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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“The Wrong Foot” – Jackie Benner

ANNCR: April 14th, “The Wrong Foot.” Have you ever made a less-than-great first impression? Getting off on the wrong foot can be hard to correct. So, what about when our life starts off on the wrong foot? We cannot control where we come from, our family dynamics, or whether or not we received necessary guidance growing up. And more often than not, a rough start feeds into a life of greater and greater problems. Even as believers, we are not immune to these effects. But what are we to do about them? Today we’ll hear from Jackie Benner, a woman who, herself, started off on the wrong foot. She’s here to share her true story on this UNSHACKLED Daily Devotional.

JACKIE: My mother was an unmarried American Indian who threw me in a trash can when I was two months old. My grandfather rescued me and gave me to friends who adopted and raised me as their own. But I always felt different.

In college I became friends with a woman who introduced me to drugs, and my life went downhill. By turns I was a stripper, a drug

dealer, and a hooker. There seemed to be no limit to how low I would go just to get high. Mom paid for rehab once, but I walked out after thirty days. She was in the final stage of cancer then, yet I even stole her medication. I was tripping on acid the day she died, leaving me with no one. I drifted from one city to another, working as a stripper and a prostitute. I ended up in Florida where I quit drugs, and I even went to college but still drank heavily. I seemed to have no control over my life.

One of my friends gave her life to Christ and began praying for me. She gave me a Bible. One day, in desperation, I decided to pray. I didn't even know if God would listen to scum like me, but I knelt anyway. I began to weep as I saw the wasted wreckage of my life. I confessed my sin, asking Him to forgive me, and by the time I stood up, I was a new woman, no longer rejected. God wanted me enough to send Jesus to die for my sins. I was now His child, restored by His grace, clean enough for heaven. I finished college and now have a ministry helping children.

ANNCR: The apostle Paul writes in Romans chapter 6, verse 4, *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* Friend, the beautiful thing about the

gospel is that we have been given the chance to begin again! And while this does not eliminate the consequences of our former life, we can now live as God desires, as a new creature, growing in Christ-likeness, united with Him. So even if you began on the wrong foot, God has given you another life, a new life...on the right foot. 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 Kupfershmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Trish Elliot.

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