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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Committed” - Barbara Zahn

ANNCR: May 17th, “Committed.” What makes someone steadfast and reliable? Perhaps the strongest trait would be commitment... commitment to be there for those who need you, and commitment to a job well done. Someone who is not committed will be constantly fluctuating, maybe carried more by emotions than by a dedication to follow through. As Christians, we are to be committed to our calling, to follow Christ no matter what comes. But what does this look like? Today, we'll hear from a woman who witnessed her father's lack of commitment, and what that meant for her. She's here to share her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

BARBARA: My name is Barbara, and my family went to church three times a week when I was growing up. Then Dad got offended and quit altogether, and I rebelled as a teenager. I lied to my parents and went with the crowd.

At seventeen a bad accident left me with a fractured hip, unable to walk. Doctors said I would never walk again, but with enormous effort, I did. Then I went back to my old lifestyle: parties and

drinking. I met a motorcyclist, and after a wild courtship of several years, we married in Nevada.

Ours was a godless lifestyle made worse by drinking, which led to violent fights. While my husband was at work, I listened to Christian radio and hungered to know God. Then one day he came home and told me he wanted a divorce. I was so distraught, my heart actually hurt. He went back to Idaho to his parents, and I moved back with my parents.

After listening to “Unshackled!” on the radio, I got down on my knees asking God to save me. Then I called the radio station and talked with a pastor. He counseled me to pray for my husband. I made a trip to visit my husband in Idaho at his request, but he didn’t want Jesus; so I returned home, still praying for him. One night he called and told me he had received Christ and was coming back to me. That was twenty years ago.

ANNCR: The apostle Paul writes in Ephesians chapter 4, verses 1 and 2, “*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.*” Friend, we are called to love God and serve one another and to be committed to

this vocation. God instructs us to humble ourselves and give to others the undeserved love we have received from Him. In this way, they might see Him better and come to know Him and also grow in His likeness. So let's help our brothers and sisters, rather than turning away. Let's be committed to each other, loving our spouse, and seeking to bear with one another...especially where they fall short. 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 Karin Anglin.

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