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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“The Master” – Ken Bailey

ANNCR: April 24th, “The Master.” You’ve heard the phrases, “slippery slope” and “a gradual fade,” am I right? These terms refer to things that lead us further down a path than we ever wanted to go – and they take us there one..step..at a time. The first step hardly seems noticeable, the same with the second, and maybe even the third. Until we look back at how far we’ve travelled, and we finally realize where we are. But how does this happen so easily? The answer is that sin is a slave master. It’s never something we control. When we “dabble” in it, we’re actually surrendering to the lies of Satan and granting him power to lead us into more and more perverse thinking. But maybe Ken can shed more light on this from his own experiences. He’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

KEN: When I was drafted to fight in Vietnam, I was glad to get away from home. In Vietnam I drank hard and learned to use drugs, something I continued when I got back home. My apartment became a hangout for dope-heads as I slid down into ever harder drugs. In

time I lost everything — my job, my apartment, furniture, clothes — even my friends. I lived on the street, burning trash to keep warm.

Even so, when I laid my hands on money, I bought drugs. I was shot at, overdosed once and came near death. In desperation I cleaned myself up and made my way from New York to Las Vegas where I found a job and got an apartment. I was real proud of myself and took in a roommate. We both drank but stayed away from hard drugs.

About that time I discovered the “Unshackled!” drama series on the radio, and the dramatic testimonies of people like me whose lives were changed by the Lord – it helped to open my eyes. But I was sinking into depression because of my drinking, and one day, planning to end my life, I cried out to the Lord Jesus to help me. His overwhelming presence filled me with peace, and I began thanking Him with tears of joy.

That was in 1984, and I’ve been growing in faith and strength ever since. I’m Ken Bailey, and now, I work as a drug and alcohol counselor, helping others find the Savior.

ANNCR: Jesus spoke to the Jewish people in John chapter 8, verse 34, saying, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*” Friend, with the decisions we make, we’re choosing who to obey – either our loving Heavenly Father or the Father of Lies. As Ken found himself considering suicide, he realized the sin he desired led him further than he’d ever planned to go. He was, indeed, it’s servant. It was his master. Until he surrendered to Jesus. And may this be our daily practice. 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 Kupfershmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Doug James.

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