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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Seeing The Full Picture” – Edward LeSoine

ANNCR: June 29th, “Seeing The Full Picture.” Have you ever worked on a puzzle? For some of us, this activity is far too tedious. But now imagine trying to understand the entire puzzle from viewing only one small piece. Without a doubt, we would feel lost and confused. And life is this same way. We exist for a few short years in the vast timeline of human history, trying to make sense of the world around us. It’s no surprise then that we’re often left wondering what God’s purpose could be in the events taking place around us. Today we’ll hear from a man who spent much of his life wrestling with life’s biggest questions. He’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

ED: What is life? I’m Ed LeSoine, and I asked that question for many years, especially after my dad started beating me when I was twelve, causing me to stutter badly. Kids at school ridiculed me, and I was so miserable I thought of suicide constantly. I only had one friend in high school. Fear of my father consumed me, and I hid from him, even when I was grown.

A man gave me a ride one day and told me about Jesus. I read the tract he gave me and prayed for salvation. I even went to church for six months; but my family and friend were indifferent to my faith, so I fell away and drank instead. At 21 I still lived at home, bullied by my father, until I joined the army. I loved it. Free of Dad, I made new friends and drank even more. Then my father died, and I cried my eyes out. I didn't even know that I loved him until he was gone. I drank to forget, still wondering, "What is life?"

The next few years I alternated between hard drinking and violent rages, depression and suicidal thoughts. From Korea to the Persian Gulf War, I wanted only to die. I even asked someone to shoot me. Instead they put me in the mental ward, and I was discharged, full of despair.

At home I happened to hear an "Unshackled!" story similar to mine, and I prayed asking God to save me. My life was forever changed. Today I teach Sunday school and no longer ask, "What is life?" Life is knowing Christ.

ANNCR: The apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians chapter 13, verse 12, "*For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*" Friend, what

Paul is referring to here the culmination of life, when we stand before God and every hindrance of earth falls away. We will see God and know Him as we never have before, and we will see the full picture for the very first time. As believers, we have been granted a relationship with God, which allows us to begin to know Him. But one day we will leave the darkness of this world behind, and everything will be made clear. Will you have faith in 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 P.J. Byrnes.

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