



Podcast Episode 204
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“How a Mistake-Prone Kid Can Become a Highly Productive Adult”

David Loy: Hi and welcome to *In the Loop* with Andy Andrews. I’m your host David Loy. Andy, how are you today?

Andy Andrews: I am doing great, how are you and Matthew doing?

David: We are fantastic. We’re sitting here, staring at each other, wish we’re staring at your face. But we’re not.

Andy: Well, you know. I’m in comedy overload, a lot of directions I could go with that one.

David: Well we’re making fun faces, I’m sure that you are doing the same. Hey we had a great follow up question, somebody that listens regularly to the podcast, called us out on something that we have yet to fulfill, a few weeks ago, several weeks ago.

Andy: I know what it is, I’ve been hearing about it in the airport. I can’t remember to do it. But you’re talking about what’s over the desk, right?

David: Yes, what’s on the ceiling, yes.

Andy: I had people stop me in the airport and go, you never killed anybody with what’s over your desk? Oh my gosh.

David: Ok, so, for those of you who don't know what we're talking about.

Andy: How do we lay it out?

David: Well I can just summarize really quickly. Several weeks ago on a previous episode, go back and listen to the episodes about Andy's office. Several amazing episodes about the items on his desk, about the influence wall, several different things that he has in his office that he looks at daily. One of the items he talked about doing something very unique on his ceiling and how he did it for very cheap, for mere pennies, and how it was probably something you had never seen on a ceiling before. And we said that we would tell people in a future episode what exactly it was.

Andy: Because people do, they spend so much on wall treatments and ceiling stuff and everything. And I told Polly this idea and Polly said, you're crazy. And I said, no, I'm telling you, I think this would be good. It's not totally finished yet, we're about halfway through. But you're right, you know cost wise, you're correct, it's mere pennies. And I tell people and people say, well what is it? And I say, it's several thousand portraits of Abraham Lincoln. Because it is pennies, it's what it is. It's pennies.

David: How are they hanging on the ceiling?

Andy: Hot glue. And the glue is not hot right now. And if you put a little bit too much hot glue on there, shove that penny up there and that stuff comes down on your thumb, uh baby. But that's why I have boys.

David: There you go.

Andy: It's their thumbs, not mine.

David: And had I not seen it I would be asking this question, did you hot glue each one of them individually or in clumps?

Andy: Oh individually.

David: Ok.

Andy: Individually. And I'm sitting here looking at it right now and it's about half way across the ceiling and now, you may think, well you've seen it David, some people may think it looks idiotic but to me, it looks awesome. I mean, who's ever seen anything like this?

David: Exactly. And that color is very unique and you've got a bunch of Abraham Lincoln staring back down at you.

Andy: That's right, I mean, it's historical.

David: It really is. And it is unlike anything I've ever seen. So maybe Andy I'll try to get Sandy to snap a picture and maybe we include that in an email at some point.

Andy: Ok, yeah, I can take a picture. I tell you what I'll do, at some point today, I will take a picture from my desk of this.

David: Ok.

Andy: Just so people can see what I see. I will take a picture toward my influence wall, that you'll have that in there and at the top of the picture will be the pennies.

David: Ok, and I'm very much looking forward to that. That actually brings up another question that somebody wrote in about those previous episodes we did on your office. And I think I got the same question from several people. This is very odd. But now I'm curious about it. A couple of people asked, essentially which direction are you facing in your office? So we've talked about, you know, your desk and influence wall and the ceiling and everything, but what direction?

Andy: Now I have a very specific direction but I wonder are they asking like, are you facing the door, are you facing the driveway? Is that what they mean?

David: You know, I...

Andy: Because I'll tell you, I have a very specific, I mean, my desk in my office is turned just a little bit, it's not like straight, you know, like with the walls type of thing.

David: Right, it's at an angle.

Andy: It's at an angle. And do you know, you probably don't know this, I can send you a picture of this too, but my desk is facing absolutely true North.

David: Really? I did not know that.

Andy: True North. I have, I got the idea to do that, I've got a friend that talks about the compass in your life and keeping your mind and keeping your physical self and keeping your family on bearing in the right way, pointing in the right way. And pointing true North, pointing, you know straight. So you know, true North, I've said several times, I have people that I keep around me to be the compasses in my life, to point me toward the North, to point me in a true direction. So anyway, my desk is facing true North. And I'll tell you what, I'll take a picture of that for you too.

