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

*“A Holy Covenant” – Ruth Chambers*

ANNCR: May 5<sup>th</sup>, “A Holy Covenant.” Today, we’ll be looking into one of our most difficult topics – marriage and divorce. Marriage is a holy union designed by God to resemble the covenant He made with His people. But marriage is also made up of imperfect human beings attempting to resemble the relationship of a perfect God. Because of this, it can be difficult to navigate, and those in a marriage can be stretched, worn out, and even hurt within the union. So when can we say we’ve had enough? Today we’ll hear from a woman who felt hindered by her marriage. She’s here to share with us her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

RUTH: I’m Ruth Chambers, and I married my high school sweetheart two years after we graduated. Roy was in the navy, which meant lots of separation and not much money. After our second daughter was born, I went to work against my husband’s wishes.

My job became an escape from the problems at home. Roy drank, and we fought constantly. Then I had an affair with a man at work. I

took the girls, got my own apartment and sued for divorce. My husband became very bitter.

Being single was not what I expected. All I did was work – at the job and at home. Increasingly, I left my girls with baby-sitters at night while I went to the bars. I fell behind in my bills, and my family worried about me, especially my father. After he gave his life to Christ, he talked to me about forgiveness and unconditional love.

I went to church with Dad and heard about God's sacrifice for our sins. I saw what a mess I had made of my life and prayed, asking Christ into my heart and life. I realized I should not have left my husband. I asked Roy's forgiveness and God began to work in his heart. He began going to church with us and shortly after, prayed to receive Christ. Roy and I remarried May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1973.

God gave us another daughter and a son. But best of all, he gave us a strong marriage, a love that is grounded in His salvation and truth.

ANNCR: The Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians chapter 7, verses 10 and 11, *“And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain*

*unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.*” Friend, throughout the Bible, God provides very few grounds for a divorce, and instead, emphasizes repeatedly the importance of the covenant vow. The exceptions given are almost entirely extreme cases of mistreatment. But sadly, many reasons cited for divorce today are much more superficial...and not Biblically founded. Instead, as much as it is possible, marriage should be a lasting union, where a spouse can grow in the likeness of our selfless Savior. Please, if you are considering divorce, will you think on 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 Annabel Armour.

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