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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“It’s Complicated” – Teresa

ANNCR: April 30th, “It’s Complicated.” Have you ever received a gift from a young child? It’s precious, there’s no doubt about that. But most likely, it also left a lot to be desired. I am sure it was not perfectly-wrapped jewelry or a carefully designed edible arrangement. The truth is, a child’s gift can be kind of messy, but we’re not appalled by the imperfections because of our love and affection for the child. In the same way, our lives can be difficult to sort out, but God is not deterred by these messy or chaotic complications. Today we’ll hear from a woman whose life was a string of difficulties, but in this place, she learned God can shine the brightest. She’s here to share her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

TERESA: I’m Teresa and my marriage failed because I was blind to the truth. When we married, I controlled the relationship...I set the goals...and I didn’t let my husband lead. By the time our fifth child was born, he was drinking and having an affair. When I confronted him, he abandoned us, moved to California, and remarried.

Although I had failed as a wife, I was determined to be a good mother. I worked but there was never enough money. My in-laws helped, but my mother-in-law couldn't forgive me for the failed marriage.

Our oldest daughter died of a brain tumor at thirteen. Her love for Christ was obvious, but the other children became rebellious as teenagers. My sister pointed me to the Bible for help, and one night, reading the Bible, I prayed for forgiveness and turned my life over to God. He began to change my heart. As I forgave others, my children all came to Christ. I went to work for a Christian ministry.

When my mother-in-law was dying of cancer, I took a leave of absence to take care of her. Before she died, she forgave me and received Christ as her Lord and Savior. I hadn't seen my former husband for 23 years when he came to see his dying mother. I told him about Christ, but he rejected the gospel. Shortly after that, as he divorced for a second time, his wife called and I led her to Christ.

Our youngest son is a missionary in Brazil, and when he came home on furlough, we invited his father to Thanksgiving dinner.

Only God could bring that kind of love and forgiveness to a family like ours.

ANNCR: The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians chapter 7, verse 24, ***“Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.”***

Friend, when Paul wrote this statement, he had just finished describing several challenging situations that faced the new believers. Their hearts had been dramatically changed, but their situations had not. Yet Paul reminds them that God can use them exactly where they are. Because our circumstances do not determine if God can work through us. He is the Lord of making order out of chaos. We need only to follow Him. 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 Kupfershmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Joanne Sylvestrak.

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