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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Informed Perspective” – Lettie Jennings

ANNCR: May 8th, “Informed Perspective.” Are you familiar with the psychological phenomenon known as “projection?” Projection happens when we take the unwanted emotions we have for a certain individual, or even ourselves, and apply them to someone else. It’s really just a matter of perspective, but a flawed one. And while we may view those around us through this faulty lens, we can be tempted to do the same with God – allowing our experiences in this broken world to inform our understanding of Him. But can we, instead, allow Him to inform our perspective of the world? Today we’ll meet Lettie, a woman who, through many painful experiences, came to believe there was no hope. That is, until everything changed. She’s here to share with us her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

LETTIE: We lived in Mississippi where the whole family picked cotton, and Mama often beat me for not picking enough. I was a dreamer who wanted more from life. Early on I learned that men couldn’t be trusted, starting with Daddy who left Mama and us seven kids. My

stepfather was sadistic, torturing animals and beating us until Daddy came back and ran him off. My sisters ridiculed me for doing well in school, calling me “high and mighty”.

My boyfriend in high school was cheating on me, which confirmed my belief that men couldn’t be trusted, so I went to Chicago to live with Daddy as soon as I graduated. He helped me go to college. This was in the early sixties and I was the only black person in the school. I was mocked and ridiculed. The same thing happened on my first job. I was still the oddball. All those years of torment caught up with me, and I began to drink and fight back with hostility. But that made me more miserable, and I tried to commit suicide.

My oldest sister took me to church. I saw the change in her life and one day I knelt and gave my life to Jesus. What a difference He made! I learned to forgive as I grew in faith, and as I taught Sunday school, God blessed me with understanding of His love for others. I’m Lettie Jennings. Maybe you can’t trust people, but you sure can trust God!

ANNCR: The apostle Paul writes to believers in 1 Corinthians chapter 2, verse 12, *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely*

given to us of God.” Friend, when we keep our eyes set on our Creator, He informs our perspective about everything else in this life – helping us to forgive, to persevere, to love well, and to flourish! Through relationship with Him, we’ve received the gift of an informed perspective. Like the great theologian CS Lewis once said, *“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it but because by it, I see everything else.”* Are you living 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 Delia Gray.

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