

Lessons from the Life of Hudson Taylor

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I. Introduction.

A. Hudson Taylor was a Chinese missionary who adapted to the culture to make an impact for China in the 1800s.

B. We must choose to abide in order to bear fruit. (John 15)

C. If we would bear fruit we must abide in Christ. Christ is our life. (Colossians 3)

II. God's plan is to give us a life that would reflect Him through fruit. We can ask God for this like Taylor did.

III. Unless a person chooses to act upon what God has promised, we will not accomplish God's work. Taylor used his early years to prepare for the mission.

IV. It is not great faith we need but faith in a great God.

A. God needs to be our focus.

B. Taylor delighted in the conversion of the Chinese—this is why he stayed. (Psalms 31:15-15)

V. If you are going to have a fruitful life, you will have to depend upon Christ. (Psalm 55:22, John 15)

VI. If you are going to be used by God, you need to learn to trust Him when doors are closed.

VII. The secret of abiding in Christ is not looking for more faith, but looking to Christ. (Hebrews 12:2)

VIII. God wants daily moment-by-moment fellowship with Him.

IX. God is sovereign and has a right to do whatever with His own.

Application questions:

1. What stood out to you the most about Hudson Taylor's life? Explain.

2. Why is the solution to fruit focus on Christ and not greater faith?

3. What are you doing now to prepare for ministry later? What is something practical that you can do this week in this regard?
