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Daily Devotional

“The Burden Of Our Happiness” – Linda Strom

ANNCR: January 17th, “The Burden Of Our Happiness.” Do you have a go-to thing that just seems to set the world right after a long, hard day? I’m sure you do because we all do! Our natural tendency’s to seek out things that make us comfortable and happy – be it a certain activity, place...or person. But a problem develops when we expect this “thing” to deliver our complete satisfaction. The truth is, we can inadvertently hang the burden of our happiness on others. But, can they carry it for us? Today we’ll meet Linda Strom, a woman who believed they could, but she ended up in one bad situation after another. She’s here to share with us her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

LINDA: I vowed never to get married. But a year later, at seventeen, I did just that. I had a son and was divorced at nineteen. Determined to start over, I left my son with his dad and moved to Minnesota where I started training to be a flight attendant.

There I met a man named Dallas who was raised in a Christian home and married me in spite of my past. I thought he would make

me happy, but I was unaware of what a sports nut he was — glued to the TV set. One day when we had planned a picnic in the country, his buddies called and lured him away to watch a game with them. I threw a casserole of baked beans at him as he left. Cleaning up the beans and broken glass, I thought of my brother who had given his life to Christ and found peace. Right there on my knees — among the beans — I prayed to God, asking for help. That night I listened to an evangelist on TV and heard about God's love for me that sent His Son, Jesus Christ to the cross to die for my sins. Right then I was born again as I prayed, asking Jesus to come into my heart. Six weeks later my husband and I went to hear the same evangelist, and Dallas also was saved.

How the Lord has blessed our marriage! We've learned to follow His teachings in the Bible, and today we have a full-time ministry to married couples.

ANNCR: In Romans chapter 3, the apostle Paul describes the effects of sin, and he quotes in verse 10, "*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.*" Friend, when we look for our fulfillment in others, we're living as though sin doesn't exist. We're imagining that something in this world's perfect and won't disappoint us — when we know this isn't true. God's, indeed, gifted us with pleasures in this life, and

relationships are one of the most powerful. But when we expect to find more in our loved ones than what we find in God, we've, without a doubt, set ourselves up for failure. 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 Lisa Lewis.

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