Jeremy’s Story Transcript

::Music intro::

I was born in Nashville. I’ve pretty much been here my entire life. I grew up in a typical household. Go to church on Sundays. And, you know, school. High School. Do good in school, so on, and so forth. I, actually, in high school, one very, very traumatic experience that had hindered my schooling, in general, I had lost my mother. She had gotten sick very, very, suddenly. It was a very, very tragic process. And beforehand, I had straight A’s. But when she had passed away I started skipping school. My GPA fell tremendously; and a lot of the values that had been engrained in me had been shaken up severely and it wouldn’t be until many, many years later that I understood that college or any other form of higher form of education – whether it be a trade school or anything in general -- was for me.

::Music interlude::

One thing that she always hammered for me was education, “Go to school, you’re smart! Go to school, go to school, go to school!”

And, like I said, when she had passed away I just kind of stopped going to school. In fact, I almost got arrested for truancy. That’s how severe my truancy had become. And I had lost most academic scholarships I had going for myself.

::Music interlude::

I had to learn about accountability and responsibility – just so many different aspects of being a young man. I don’t even just want to say, because it can apply to anybody, this goes for anyone, men and women: College. You have to grow up with it. You can’t go through college like you did with high school. You can’t slack off, because the teachers will not, some of them will, but they will not hold your hand through it.

::Music interlude::

Live for yourself. When I had went through that period of depression, I held on so tightly to the things that my mother had told me, because I had just lost her. And I had begun to live my life for her. And what I had to understand is that one of the last things my mom had told me -- my sophomore year of high school was the year she had passed away – and we had got into an argument about college.

And she told me, she said, “J, I want you to go to college.”

And I said, “I don’t want to go to college. Why would I want to go to college? I don’t even like high school.” Like, why would I go to college?
And, she, I thought she was going to be mad. If you knew my mom, you know, she’s one of the loud moms. So I thought she was going to be mad. And she sat back, and she put her leg on her on top of her other leg and she just looked at me said, “Okay. That’s fine. I would rather you not go if that’s going to be your attitude about it.”

And I didn’t understand that for so long. And, so, the advice that I would have to give would stem from that conversation. It would be to be intentional. You don’t have to have everything figured out. It’s a process. College is for a lot of people. But, at the same time, it’s not for everyone, but that’s up for you to decide. But, if you have a goal, stick to it and you will get there, because I’m almost there.

::Music outro::