David: That is crazy. I've seen your office several times and I had no clue that, that is why it was at an angle. That's very cool. And you know, that reminds me again, that everything that I've seen you do, seems to be deliberately intentional and have a purpose, and have a reason, and that actually kind of segues into the question that we got, that I wanted us to cover today.

Andy: Can I say something first?

David: Sure.

Andy: When you say that, let me just say that, yes, it is intentional and I'll give you a little story. You didn't ask for this but not too long ago, the boys came to me and said, they had a movie showing on the screen, can we watch this? Is this ok to watch, can we watch this dad? And I looked at it, it was Friday night and I said, umm, yes, you can watch it. And they said, oh good, good. And as they kind of walked away, I said, you can watch it if you want to. And they know me too well and they immediately turn around and go, wait, wait, why did you say that? Why did you say we can watch it if we want to? And they're kind of smiling at me. And I'm, lifting my eyebrows, what,

what? And they said, but you didn't just say, yeah, have fun, go watch it, you said, oh you can watch it if you want to. And I said, yeah, I did say that didn't I? And they said, so why? And I said, well look guys, I said, there are things, you know how we choose how we think. And how we choose how we think, we choose what we watch, we watch what we listen to, we choose what we, the people we're around. We choose what we read. And probably just as important or more important we choose who we will not be around. We choose what we will not watch, we choose what we will not listen to or not read. And I said, so because of that, because we're choosing how we think and how we think becomes who we are, there are things that you can watch that you're choosing to watch them and they will be good for you. They will really move you upstream in life, they'll move you in a great direction. And then there are some things that you choose not to watch because you're aware that if you watch them, you're choosing a bad direction, you're choosing to have your thoughts captivated and having your thoughts directed by something that will move you downstream, I said, now there is another kind of thing that you can watch and it's not really good or it's not really bad, it's just, it's just there. You know, it's just kind of, it's a time waster, it's not good, it's not bad, it's not anything really. And so what you're doing there is you're choosing to just kind of relax and just tread water. And so, it's kind of nothing, doesn't really put anything good in, doesn't really put anything bad in. I said, so it's nothing. But is it really nothing? I said, because there's an old saying, an empty mind is the devil's playground. Another way of saying it is, that nature abhors a vacuum, that anything empty something's going to come into it, ok. Another way of putting it is, that if you're choosing stuff to watch that will move you upstream, or you choose to watch something that will take your life downstream. And then this might be something you're

saying, oh it's not just good or bad, it's just going to relax. Ok, so what you mean is, you're going to tread water.

Ok, well if something's moving upstream against the current, or something's moving downstream with the current, there is current. And so, you are either swimming upstream or you are being swept downstream. It's impossible to tread water in the current. And so, even when you choose kind of nothing, you're losing ground. You're going downstream, does that make sense? And they said, yes, yes, it does. And so, it just makes me think, when you said that everything that I do is intentional, I certainly make the attempt, I'm paying attention to that because the things that we do not pay attention to, the things that we let down our guard on, you know, nature abhors a vacuum.

David: Andy I can't imagine what it's like to be your boys because in every situation, there is something to learn. Do they ever, and we're getting off topic, we do have a great question to get to, but I'm curious, do they ever get annoyed or tired of the finding these lessons or?

Andy: They have, they have. And you know, frankly, sometimes I get tired of giving them, ok. But I know why I'm here and I also make sure that they know that it's their life, it's their life. Because there was a time with Austin, when I said, well they have, they don't often but there was a time with Austin, where he kind of let me know, dad, ok, you're just, did you make a lesson out of everything, you know. And so, I said, oh sorry. But later I said, hey Aus, I said, I heard what you said, and I'm open to do this kind of how you want to. You seemed to be doing great. And I said, you know how much I love you, I say, you know how much I love you but you don't know how much I love you, you really don't. I said, you're not going to know how much I love you until one day, you'll come up to me and go, hey dad, see a little seven-year-old over

there? I know now. I know now how much you loved me and I know that I could not have understood that any more than my seven-year-old can understand.

