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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Night And Day” – “Leona”

ANNCR: December 19th, “Night And Day.” Have you ever experienced two polar opposite things? Like a summer in Mexico versus a winter in the Arctic. Or maybe a bubbly and outgoing roommate verses the shy and reclusive type. Ice cream versus hot soup, night versus day...godliness versus wickedness. As believers, we’ve already experienced the greatest transformation we’ll ever know. Salvation has carried us the furthest distance from one extreme to the other – from being enemies of God to being His children, from being lost to being found, from being ruled by this world to being governed by our Savior’s grace. But as different as we now are, we can still find ourselves looking like our polar opposite. As children of God, we still might appear an awful lot like the world. Leona discovered this. Even as a Christian, she behaved selfishly and deeply wounded those around her...just as her unbelieving father had done. That is, until she remembered what made her different. Things changed for Leona when she was nine years old and her mother gave her life to Christ. But I’ll let her tell you the rest, as she shares with us her true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

LEONA: Mother began walking us to church, and Dad would follow, loudly calling us ignorant imbeciles. I was eleven when I took a step of faith and asked Jesus to come into my heart. Dad attacked my faith so much that I began resenting him. When he told me not to date until I went to college, I rebelled and secretly dated Tom. We eloped. Both of us remembered the verse the minister spoke at our wedding: *“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

I began to feel sorry for myself after the birth of our first child. I became promiscuous. Each time I convinced myself that I had found true love. When my husband became suspicious, I tried counseling but ended up seducing the doctor.

Then I happened to hear an “Unshackled!” program and called Pacific Garden Mission. The counselor prayed with me, and I began to read the Bible and confessed my sin to the Lord. He not only healed me, He also restored my marriage when my husband forgave me.

ANNCR: The apostle Paul reminds believers of their new identity in Ephesians chapter 5, verse 8 saying, *“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.”* Friend, as Christians, we have been made new, but now we must walk in this newness! Only by doing so will we look different – indeed, completely opposite – to those around us still lost in their sin. The world is in darkness, just as we once were, but now we have been shown a better way. We are bearers of the Light. So, from our very mindset and motivation to the humility and kindness with which we live, we are called to be as different as night and day. So how about you? 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 Jack Odell and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Maura Kate Byrnes.

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