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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“When Death Is Better Than Life” – Monty Lewis

ANNCR: June 23rd, “When Death Is Better Than Life.” Have you ever looked into an optical illusion? It only takes a few well designed tricks, and we can be convinced of a complete fabrication. But the same thing applies to our understanding of life and death. In this world, we’re told to “live our best life,” make the most of the time we have by following our desires. But, let’s step back and look at this again. Today we’ll meet a man who charged through life on his passions, following every emotion...right up to the brink of death. He’s here to share with us his true story, starting with his relationship with his dad, on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

MONTY: I feared and hated him and vowed not to be like him. But I couldn’t keep that vow after I began stealing his moonshine at age six. I’m Monty Lewis. We lived in Nova Scotia, and at seventeen I fought back and broke my dad’s ribs; so I left home for Toronto.

I abused my girlfriend even after two daughters were born to us. When my mother died, my father came to see me, crying, and I threw him out, blaming him for her death. My heart was brutally

hard. Once in a blinding rage, I set a buddy and myself on fire. I wanted to end my life but knew that no one would miss me. I was a man without hope.

I was paranoid, running from the law, and wanted all over Canada. The Mounties arrested me, dad visited me in prison, and I spewed hatred at him. After two years in prison, I was paroled, but violated my parole and was re-arrested. The Mounties threw me back in the hole where I screamed at God, "Let me die like a man!" A chaplain came by and shared the love of Jesus, and this wretched man died to himself and asked Jesus Christ to save him.

When I got out I married a wonderful Christian woman. I took care of my father when he was ill in the hospital and asked his forgiveness. He received Christ as his Savior before he died. Today I'm a chaplain in prisons throughout Canada. I love to tell about Jesus Christ Who gives eternal life even to men like me.

ANNCR: Jesus said in John chapter 12, verses 24 and 25, "*Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.*" Friend, even as Christians we're tempted to continue living for ourselves,

feeding the passions of our flesh. But this can only lead to death – whether it's spiritual, emotional...or physical. Instead, each day, we can choose to die to ourselves and allow Christ to produce the fulness of life within us. You see, the death of self is better than any self-driven life. 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 Dan Frick.

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