I said, Aus, I don't expect you to understand it, I said, but I do want to tell you that I love you and Adam. Mom and I love you more than ourselves. And so, you know our philosophy, that we don't want to raise great kids, we want to raise kids who become great adults. Because I love you so much, I'm willing to sacrifice a little of, you know, because I know that I could make you do whatever makes people think, wow Andy, look what a great young man you have. Yeah, ok, well I made him do that. And when he's away from me he may not do that but I made him do it, so that you would think that I'm great. Look, that's a pride thing for a parent. You know, mom and I have something way beyond for you guys. And that is, we want you as adults to be productive and influential, and purposeful. And we want you to have joy. And we want you to accomplish. And so because of that, we are willing to forego some things. I mean, I'm going to, I mean, if you're about to get killed or break a leg, I'm going to jump in there, but I'm also likely to just allow you to go ahead and maybe lose some money. And maybe you lose some time and maybe screw up in a couple of ways because I could run your life for you now, but it's much better that at your age, at 15, that you do most of the running and I'm kind of there with the net, ok. And I said, so here's what I want to tell you, you and I have talked about where you want to end up. You and I, we've talked about what you want your life to be like at 25. And you and I both know, that's an amazing place, there's not many 25 year olds that live like you want to live. That you want to have a little house that you own, that it's debt free, that you have a couple of businesses of your own. And you know where you want to live, and you know what you want to drive. And so here's

the thing. If you're going to get there and you have kind of gotten me as your coach, and you said you wanted me to coach you there. I can either coach you a lot or I can coach you a little. Because I understand, you get tired and you just don't want to hear it sometimes, I understand that. But the people who get tired and just kind of don't want to hear it, and the people who can't make themselves smile when they don't feel like it. And the people who can't make themselves work, people who lack self-discipline, you know, they don't end up in those places at 25. And frankly most of them don't end up there ever. Ok, because they can't discipline themselves, or they won't discipline. Because they can't discipline, they just won't. So I will do what you want, because I see things and I see things that will help you get where you want to be. And so I can either keep those things to myself or I can tell you.

But If I see them, I'm not taking notes on them, I'm not, oh I need to remember to tell Austin that, on Saturday morning when he's in a good mood and I'll pile them all up. I can either tell you when I see them or just I'm probably gonna forget. And so, it's your life buddy. And you have to decide. But I also want you to know, that if somebody has something to give you, whether it's me, mom, uncle Sandy, uncle Joe, uncle Bob, uncle Kevin, I mean, all these guys that are in your life, just know, that when somebody's giving you something like this, if you appear impatient or you appear like kind of, I know, I know, or if you appear like, yeah, ok, ok, will you please hurry? If you appear like that, they may tell you once, they may tell you twice, but they're not gonna keep telling you. Ok, they're just gonna, oh, ok, hey, how you're doing, good to see you. But they're not gonna invest their time and their life because it's just too hard. Because you don't appear grateful, you don't appear receptive. And so if you don't appear grateful and you don't appear receptive, they're just, they're not gonna give it to you. And these are

the people who know how to do what you say you want to do. And so just know that you are totally in charge because you can make people feel like, I'm not ever gonna tell him anything again or you can make people feel like, man I need to think more often about how I can help Austin understand things that will get him there fast. You can either be a point of interest for them and a hobby for them, a purpose for them, or you can be somebody that they look to avoid. And that they just have a very surface relationship. And so that goes for your mom and dad, as well. Anyway, there you go.

David: Wow.

Andy: That was more than you asked for. Isn't it time to end?

David: Well you end in dramatic and powerful story with. Anyway there you go. As though it was nothing. I feel like, you probably just rocked some parents' worlds out there.

Andy: You know, we talk this way every day, in our family. We talk this way all the time, because we are intentional. You know, I just, a couple of hours ago I just took Adam to school, and so, you know, we're very intentional with what we do and because everything matters.

David: Right. That's really good though. I think there's, gosh, we could talk for another hour about just this, but I think this is something that I'd love to get some additional feedback on. These feels like one of those episodes that we will get tons of emails and questions and follow up questions. And I would encourage that. Andy I know you love reading through those, the people that are posting comments on Facebook. I just love the topics that ignite conversation.

Andy: Yeah, I really do. And you guys, there's, a ton of this stuff has been laid out in this parenting course, a ton of this stuff because I have really thought about this stuff for years and years. And I'm continuing to add to it. And so, it's a lot of fun for me because it makes a difference. You know, I see it in the lives of our own kids, I see it in lives of other parents' children as well.

David: Wow. Well that's fantastic. We will get to the questions that I had mapped out, we'll get to those next week.

Andy: Ok.

David: This is a great place to stop. Again, as a reminder, if you want to jump in on this episode, on this specific topic, as a follow up question or if you have another question that you'd like to hear Andy's perspective on, give us a call, 1800 726 2639, leave a voicemail, tell us your name, where you're calling from and your question. Or you can email those to Matt, intheloop@andyandrews.com. Again, that's intheloop@andyandrews.com. Andy thanks again for sharing that and we will talk to you next week.

Andy: Thanks David and I will see you soon.

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

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