

Chapter 5

Ringu Returns the Harmonium

Has there ever been a time where you had to choose between doing what you wanted to do or doing the right thing? (*Allow response.*) In our missionary story, Ringu has to do that. Listen closely to see what he chooses.

Slide 1

Early the next day Ringu couldn't stand it anymore. He had to try the music box! He hurried to the shelter and removed all the leaves that hid it. He opened the lid of the harmonium and looked down at the shiny black and white keys. He peered around to see if anyone was looking. *The coast is clear!* Ringu thought.

Ringu squeezed the back of the harmonium several times with his left hand as Pandu had done. At the same time he fingered the keys with his right hand. The mixed-up sounds frustrated him. Why couldn't he make the music he loved? Pandu made it look easy.

I will play the song about Jesus that Sahib taught me to sing, he thought. When he thought of Jesus, that sick feeling came back to his stomach again. Ringu knew he was sad because he had stolen the instrument. But he put the thought aside. Maybe if he played the song, Jesus would be glad and wouldn't care about the stealing.

Ringu hummed the first line and tried to play it. None of the notes were right. They didn't go up or down like they were supposed to. Maybe if he got the first note right, the others would follow. He sang the first note, pressed a white key and squeezed the box. It sounded terrible! He tried a black key. That sounded worse!

He closed the harmonium and covered it carefully. He looked at it longingly but decided to do the right thing. *When Father goes to get wood, I will go to Miss Merry and find out where Grubbs Sahib is. I must take the music box to him myself.* He knew that was what God wanted him to do.

Slide 2

Suddenly Battu peered around a corner of the shelter. "I thought you'd be here," he said with disgust. "Father wanted you to go get wood but—"

"In the village? Then I can go to Miss Merry's and see where Grubbs Sahib is," Ringu interrupted, "I am going to return the music box."

"Return the music box? Are you crazy? The sahib is gone and will not be back for a long time—maybe never!"

"We should never have taken it," Ringu said.

"I don't care. You're the one who wanted it."

"Yes, and now I must take it back."

"Well, it is too late," Battu replied. "Father couldn't find you and had to go for wood without you."

Ringu was disappointed but determined. He would find a way somehow.

Several days later at the bazaar Ringu looked for Miss Merry but he couldn't find her. Ringu overheard someone say, "All the Christians are gone! And I hear they are never coming back!"

Ringu's heart sank. *Grubbs Sahib, Pandu, Miss Merry—never coming back?*

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"Now you don't have to return the music box!" Battu whispered. "But I wish the sahib was still here," he added.

Ringu looked at his brother. He'd never said anything like that before.

Battu shrugged his shoulders. "I think his words might be good. They made you want to do good things. Before, you never would have wanted to return the music box."

Ringu was glad Battu was beginning to think differently. But he was worried about the harmonium. If the Christians were gone, how could he return it?

God, are you there? I really want to obey you. I want to return the music box but the Christians are gone. I don't know what to do. Please help me.

Many days passed. One morning Ringu's father said, "We need wood for the cooking fire. Ringu, drive the cart to the village and get some for us."

This was the answer to his prayer! Ringu eagerly brought out the oxen and hitched them to the cart. As he headed toward the field to get the harmonium, Battu ran after him and jumped into the cart. "I want to go with you!"

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Ringu smiled. He was glad his brother had decided to come. They drove to the shelter and put the harmonium in the cart.

"Hold onto it tightly," he told Battu. "Don't let it fall out."

Ringu twisted the oxen's tails. He was in a hurry. He had missed talking to the Christians and wanted to know if they were really gone.

As they approached the village, Ringu saw that the tents weren't there. The Christians hadn't come back. A feeling of hopelessness came over him. Suddenly Battu tugged at Ringu's sleeve and pointed. "Look, isn't that a tent?"

Ringu squinted to see through the sun in his eyes. Yes! Over the hill was a tent and in front of it stood a light-skinned woman. It must be Miss Merry! She hadn't gone away!

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“Hello,” she called as they approached. “I need some help. Maybe you’re just the boys I’m looking for.”

Ringu and Battu climbed out of the cart and walked slowly to her.

“I am Miss Merry and I am trying to learn your language. I want to help you know about Jesus, God’s Son. May I tell you about Him now?”

The kind lady gently held a paper. “Here are words from God. They are important things God wants you to know.”

Ringu gasped. Miss Merry held a paper with God’s words—just like the one Sahib had given him. Ringu took the tattered one from his turban. “Grubbs Sahib gave me one of those!”

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“I see you need a new one!” said Miss Merry, smiling as she handed her paper to Ringu. “Can you read it to me?” asked Miss Merry.

“I’ll try,” he agreed. He had been learning more and more at school but he still needed help with bigger words.

