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

*“Correcting Our View Of Correction” – Jimmy Johnson*

ANNCR: February 29th, “Correcting Our View Of Correction.” When’s the last time you felt punished by God? And how did you handle it? Being punished is painful and humbling. And maybe you faced it one of two ways. The first response is to fight it. If God’s grace has covered your sin, why do you need to be “judged” for it...right? The second response is to feel hopeless. You’ve broken God’s law and hurt yourself as well as others. So just what are we supposed to do in this space? Can we still carry a Christian witness while undergoing correction? Jimmy Johnson can tell you. At the peak of his rebellion, he was known as the Beau Brummell Bandit...and he felt the hand of discipline many times. But it wasn’t until his attitude toward correction changed that his life finally turned around. Jimmy is here now to share with us his true story on this Unshackled Daily Devotional.

JIMMY: I always hit the same victim twice in one night, changing clothes between my armed robberies. Would you believe I came from a respectable Christian home? My father died when I was seven, but Mother and my stepfather always took us kids to church.

Nevertheless, I hung out with wild kids in high school and slept off my first drunk in a garbage can. Pathetic and prophetic.

After joining the Navy I drank even more heavily so I'd look like a big shot. I garnered three courts martial before going to sea and three more afterward. I was jailed three times in England before I was part of the Normandy invasion, which cracked my sanity. Then I was shipped home for discharge. I wanted to quit drinking but I couldn't. Although I had a small government pension, I turned to crime and did the time at Riker's Island. Mother came to visit just before she died, and I went to her funeral in handcuffs.

When I was released, I jumped parole and roamed the country, living in flophouses and looking over my shoulder. Then came the armed robbery. I was caught and, while waiting in jail for my court date, I finally turned to the Lord, asking His forgiveness and strength to endure my punishment. I stayed on my knees a long time as the sins of many years rolled off my shoulders. Jesus gave me joy through the ten year sentence I served, during which I completed Bible studies. And he has kept me straight ever since. What a Savior.

ANNCR: Hebrews chapter 12, verse 11 reminds believers that, *“no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”* Friend, when we are truly repentant of our sin, we neither fight off our punishment nor become broken by it. Rather, we accept it as the means by which God is training us to be more like Him. And our attitude of peace, even through punishment, is our Christian testimony. As we point others to the One reconciling us to Himself. 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 Jack Odell and Elizabeth Kupferschmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Bill Wronski.

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