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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“A Greater Result” – Leroy Ricksey

ANNCR: May 29th, “A Greater Result.” Are you familiar with the Japanese practice of kintsugi? The term literally means “golden repair,” and it’s a method used on broken ceramics to do more than restore them – to actually improve them. Kintsugi involves taking an object’s broken pieces and welding them together with liquified gold. The technique not only strengthens the original construction, it beautifies the piece into a one-of-a-kind work of art that can never be replicated. The finished product is more exquisite – and valuable – than before it was broken. Because of Jesus, our lives very much resemble kintsugi, but do we really believe this? Do you believe that the “broken” areas of your life can still be valuable? Today we’ll meet Leroy, a man who thought his whole life was a waste...until everything changed. He’s here to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

LEROY: You’d have to search long and hard to find anyone more hopeless than I was. My single mother left me with poor people who fed me bologna and bread. I started school but didn’t go for six years.

Mama tried to put me in fifth grade, but by then I was too big, too old and too dumb. By sixteen I was on my own, working odd jobs.

A guy helped me pass the test and join the Air Force. I went to Korea when war broke out, but drugs ended my career with a general discharge. I drifted to Chicago where I was stabbed and left for dead. From then on I lived in an abandoned car until I got a job at the Post Office. Alcoholism cost me that job, too. I tried to commit suicide by crashing my car into a bar, which made the news.

Released by a lenient judge, I was recognized by a preacher from a nearby rescue mission. He talked to me about Jesus and told me about a farm they had to help people like me. That night I couldn't sleep, and the next day I went to their farm. His wife helped me memorize Bible verses and also taught me to read. In the process I came to see God's goodness and wisdom, and one Sunday morning I received Christ as my Savior. I'm Leroy Ricksey, and Jesus took my wasted life and turned it into something good and useful for Him. The boy who couldn't even finish fifth grade ultimately graduated from Columbia University. All the praise and glory go to the Lord Jesus Christ.

ANNCR: In Psalm chapter 103, verse 4, King David says of God, “*Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.*” Friend, even as Christians, we are imperfect human beings, haunted by mistakes, sin, and moments in our life that we just want to get rid of. But God is the One who makes all things new. He only asks us to surrender our pieces to Him, and allow Him to make them into something beautiful...for His glory. 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 Jack Odell and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Allen Edge.

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