Slowly Ringu and Miss Merry read the paper all the way through. The words made him happy deep down inside. He was glad to know he would someday go to Heaven. “I trust Jesus as my Savior—Grubbs Sahib told me about him,” Ringu blurted out. “I must see Mr. Grubbs. Even if he and Pandu are far away, I will go.”

Miss Merry was silent a moment. She looked sad. “Mr. Grubbs has gone far away. He was very sick and had to go to a hospital in Bombay. Then he went with his family to America. There was nothing the doctors could do for his sickness.” She paused. “He is in Heaven now.”

“Grubbs Sahib is in Heaven?” Ringu asked. “That is good! That is where God is—and the Lord Jesus. Sahib will be very happy there.” Ringu thought for a moment. “But—he is dead?”

“Yes, Ringu. Mr. Grubbs died.”

Ringu slumped in his chair. He suddenly felt alone and very sad. A tear spilled from the corner of his eye and rolled down his cheek. He loved the sahib and wanted to see him again.

“I have a little picture of Mr. Grubbs,” said Miss Merry. “Would you like to have it?”

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Miss Merry gave the picture to Ringu. He looked at it earnestly through his tears.

“Thank you, thank you,” he murmured. “This is my sahib who told me about Jesus. See, Battu?”

Battu looked without speaking.

“Ringu,” Miss Merry said gently. “It is God’s plan for Mr. Grubbs to be with Him in Heaven now and someday you will see him there! But God also has a special plan for you right here. I believe He wants you to serve Him by helping others hear the Word of God. I need to learn many words in your language, Ringu, so I can write God’s message for the people of the villages to read. Each time you come here you can teach me some new words.”

“Oh, Miss Merry, I want to serve the Lord Jesus! If I obey God and work hard to help you, maybe I can be a missionary like Grubbs Sahib!” Ringu said, wiping away his tears.

But suddenly Ringu remembered. What about the harmonium? “Miss Merry, I have a big problem. Sahib told me that if I found his harmonium I should bring it here.”

“Did you find it?”

“Well, I have it. I stole it before I knew Jesus and now I want to return it. What should I do?”

“You could give it to Mr. Grubbs’ wife. She is coming back to India soon.”

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Ringu’s face broke into a grin. He ran to the ox cart, lifted out the harmonium and carried it to Miss Merry.

“Will you give it to Sahib’s wife as soon as she comes? Will you?”

“Yes, indeed,” smiled Miss Merry.

Ringu leaped into the ox cart. “The next time we visit we will teach you some new words. Now we must get wood for our father.”

As they went down the road, Ringu took out the paper with God’s words and looked up to Heaven. *Thank You, dear Lord Jesus, for sending the sahib. Be sure to tell him I returned the music box and I am very happy. Tell him I’m going to serve You!*

“Ringu,” asked Battu, “I don’t understand the paper. Will you help me?”

“Yes, little brother. I want to tell you all I know about the Lord Jesus.”

All the way home Ringu and Battu talked about the Lord Jesus and what He had done for them. Ringu finally understood the paper with words from God. Soon Battu would understand as well.

Consecration Challenge

Just like Ringu wanted to serve God, God wants you to serve Him. If you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, are you willing to give yourself totally to Him? God has a perfect plan for you. He wants to use you—right now and as you grow up. Maybe someday He will want you to be a missionary in a faraway country. Maybe He will want you to stay in your own country and tell people in your neighborhood about Jesus.

(Read Romans 12:1.) The Bible says if you are God's child, you should give Him your body as a "living sacrifice." That means God wants you to serve Him by going wherever He wants you to go, doing whatever He wants you to do and acting however He wants you to act. You can give your whole self to God—your plans, dreams and everything you are. That means you are willing to serve God in any way He asks you, even if it means doing something hard or giving something away. That is the special way you say thank You to God every day for saving you from your sins.

Please bow your head and close your eyes—no one looking around. If you are a child of God and would like me to show you from God's Word, the Bible, how you can give your whole life to God to obey and serve Him, show me by raising your hand. *(Pause and acknowledge responses.)* You may put your hands down and look up at me. If you raised your hand just now, please meet me *(designate time and location)* and I will show you from the Bible how you can answer God's call to serve Him with your whole life.

Review Questions

1. Why was Ringu sad when he heard all the Christians were gone? *(He thought Grubbs, Pandu and Miss Merry would never come back.)*
2. Who went with Ringu to return the harmonium? *(Battu.)*
3. What did Miss Merry and Ringu read? *(The paper from God.)*
4. What happened to Grubbs? *(He got sick and died.)*
5. What did Miss Merry challenge Ringu to do? *(Serve the Lord by helping others hear the Word of God.)*