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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Asking For It” – Janet Laballiere

ANNCR: May 10th, “Asking For It.” Have you ever tried to warn someone of danger, and they refused to listen. It can be excruciatingly painful to watch someone head toward disaster, bound and determined to follow their own way. The truth is, we can all be like this to a degree. When God directs us onto a path that’s different from the one we wanted, we can become obstinate. Today we’ll hear from Janet Laballiere, a woman who was bent on destruction. She’s here to share her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

JANET: My father left us when I was four, and I learned to play Mom against Dad. When I didn’t get my way, I threw tantrums. Mom took us to church, but I was rebellious. I began to steal. Sometimes I heard voices and drank alcohol to drown them out. Mom helped me get a part-time job, but I spent more than I earned. So I stole her credit card and ran up a fifteen hundred dollar debt. Then I begged Dad for his card and charged another thousand. When Mom tried to punish me, I refused to go to graduation.

In college I shopped with credit cards gained through deceit. I ran up thirteen thousand dollars of debt I couldn't pay, then had to quit school and work to attempt to repay the bills. Mom even sold her house to help, but I wasn't grateful. Under a heavy load of guilt, I wanted to commit suicide. I volunteered at Pacific Garden Mission to ease my conscience, but good works can never cleanse a heart.

One day a counselor at the mission told me to quit trying to save myself. He said Jesus paid my sin debt on the cross, and there was nothing I could add to what He did; the guilt, the shame – all was covered by His blood. I prayed to receive Christ's free gift of salvation, and joy flooded my heart. I asked my mother's forgiveness for the heartache I caused. Wanting to share the gospel, I went to Bible college.

ANNCR: In 1 Samuel chapter 8, the Israelites demanded that the prophet Samuel appoint them an earthly king. When Samuel sought the Lord's advice, God responded by saying, "*Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.*" God allowed the Israelites to have a king, but he warned them that by doing so, they were subjecting themselves to slavery, when He had a better plan. Friend, the scary thing is, when we resist God, He just might let us have our own

way...but the consequences will hurt. Like Janet, God can use even our poor choices to draw us back to Him, but it doesn't have to be this way. Instead, we can save ourselves the heartache by surrendering to the God we can trust. 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 Barbara Blomquist.

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