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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Becoming What You Hate” – Duane King

ANNCR: July 14th, “Becoming What You Hate.” Have you ever tried your best to avoid disaster just to find yourself there anyway? Sometimes, the thing we don’t want the most still manages to find us. And often, it was our own choices that led us there. You see, most people don’t set out to ruin their lives – the idea is not all that pleasant. Yet somehow, they still find their way to that destination. Today, we’ll hear from Duane King, a man who grew up despising the drunks who surrounded him. He’s here to share with us his true story, beginning with his dad, uncle, and their regular drinking buddies, on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

DUANE: I hated them all, but ended up just like them. As a teenager, drinking made me wild and I vandalized other people’s property, crashed a car and was put on probation. I joined the Job Corps and went to Utah, but was so homesick, I quit and came home. I laid around for ten months before I went back to school, taking six courses to catch up.

Although I was smoking pot by then, I graduated and got a good job with the power company. I got married, and shortly after a son was born to us, my wife got saved. I told her no way was I going to church. Before long, my drinking got so bad, she left me. I promised to quit so she'd come home, but after she returned my drinking was worse than ever. A man at work tried to tell me about Jesus, but I mocked him. Men from my wife's church came, too — once during a poker game. They prayed for me, and we mocked them after they left. But then I began to have premonitions...about dying.

And I saw that I had become like the men I despised growing up. I went to church with my wife three Sundays in a row, resisting the urge to go forward. The fourth Sunday I stepped out and gave my life to Christ. Did I ever change! I never went out drinking with the guys after that. My mom got saved, then my brothers, then my best friend. God opened a prison ministry to me, and I have been a pastor since 1988.

ANNCR: Psalm 51 was written by King David after he was convicted of his adultery with Bathsheba and the arranged murder of her husband, Uriah. King David, a chosen man of God, had become the very thing that he hated. In this Psalm, David cries out, *“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”* Friend, we do

not possess a clean heart. And we are never beyond the reach of sin just because it initially appalls us. Satan is ready, and our heart is bent toward destruction unless we continually cling to God and His mercy. Only He can protect us and restore us when we fall short. 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 Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Guy Barile.

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