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**Daily Devotional**

*“Settling The Score” – Corey Bush*

ANNCR: May 4<sup>th</sup>, “Settling The Score.” Have you ever needed to defend yourself? When you’re under attack from someone or something, your rights as a human being are violated, and you’re compelled to respond. But has this self-protect mode ever turned into something more? Something like revenge? As humans, we are not just driven to protect our life, we are also motivated to defend our pride and our dignity. But this can extend beyond self-defense. Today, we’ll meet a man who thought retaliation was the way to survive...until he learned something better. He’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

COREY: I’m Corey Bush, and I grew up in Chicago where the code of the streets is, “You hurt me and I hurt you.” Revenge, plain and simple.

As a child I learned to steal from Mama to buy off the bully at school. Then I learned to stand up to him and gain respect. I learned not to rat on my friends – or my enemies; how to be a “gangsta” and use a gun, and how easy it is to make money selling drugs.

At fifteen I saw that revenge hurts others when my brother was killed in a fight. But I didn't learn; and when my best friend was murdered, I vowed revenge. I shot the men who killed my friend, but by the grace of God they lived. I was facing prison, and I saw the pain in Mama's eyes each week when she came to visit me in jail.

I started reading the Bible, and I even went to the jail chapel service. One night a preacher sang for us about Jesus and how He died on the cross for our sins. He said, "*For what does it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*"

I prayed and gave my life to Christ and from that day on, I have lived by the code of Christ: love others as yourself. I pled guilty and after serving my time in prison, I finished Bible college. Once I was willing to kill for my friend; but Jesus was willing to die for me; so I want to glorify Him with the rest of my life.

ANNCR: Jesus said in Luke chapter 6, verse 35, "*But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto*

*the unthankful and to the evil.*” Friend, although our human nature demands that we settle the score, Jesus has taught a new way. And this response is able to make us more like our gracious Heavenly Father and produce forgiveness and peace where hatred and violence once reigned. 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](http://unshackled.org).

This episode was written by Kennetha Gaebler and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and D.J. Howard.

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