

April Week #4 Devotionals & Consideration



UNCHARTED TERRITORY

**Hymn: "Take My Life and Let it Be"
Take my silver and my gold; Naught of Thine would I withhold...
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.**

A very interesting scripture on sacrifice comes right out of Genesis.

Genesis 4:6 And Adam was obedient unto the commandments of the Lord. And after many days, an angel of the Lord appeared unto Adam, saying, Why dost thou offer sacrifices unto the Lord? And Adam said unto him, I know not, save the Lord commanded me.

Oh, to be so willing as to say, "I don't know why I am sacrificing, but the Lord asked me to do it so I am going to do it." Adam doesn't seem to be grumbling about this either. He doesn't complain to the angel. He simply states I am doing it because the Lord commanded me to do it.

In the story of Nehemiah it states, "The people had a mind to work." Can you imagine what it would be like if we had a mind to work for Zion? The people came as families and built the wall. They built with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. They worked. It says the walls of Jerusalem were built in 52 days. If they had a mind to work, they sacrificed their regular activities to work for the Lord. They also had to

sacrifice grumbling, complaining, and gossiping. They had a mind to work. There are many things about the story of Nehemiah that could be applied to building Zion.

The Saints at Kirtland sacrificed to build the temple. The women cut their hair to put in the plaster. They broke their china up to make the plaster sparkle. If you ever see an original piece of the plaster you can see the flecks that sparkle. (The original plaster has been replaced but some of the original pieces used to be on display in the museum.)

What are we willing to sacrifice? Interestingly I wouldn't mind cutting my hair or giving up my china. But what about giving up my smart phone? I will not leave home without it! I would sacrifice it for the Lord, but when you read what the saints of old gave up it boggles the mind.

Parley Pratt walked from St. Louis to Independence in the winter. That winter was so bad it is referred to as "the winter of the deep snow." He and other missionaries survived on frozen bread and pork.

Suddenly giving up my smart phone doesn't really seem like a sacrifice worth mentioning.

My own great-great grandfather was a missionary before the missionaries were paid. I don't know how they survived.

In the *Saints Herald* of June 12, 1931, is a story of Glaud and Matilda Rodgers:

"He and his wife often said they would gladly part with all they had for the sake of the gospel and, they had done so." Glaud was a missionary in Australia for five years.

"His father disinherited him because Glaud joined the church. After his father died his brothers gave him a portion. Glaud and Matilda were going to use the money to buy a home in Independence.

"His homecoming was a joyous meeting with young children that didn't remember him. Once they had picked out their home to be, Glaud told Matilda that "Brother Joseph (III) had asked him to go on another mission!

"Of course he would not go, He could not; he had for years known no regular income, except what their own industry and the kindness of the Saints provided.

"But the laborers were few and the calls for preaching were many. **'Are you satisfied,' his wife asked softly, 'that we have sacrificed enough?'**"

Glaud went on that mission. He died in the mission field at a time when the church didn't even have enough money to bring home the body for burial.

That family sacrificed it all. They had a mind to work. They didn't say we have done enough. Let someone else do it. They

loved the gospel and were willing to give it all for the kingdom.

What are we willing to sacrifice? For the widow that sacrificed two mites, it wasn't the amount that mattered to Jesus. What mattered was she gave all that she had.

We would not have the gospel without the sacrifice of Christians who went before us.

Just like the story of Glaud and Matilda, our church has many testimonies of Latter Day Saints who gave their all for the gospel.

Are we willing to give it all? Are we willing to ask God what he wants of us? Are we willing to give up those things that consume our time? Are we ready to ask what we need to do to build the kingdom?

But more importantly, we need to be willing to move out when he asks us. This may take us to uncharted territory. This may take us out of our comfort zone. We need to be ready to go the extra mile!

Lectures on Faith 6:7a-d

Let us here observe, that a religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things, never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation; for from the first existence of man, the faith necessary unto the enjoyment of life and salvation never could be obtained without the sacrifice of all earthly things; it was through this sacrifice, and this only, that God has ordained that men should enjoy eternal life; and it is through the medium of the sacrifice of all earthly things, that men do actually know that they are doing the things that are well pleasing in the sight of God.