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Daily Devotional

“Simply Irresponsible” – Rick Grahame

ANNCR: July 3rd, “Simply Irresponsible.” How many things have you let slide today? You know what I mean – the things you know you should’ve dealt with but chose to push off for another time. Or how many corners have you cut, completing a task with half the effort that it really needs? The truth is, we can spend a lot of equal effort getting out of something we don’t want to do. Maybe this feels familiar to your own life, but it doesn’t seem like it’s that serious of an issue. After all, being irresponsible doesn’t always reveal itself in large and noticeable ways. But it’s the result of a deep-seated issue that goes right to the heart of sin. I’ll let Rick tell you more, as he’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

RICK: I was rebelling against my childhood, when I thought I was the only one holding the family together — and that’s a heavy responsibility. My parents’ marriage problems followed them across the country as we moved to California, where my irresponsible behavior took root. I became a hippie, doing drugs with my friends. When we moved to New York in the early seventies, my rebellion was

entrenched and I barely graduated from high school, which made me a prime candidate for the draft.

I tried every way I could to avoid being drafted and going to Vietnam. I moved back and forth from New York to California, delaying the process. I claimed conscientious objector status, which was denied. Then I met Annie, and we started living together. About the time the war was ending, I realized I had wasted several years of my life, scheming and evading. It was time to grow up. Annie and I got married, but my heart still ached for something I lacked. We decided to try going to church.

I became friends with a man at work who loved the Lord and was a good example to me. His friends became my friends, and I wanted the quiet joy they displayed in their lives. I began reading the Bible, realized my need for the Savior, gave my heart to Jesus and His love gave me the power to change my irresponsible ways. Annie received Christ too, and we both cleaned up our act. I'm Rick Grahame. He gave us a love for young people, and we've been ministering to them since 1982 at a Bible school in New York.

ANNCR: James chapter 4, verse 17 warns, *“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”* Friend, the Bible tells us

that not doing what we know we ought to is just as wrong as carrying out an act of sin. Therefore, the “flaw” of simply being irresponsible is, in actuality, sin as well. At the root, it is self-centeredness – rebellion against the plan that God has put before us. And it requires repentance. Will you consider 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 Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Rick Dianovsky.

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