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[Story of My Life]

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April 21, 2011 was the day that everything changed in my life. This day will be with me forever I will never forget it. This life changing situation happened while I was at school. My dad was on his way to work and he ^{got} gets pulled over by the police. They ^{asked} ask for his driver license, ~~this should all be in the past tense~~ he shows them his Ohio license instead of his California license. The police officer then runs his name and come to find out he has a warrant for his arrest in Toledo, Ohio. My dad got arrested and taken into custody. The police officers said that if Toledo police does not come pick my dad up within ten days, he would be let free. On the tenth day the Toledo bus went to pick him up from the station. It took two days for my dad to arrive in Toledo. Once he arrived, they told him that he has court in the morning.

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When my dad went to court, they offered him fourteen years he did not take the deal so when we found out that they were offering him that much time we knew that we had to get him a

lawyer. The only thing is that we were a struggling family we did not know how we were going to get the money now that my dad was in jail. Everything was left on my mom and she did not have any income coming in. She felt she did not need a job due to my dad supplying everything at the time. So, a lot of people put in money to help my dad get a lawyer. He went to trial to fight his drug case; the lawyer did a hell of a job and got the judge to sentence him to five years in prison. Though, it was still devastating because I have never been without my dad. I was only thirteen he missed my whole high school years. Knowing my dad was not going to be there for me and guide me was hard but I knew I had to be strong about the situation.

During those five years my whole life changed. It was difficult because I was not a spoiled brat anymore. I was so used to getting what I wanted when I wanted it. I honestly did not know what struggling was. Seeing my mom struggle was hard because I knew I could not do much I was in middle school trying to focus on my education even though it was hard knowing I did not have my dad by my side. It got so bad to where my mom could not even pay the bills on her own, she had to borrow money every month from my grandma. She had gotten so used to borrowing to where it became part of her lifestyle. I wish my mom **would've did better** for herself, but she was in a black hole that she could not get out of. She was weak and discouraged I thought she was going to give up on her children the way she started to handle things.

Due to my dad going to jail made me become who I am today. Knowing he went to jail for a poor mistake that he made opened my eyes and I realized that if I did not go to college, I would end up just like my family "struggling" and that is something that I did not want to do. I wanted to be different, I wanted to be strong, independent, and wise of my actions. So, by me attending college and trying to pursue a career is something I am proud of. Oh, and I will succeed. My dad

always tells me "don't let anything stop you from getting your education, don't be like your mom and I", what he said stuck with me and that is why I am here today. He motivated me to do better, he always says crawl before you walk and always put your faith in god, and everything will be fine.

In conclusion, I am happy where I came from and who took care of me even though we struggled. I always thought it was embarrassing to say my dad was in jail. I was so ashamed growing up knowing he was not around, so I lied to my friends saying he was on a "business trip" but I have overcome that and now I am confident to tell my story. This is what made me who I am today in 2020 and I am proud of that because if it did not happen the way it did, I would not be here today. I always remember to "walk by faith, and not sight" my dad is here today, and he will see me graduate from college!