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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“God’s Glory In Our Mess” – Katrina

ANNCR: July 6th, “God’s Glory In Our Mess.” Have you ever pushed yourself to complete an intense workout? How did you feel? Shaky, exhausted, sore? This is because when you perform a high-intensity workout, you are actually tearing muscle fibers, and in a sense, injuring them. Only then, in the process of healing, do they become larger and more dense, able to withstand even greater challenges when tested again. Funny, isn’t it? That something once ripped apart can be brought back stronger than it ever was before? Well, muscles aren’t the only thing with this capability. Today, we’ll hear from a woman who was torn apart by her own decisions and the decisions of those around her. She’s here to share with us her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

KATRINA: I fell in love with a navy man and thought being lovers was the answer, but he didn’t respect me. He treated me even worse after we were married. I thought children were the answer; but after our daughter was born, my husband spent even more time with his girlfriends. I turned to a lover of my own, got pregnant and had an abortion.

My husband took a job in the Netherlands and wanted me to join him to save our marriage. So I went, but soon discovered that he had a mistress there, too. We fought bitterly, and I returned home after three months. He begged me to come back and I did, but I couldn't forgive his betrayal with a woman who pretended to be my friend. I took my daughter home and got a divorce.

My daughter and I both ended up in therapy, especially after my brief second attempt at marriage that failed. Then, foolishly, I lived with a man again. Twice he insisted I get an abortion; once I nearly died. The end came when I needed surgery for a mass on my spine, and he neither came to the hospital nor called. My former husband visited with his wife and prayed for me. He had found Christ and told me how much Jesus would change my life.

He was right! I spent days alone at home, crying out to God before I humbled myself and asked His forgiveness. Today I am a counselor at a crisis pregnancy center, pointing lost women to the real love of their lives: Jesus Christ.

ANNCR: In Galatians chapter 1, verses 23 and 24, the apostle Paul describes the view the early Christians had regarding his own

transformation. He says, *“But they had heard only, that he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. And they glorified God in me.”* Friend, we may live with the affects of our former life in sin, but if we allow God to work through our mess, we can become an even stronger witness for His glory. We will do things that are impossible by the world’s standards and, in this, point to the only One who is able to redeem every person and every situation. 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 Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Maura Kate Burns.

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