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“UNSHACKLED!” - Pacific Garden Mission
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Daily Devotional

“Spirituality” – Marcia Montenegro

ANNCR: March 26th, “Spirituality.” Eastern religion has gained a firm footing in America and even within many Christian circles. “Yoga,” “chakras,” “astrology,” “energies,” and “karma” are just a few of the terms we easily throw around today that have come out of this belief system. And it has such an appealing flavor. After all, the idea of pursuing self-fulfillment, couldn’t be wrong, could it? And compared to a traditional presentation of the gospel, Eastern Religion may seem more positive and open-minded. Even though it lacks the whole idea of a judgmental God, sin, and the need for a Savior, the palatable doctrine tugs at us. Well, today we’ll hear from a woman who lived her life steeped in Eastern Religion. She’s here to share with us her true story on today’s Unshackled Daily Devotional.

MARCIA: I’m Marcia Montenegro and as a professional astrologer, I did many charts telling people what to expect in the future.

In college I rejected Christianity for Eastern religion, always hoping the next insight would fill the emptiness inside. After graduation, I

married, delving ever deeper into the occult. We divorced after five years.

I met my second husband while studying astrology. Our son was born, like me, on Halloween. I became very successful at doing charts, writing for publication and giving seminars. I was very good at telling the future, yet I didn't see the death of my second marriage coming.

I took a job where, strangely, I began to have the desire to go to church. I didn't know that a friend of mine at work was praying for me. Finally, in the summer of 1990 I went to a large church in town. As a cross was carried past me to the altar, I began weeping.

The more I read the Bible, the more alien astrology became. Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." I asked God to forgive my rebellion and threw away everything New Age. Jesus is more than an enlightened master. He is Lord.

ANNCR: Revelation chapter 15, verse 4 says, *"Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."* Friend,

maybe you've connected with Eastern religion through a more subtle avenue than what Marcia experienced. But as she came to realize, Eastern religion, at its root, detracts from Jesus as the worthy One. The Bible unflinchingly teaches that mankind is sinful and in desperate need of saving. And Jesus has accomplished what we could not. He even promises to make us more in His holy likeness as we follow Him. So, according to the Bible, the narrative of our existence is not about us. It belongs to the One who is infinitely greater. And our purpose in life is more profound than even self-fulfillment. It is complete fulfillment through Christ. 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 Kupfershmid and narrated by Tim Gregory and Nancy Sellers.

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