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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“When Truth Hurts” – Doug Thompson

ANNCR: May 19th, “When Truth Hurts.” Have you ever noticed that the things that do us the most good also tend to be the least enjoyable? (*Chuckles*) I’m sure you have! Kale is one of the best superfoods you could eat. But an ice cream sundae? That might not make it on the list. Exercise? Excellent for the body. But watching TV? Again, probably not on the list. Conviction works much this same way. When we are faced with truth and it says we are wrong, it can be irritating – like something painful, eating away at us. So, rather than heed the truth, we may try to get away from it. Today, we’ll meet a man who was convicted on several different occasions, but he chose to run farther from the truth...until he reached a breaking point. He’s here to share his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

DOUG: I’m Doug Thompson, raised in the hills of Kentucky. After Daddy became a bootlegger, I saw a lot of drinking and fighting and plenty of lawmen. I learned to steal and fight to get what I wanted.

A neighbor took me to church where I heard about Christ and learned that love is stronger than hate, but I chose to go with the world. I got into drugs and broke into that same neighbor's house and stole three hundred dollars. He didn't press charges when I promised never to steal again and work to repay the money.

I fell in love with a girl named Sherry in high school, and we married. I worked in the coal mines until a cave-in damaged my back. And then Sherry and I both trained in barber college. We opened a shop together and we prospered and some of our customers were pastors who talked about Jesus and read the Bible while I snipped at their hair and at their beliefs. I was angry and convicted by what they said, especially after Sherry gave her life to Christ. I left her and began to drink harder, but while I was on a barstool...she was on her knees.

It was her faithful prayer that finally brought me to the preacher's house where I cried out to God in repentance. God heard my cry and forgave my sins, giving me new life. He called me to preach, and we finished Bible college. Sherry and I now serve the Lord as full-time evangelists.

ANNCR: When King David was confronted about his adultery with Bathsheba, he wrote in Psalm 51, verses 2 and 3, *“Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.”* Friend, when we are convicted by the truth, it is not necessarily a pleasant experience. It is difficult to acknowledge where we have gone astray and need correction. But just like many other challenging aspects of life, receiving the truth is the best thing for us. It offers us the chance to grow through our faults to be more like Christ. Will you receive this truth today?

CREDITS: Unshackled Daily Devotionals are produced by Pacific Garden Mission along with our Unshackled Audio Dramas. To find even more true stories of God’s saving, transforming power, visit our website, unshackled.org.

This episode was written by Kennetha Gaebler and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Jim Parks.

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