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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Meaning It” – David Buck

ANNCR: January 1st, “Meaning It.” Have you ever known someone who couldn’t seem to keep their word? If you have, you know it doesn’t take long to stop trusting pretty much anything they say. No matter how sincere their claims, it seems like, as soon as the wind shifts, they’re ready to abandon ship. But I wonder how much we might be like this? Maybe we’re a person of our word. But when it comes to the truth of the gospel, are we really committed...no matter what comes? In surrendering to Christ, do we really “mean it?” Today we’ll meet David, a man who made big plans with God when he was young, but allowed the hardships of life to ruin this commitment. He was raised in a Christian family, and he’s here to tell us all about this in his true story. On today’s Unshackled Daily Devotional.

DAVID: Wanted to be a minister when I was a teenager. But in my last year of high school, so many things went wrong, that I blamed God and turned my back on Him. My grades dropped, my car was totaled by a freak fire and my girlfriend walked out on me. I quit school and

joined the army in March 1970. Facing combat in Vietnam was tough.

I rotated home with a heavy drinking problem. I got married but spent most of my pay on alcohol. When I wrote bad checks, my dad covered them. He told me I needed God back in my life, but my heart was hard.

I let alcohol ruin one opportunity after another and kept blaming God. After my father died, I went on a big bender and ended up in Chicago where I woke up one morning on Skid Row, barefoot with frostbite. I went to Pacific Garden Mission but didn't want the sermon and left without the shoes. I was hopeless.

Suicidal, I drove home that night and called my wife's pastor. He led me in a prayer rededicating my life to the Lord. But my struggle went on for months as I returned to the bottle and drugs again and again. One day I sat on a window ledge, ready to jump, and cried to God in despair for deliverance. That time I meant it, and God delivered me from alcohol, and from the guilt of all my sin. I'm David Buck.

ANNCR: Jesus warns in Luke chapter 14, verses 27 and 28, “*And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?*” Friend, what Jesus describes here is the reality that our journey with Him will be challenging. We’ll face trials of many kinds and be lured and pulled away from our commitment to Him. But when we choose to follow Christ, each and every day...do we mean it? If we do, and if we surrender ourselves to Him, continually, He’ll ensure the rest. 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 Jack Odell and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Charlie Trimarco.

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