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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Minding The Signs” – Scott Bestler

ANNCR: April 20th, “Minding The Signs.” How many times have you ignored a warning you received? Our lives are cluttered with labels, pop-up windows, and alarms. But often, these warnings can slip by unnoticed...until we find ourselves stuck on the side of the road with an empty gas tank. Warnings are meant to help us, but they won't do any good if we're not paying attention. God communicates with us through warnings as well. He sends us signals to remind us when we have gone astray and when we need to align ourselves once again with Him. Today we'll hear from a man who knows this all too well. He's here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

SCOTT: I'm Scott Bestler. I was raised by loving parents, but without discipline. As a teenager I worked in a zoo with a Vietnam veteran who taught me to drink. By the time I graduated, my drinking and wild behavior caused problems at home, so I moved to Montana with my older sister.

I joined the Marine Corps hoping for action but I languished in Hawaii where I expressed my anger and rebellion by using all kinds of drugs. A buddy tried to talk to me about Christ, but I was kicked out of the Corps for going AWOL and for fighting in a bar. My first wakeup call. My folks were disappointed, but even so Dad came to help me.

I became a long-haul truck driver so I could see the country. I still did drugs, but had a good driving record until one day I put my rig on its side when I got distracted and lost control. Second wakeup call. Six months later it happened again on a winding road in Utah. I was so distraught that I wanted to kill myself or run away. Instead, I asked the trooper for help.

He sent a missionary to my motel room, and he led this long-haired, beer-drinking, drug-abusing bum to Christ. Did my life ever change! Bible reading, church and prayer replaced alcohol and drugs as I learned to walk with God. I went home and led my dad to Christ just before he died of cancer. Then I went to Bible college where I met my wife. Today we serve the Lord as missionaries in Brazil.

ANNCR: Hebrews chapter 12 speaks of God's fatherly correction of His children. Verse 8 says, ***"But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all***

are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.” Friend, the truth is, even as Christians, we remain imperfect human beings and deserving of punishment from time to time. But this is grace! For God issues warnings to alert us of our faults and call us back to Him. Are you tuned in to His correction? Is there a check in your spirit, a weight on your conscience, or physical ramifications from your sinful actions? These are gifts God gives to His children to invite us to seek forgiveness and restoration before more damage is done. 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 Tom Gaitsch.

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