way out beyond a reef. And they would let that thing float out there, right. And then they would go all the way back, beyond the reef, all the way back to the beach and they would have woven this line, this rope. And the first part of it was encased in wood so that the shark when he bit it,

couldn't bite that rope, he couldn't bite through that rope. And so, than the rest of that rope that they had went all the way back to the beach. And so that is not a hook that would get in a sharks jaw. You can see, but it's created in such a way that the shark would swallow whatever that was and that would totally not come back out of his throat.

David: Oh my goodness.

Andy: And so then all the islanders, back on land would all grab that rope and tow that sucker in. Is that unbelievable?

David: There's always a way.

Andy: Always a way. And so I love looking that and knowing that there's always a way. Because before that was done, that could not be done.

David: Of course. I still can even picture how they actually did that. Alright, the chunk of wood with the brush next to it. There's a strap coming out of the wood. And then there's a little brush next to those. I assume those go together.

Andy: Yeah, they do.

David: What are those two things?

Andy: A chunk of wood here, with the strap, here, look at this closely. That is a revolutionary war canteen.

David: Oh, right, there's the other side, yap, there's the top of it, the nostril, ok.

Andy: It's a canteen from the revolutionary war. It's literally a little cask made of wood with a wooden thing on the top. I mean, it's a canteen. And I love the idea that you know, somebody was able to make that, but the brush is really the significant part of it. Because that was an officer canteen, and this brush, this little brush, with this ornate top on it, that was the brush that when officers would come back into their tent, come back after a day, they would use that brush to brush the dust from their uniforms because they only had one uniform. And so to get ready for the next day, they brushed the dust away. So today is gone, it's over, it's past, no matter what happen, that blood on your uniform, it's dried into its own dust, now it can be brushed away. We're brushing away the blood, and the fight, and the problems, and the issues of the day, we're brushing away. And we're moving forward. And so I keep this on my desk to, when I come in here, I have to move forward, I have to brush the dust from myself and look at another day.

David: That is great. That's a great reminder. And gosh, you see it every day, that's crazy. Ok, last but I'm assuming certainly not least, I see this two orange books. I've got the feeling I know what those are.

Andy: Yeah, for years I've told a story of Jones and being under the pier and how Jones gave me biographies. And the first three, and I've told a lot of people, and they were orange. I don't know why they were orange but they were orange. I always remember that, they were orange. It's like, the dust cover, you don't have the dust cover any more, and the hard back, the material of the hardback is orange. Well these books were orange. And the first three books he gave me were Winston Churchill, George Washington

Carver and Will Rogers. And so I've told that story long enough, and somewhere along the lines, somebody, these came from separate people, but they had or found, there's the Will Rogers one, there's the George Washington Carver, these aren't the actual ones I read at the time, but these are the orange biographies that he gave me.

David: We got to take pictures of these.

Andy: And I think they're like teen reading, these aren't big thick things that intimidated me, I thought, I can read this. And so I got started. I'd love to one-day find the Churchill one but those are what started me on the path to finding the seven decisions.

David: That is so great. And you see these now every day as well. That's great. Again, there's so much intentionality here with what you've chosen to surround yourself with, with what you see every day, with what you touch every day. And as important as those things as you mentioned several times is, what you choose to not surround yourself with. What you choose to not read or not look at. And I think that's a message here and hopefully everybody that's listening can grasp on to that concept of, this is not about show and tell, with what's on Andy's desk. This is about something much bigger. This is about continuing to be on the journey of seeking wisdom and surrounding yourself with things that can get you to where you want to go. And Andy it's all about these choices but what comes before the choice.

Andy: It's the thinking.

David: It's the thinking. It all starts with the thinking. So I find this fascinating and I know that others will as well. So thank you for opening up.

Andy: Absolutely.

David: And sharing your.

Andy: I'm excited and I really want people to have the office of their own with things that bring them into a spirit of gratefulness, a spirit of belief, a spirit of opportunity, a spirit of achievement, of seeking wisdom. And you can do that. But I would urge you, last thing, don't fight against yourself, right. I mean, don't allow things in your presence, in your room, don't allow things that will bring you away, that will hurt your belief, that will weaken your gratefulness. I mean, don't do that. For goodness sake, better you go into a blank room than to do that.

David: Exactly. Than to hurt yourself. That's exactly right. Well Andy thanks for doing this, thanks for telling these stories and sharing a part of your life behind the scenes. And we'll be excited about telling more stories to come; maybe we'll do some more episodes about your office, going forward.

Andy: Yeah, hopefully they won't be this long. Good grief, I'm sorry this is long.

David: That's fine, that is great. Alright thanks so much Andy, we'll talk to you next week.

Andy: Ok buddy, thank you.

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Would you like to run something by Andy? Contact us and your question might be featured on the show!

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