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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Protecting The Pristine” – Alicia Lofthouse

ANNCR: April 28th, “Protecting The Pristine.” Have you ever had a dog? Dogs can be wonderful companions, but if they’re not well-trained, they can really do a number on your home. Besides shedding, they might rummage through unattended trash, chew on shoes, or track muddy paw prints through the house. For this reason, some people choose not to get a dog. And while there is certainly no shame in this, I do wonder...how many of us are protecting pristine environments by keeping people out? Today we’ll hear from Alicia Lofthouse, a woman who fit the description, “lowest of the low.” But because someone opened their arms wide to her, her life was changed, forever. She’s here to share her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

ALICIA: I was molested as a child, and my mother didn’t believe me when I told her, so I became defiant and ran away again and again. I was pregnant at the age of 14, but miscarried and tried to commit suicide.

An evil man gave me heroin, then forced me into prostitution in exchange for drugs. And so began my descent into vile darkness, years of hopeless addiction and arrests. I would do any drug and do anything for drugs. My mother raised the daughter that was born to me when I was 18.

Then my mother gave her life to Christ and read Bible verses to me every day. But she moved to another state with my daughter, and I moved deeper into depravity, nearly dying from drug complications. A pastor came to the hospital and prayed for me, but drugs, prostitution and jail were my lot in life for many more years.

My brother finally took me to my mother where I used alcohol to get off drugs. People avoided me, and I was miserable. Then a woman invited me to stay with her and go to church. She even let me wear her dress. When I heard how Jesus Christ loved me so much, he died for my sins, I went forward and gave my life to Christ. I've been free of drugs and alcohol ever since, thanks to Jesus. Today, I am clothed in His righteousness...and I write poetry to honor Him for His grace and mercy in freeing me from the hopelessness of my sin.

ANNCR: When Jesus was ridiculed for associating with notorious sinners, He responded in Mark chapter 2, verse 17 by saying, *“They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”* Friend, Jesus died to save the “lowest of the low,” and He wants to work through us, His people, to reveal this beautiful truth! Jesus did not come into the world to create a club, so that those who are “well” can segregate into sterile isolation. He came to bring healing to everyone who needs it, even those with the fiercest disease, the most notorious of sinners. How are you carrying forth 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 Mary Jo Faraci.

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