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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Face To Face” – Mark Robinson

ANNCR: April 22nd, “Face To Face.” Do you know what it’s like to live under a dictatorship? A hearty dose of fear is evoked from an all-powerful, unquestionable ruler. Some people, even if they live in a free country, view their relationship with God through a similar lens. While we have been given eternal life in Him, we can perceive Him as lofty and untouchable, maybe deaf to our cries for help. Today we’ll meet a man who longed for a relationship with God, but he found it impossible until he could understand who God really is. He’s here to share his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

MARK: I’m Mark Robinson. Although my family is Jewish, God was mentioned in our home only twice a year: Passover and Yom Kippur. Education was more important, so my twin brother and I went off to different colleges seeking truth. We both explored philosophy, Eastern religion and then drugs – all of which led us into darkness.

Everything seemed so pointless and futile, I went into a deep depression. And just before graduation, I tried to commit suicide at home, was in a coma for two weeks and nearly died. Shock treatment brought me out of the coma, but psychiatry didn't ease my despair. I believed in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who didn't let me die, but I didn't know how to reach Him. Moses knew Him face to face. Why didn't I?

An old friend in California had a book about prophesy that said Jesus was the Messiah of Israel. I rejected that idea, but read the Bible, trying to know God. I couldn't understand it. Then I started a seafood business that took my mind off God for a year. Finally, I read my friend's prophesy book and couldn't ignore the scripture that supported Jesus as Messiah. Christian radio and TV helped me understand that I was a sinner, and I prayed to receive Christ. What joy He gave me!

My family rejected my new faith but they still accept me. After witnessing and teaching the Bible for years, today I serve as regional director of a ministry to Jews. God has given me a wife and daughter that I love dearly.

ANNCR: Hebrews chapter 10, verses 19 and 20 say, *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;”* Friend, it is true, God’s perfect nature sets him apart from our fallen world, and at times he may seem distant because of his utter opposition to our sinful human desires. But God offered up His own son to pay the impossible price, so He could draw near to us. As believers, we wear Jesus’ righteousness, and so, have been justified in the eyes of God. There is no separation. God is our Father, we are his little children. He can come near, and we can draw close to him. Are you living fully in 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 James Schneider.

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