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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Understanding Pain” – Jackie Huggins

ANNCR: May 3rd, “Understanding Pain.” Why do bad things happen to good people? This is a question many non-believers in our world today use to disprove the existence of God. How could an all-loving, all-powerful God allow senseless pain to exist? Is He unfeeling, uninvolved? Maybe He is unable to intervene? If we allow ourselves to be drawn to these conclusions, we believe in a false God because we have altered His nature as it is described in the Bible. Today we’ll meet Jackie Huggins, a woman who felt God had abandoned her. And this belief created immense bitterness and doubt as to who God is. She’s here to share with us her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

JACKIE: I blamed God when Mom and Dad split up and left me, my brother and sister in a foster home for seven years. We were terribly abused there, and the pain didn’t stop even after Mama took us home. I tried to commit suicide at fourteen. At fifteen I was pregnant. I blamed God for all that, too.

I did well in school, though, in spite of a second pregnancy that forced me to add a job to my busy life. I left my older son with his godmother so I could concentrate on school. But she refused to give him back to me four years later. By then I was married, but losing my son left me bitter, so I sabotaged my marriage. I seemed to make one bad decision after another, always blaming God.

I was deep into astrology and drugs when my sister got saved. My sister, born again?! I was furious! I mocked Christians and she was no exception. I planned to go to her Bible study just to ridicule them, but that night my cat died. Was God punishing me? I started reading my Bible to see if I could appease Him and quickly realized the truth – I was rotten. God had the right to punish me.

I prayed and asked God to forgive me, and a sense of peace came over me. I too was born again. I finished Bible college and am now serving God as a Wycliffe Bible translator in the Philippines.

ANNCR: Isaiah chapter 53, verse 6 says, *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”* Friend, the truth is only one bad thing has ever happened to a good person – God offered up His Son to be crucified unjustly for our sins. As lost souls, we lived in opposition to

Him, the source of all goodness. So the injustice for mankind is that we have been given the opportunity to have a relationship with Him. And the chance for our pain to be redeemed into something beautiful. Neither of which we deserve. 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 Barbara Blomquist.

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