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Daily Devotional**

“The Two Worlds Meet” – Mary Ann Gilmore

ANNCR: July 13th, “The Two Worlds Meet.” Have you ever experienced the merging of two separate cultures? Maybe through a blended family or immigration. These situations can be difficult to navigate. When two ways of living come from totally different worlds, how do you combine the one with the other? In a similar way, within every Christian, two worlds are combined – the flesh and the Spirit, the sinful and the holy. And while this creates a challenging journey, there is one thing we can be certain of. Today, we’ll hear from a woman who found exactly what this is. She’s here to share with us her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

MARY ANN: I’m Mary Ann Gilmore, and Dad was sent to the work farm for several years, leaving us in desperate straits. When he finally came home, he was in the hospital every year because of his heart. At fourteen, I rebelled and quit going to church. As soon as I got a job and a car, I moved out on my own. I was eighteen.

The last time I saw my father, he was in the hospital dying. He begged me stay with him because he didn’t want to die alone, but I

wouldn't stay. He died alone that night, and I buried my guilt in alcohol. My attitude drove all my friends away. I nearly OD'd on speed one night, then I became suicidal. An old friend invited me to live with her in California, so I moved there. She had become a born-again Christian and prayed for me while I caroused. Because she drew the line, I called her pastor and he led me in a prayer of repentance. God immediately delivered me from depression, as well as smoking and drinking. I went to Bible college on fire for the Lord, but I majored in psychology and began to put my faith in knowledge instead of in God.

After graduation I met and married Dan, who was very troubled and unsaved. Soon I was back to my old lifestyle, and our marriage was a shambles. I cried out to God, committed my life to Christ again and prayed for my husband. By God's grace alone, my husband was saved from mental illness and returned to Bible college. Today, along with our two daughters, we serve the Lord in ministry.

ANNCR: Matthew chapter 8 describes Jesus calming the stormy sea. It says, when Jesus *“rebuked the winds and the sea, ...the men marvelled, saying, ‘What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!’*” Friend, while we are on this earth, we will face very real storms. We may carry guilt, fight addiction, or struggle with mental

illness. Our soul, while saved, still lives in our fleshly bodies that are still broken. But God, who has given us His own Spirit, has power over all. Everything on this earth was created by Him and bows to His will. And we can be sure that He will see us through. Will you find encouragement in 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 Judith Easton.

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