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**“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission**  
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**Daily Devotional**

*“Offering Forgiveness” – Sharon Weiss*

ANNCR: June 15<sup>th</sup>, “Offering Forgiveness.” Yesterday, we looked at the difficult, yet important step of asking someone for forgiveness. This is never an easy thing to do. But how about offering forgiveness? Just as we have failed others in a myriad of ways, so others have failed us. And hurt us...deeply. How are we, as believers, supposed to respond? Is forgiveness always the answer? How do we forgive someone who seems...unlovable? These are hard questions to answer, but let's hear what one woman learned when she found herself married to a particularly hard-headed and selfish man. She's here to share with us her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

SHARON: I'm Sharon Weiss, raised in a Christian home. At twelve I prayed to receive Christ as Savior. After graduation, I spent a year in Bible college then worked as a secretary in Chicago where I met and married Dave, the son of missionaries in Africa.

Dave was in rebellion against the teachings of Christ, and we quit going to church until our children were born. Then I went, but Dave

rarely joined us. Our marriage teetered as drinking stole him away. I kept praying for him, but he drifted further from us, even having an affair. When he nearly died in a car crash, I thought he would give up alcohol, but he didn't. Finally, I asked for a divorce, hoping to wake him up. Instead he moved out, and we divorced after eighteen years of marriage. My world became a big black hole full of loneliness and feelings of failure.

During the next ten years I hardly saw Dave except when he picked up the children, but I kept praying for him. Three years later, our son told me Dave was saved and had quit drinking. Years went by and the kids grew up and left home. Mine was an empty nest when Dave called one day, inviting me to dinner. He was a chaplain by then and asked my forgiveness for destroying our marriage. I saw his commitment to the Lord, and we fell in love again. After much prayer and counseling, we remarried with both our parents and all our children in joyful attendance.

ANNCR: Jesus commanded in Mark chapter 11, verse 25, *“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”* Friend, Dave did everything he could to make himself “unlovable.” And Sharon was forced to take protective action. But through it all, she continued to

pray for the man who had hurt her. See, forgiveness does not mean failing to acknowledge someone's faults. Rather, forgiveness means hoping for their restoration nonetheless. Praying for God's grace to intervene, so they can come to repentance and a renewed life in Him. Since we know it's God's grace that saves us from our own folly. So even while reconciliation may not always be an option, forgiveness is always the answer. 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](http://unshackled.org).

This episode was written by Kennetha Gaebler and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Karin Anglin.

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