

Titus Women

ALL OF ME FOR ALL OF JESUS

We are women who know the joy of the Spirit-filled life. We live and abide in the love of Jesus, trusting that He is enough to meet every need and satisfy every heart.

Learning the Secret

The mission of Titus Women is to share the joy of the Spirit-filled life with other women, and last night we met together to study the life of Hudson Taylor, missionary to China.

Hudson Taylor was born in England in 1832, and the story begins with this sentence. “James Hudson Taylor never appeared to be an extraordinary child.” He was an ordinary young man who was captured by the love of God through the prayers of his mother. After his conversion, he asked the Lord to give him some work to do for Him as an “outlet of love and gratitude.” The Lord answered and began to call him to go to China as a missionary.

As I read this classic book again, seven things stood out to me, particularly for obeying the call of God in our lives.

1. Hudson prepared for his mission to China. He began to discipline himself to be ready for some of the challenges of China, and although the challenges were greater than he imagined, he was accustomed to the discipline of the “set-apart life.”
2. Hudson maintained financial integrity and accountability. From the beginning, he was diligently careful and never presumptuous with the resources God provided for him. His famous phrase became the hallmark of China Inland Mission, “God’s Work done in God’s Way will never lack God’s Supply.”
3. Hudson committed himself to learning and growing. Before he left for China, he began to learn the secrets of living by faith. Once in China, he quickly saw some of the dysfunction of the missionary organizations already there. Instead of being disillusioned, he learned what it would mean for missionaries to follow Jesus together. This set the stage for China Inland Mission.
4. He identified with the Chinese completely by adopting their style of dress, shaving his head, and wearing a ponytail as they did. He wanted to reach the Chinese by any means he could, even if it shocked the missionary community. This choice opened doors more than anything else because of the respect it showed for the Chinese people.

5. He strategized about reaching all of China with the gospel. Even when he had to return to England because of poor health, he had a map of China on his wall and began to pray for every part of that land. Out of that time of waiting on the Lord, a strategy of sending 2 missionaries to every province was born.
6. He assumed the responsibility of leadership and did not back down from the burden of it. In the intensity of criticism and limited resources, he learned the secret of trusting his beloved Savior to meet every need and provide all that was needed.
7. His vision did not die. It continued all throughout his life, and even in his last days, his passion for Christ and China was unabated. That vision was caught by other missionaries and continued to grow even after his death.

The book ends by giving this description of Hudson Taylor. “He was delightfully free and natural. I can find no words to describe it save the expression ‘in God.’” He was in God all the time and God in Him. It was the true abiding of John 15. “But oh, the love-like attitude that underlay it! He had in relation to Christ a most bountiful experience of the Songs of Solomon.” The passion for Christ never dimmed and even in all the difficulties, he carried in his heart “the light and love of home.”

I have been thinking about the call of God on our lives, women busy with the demands of life and work and home. May we ask Him for a vision and a call that we can carry for love of Him. May we learn the discipline of the Spirit-filled life and the joy of obediently trusting His provision for every need.