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# A LIVING SACRIFICE

**Missionary Stories**

## A LIVING SACRIFICE

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”* **Romans 12:1**

*“And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.”* **2 Samuel 24:24**

Sacrifice is the keynote of the hour. In all nations at war governments are demanding of their subjects sacrifices in the way of men, money and service unmatched in the history of the world. If the Church is to keep up her work, she must do likewise.

“Our minister is always talking to us about sacrifice. I am getting tired of it. He expects us to give, give, give all the time. He seems to think that the Church is the greatest institution in the world.”

“Perhaps he is right. But I agree with you that we can't always be giving to the Church. There are other things to be thought of. I am afraid our minister is rather visionary.”

The first speaker was a wealthy business man, the second a successful lawyer. Both had very large incomes and lived not only in

comfort but in luxury. They were church members and gave “generously”; but neither knew the meaning of the word “sacrifice.”

A few months later these two men joined a party that was going around the world. Before they started, their “visionary” pastor asked them to take note of any interesting and unusual things they might see in the missionary countries through which they passed. They promised—carelessly perhaps.

In Korea one day they saw a boy in a field by the roadside pulling a rude plough while an old man held the handles and guided it. The lawyer was amused and took a snapshot of the scene.

“That’s a curious picture! They must be very poor,” he said to the missionary who was acting as guide and interpreter for the party.

“That is the family of Chi Noui,” was the quiet reply. “When the church was being built they were anxious to give but had no money; so they sold their ox and gave the proceeds. This spring they are pulling the plough themselves.”



The lawyer and the business man were silent for some moments. Then the business man said, "That must have been a real sacrifice."

"They did not call it so," said the missionary. "They thought it fortunate they had an ox to sell."

Neither man had much to say, but when they reached home the lawyer took the picture to his minister and told him the story.

"I want to double my pledge," he said. "And give me some 'plough work,' please. I have never known what sacrifice meant. A converted heathen taught me. I am ashamed to say I have never yet given anything to my church that cost me anything."

How much does the average church member ever sacrifice for his religion? How many that call themselves Christians ever sold the ox and harnessed themselves to the plough?



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OLD MISSIONARY STORIES