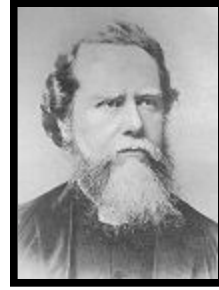


J. Hudson Taylor

1832-1905

Great Christians of History



Hudson Taylor was a man's man. He felt that his life's call was to become a missionary to China so he prepared himself for the hardships that he would experience there by sleeping outside on a board and disciplining his spending and appetite to be content with little. He found that he became more joyful when he was frugal to himself and more generous towards others. Hudson and George Müller- who lived in the same era- were tremendous stewards of the Lord's resources. They both committed themselves to be funnels for Christ and to make their needs known not by slick marketing materials or public pleas for funds but through daily devoted prayer.

The Lord did remarkable things through both of these men as a result of their faithfulness. Müller and Taylor believed in only paying for things as the Lord provided the funds. They avoided all debt in obedience to *Romans 13:8*, "Owe no man anything, except the debt to love one another." Both men experienced tremendous answers to prayer. Taylor prayed for \$50,000 and 100 workers to be sent to China for mission work. Without any solicitation, Taylor received \$55k and 102 workers. One great story about Taylor surrounds Count Bobrinsky- a Russian- who gave Taylor fifty pounds when he meant to only give him five. Taylor returned the money sensing the oversight. The Count replied, "Five pounds was what I meant to give, but God must have intended that you have fifty, I cannot take it back."

Millions of Chinese Christians owe their salvation in part to the work and love of Hudson Taylor for Chinese souls. Hudson was not without trials. He lost his wife when she was only 33 and was separated from his four children for many years after his wife's death as his kids were sent back to England for health/education concerns. I love this quote by Taylor concerning trials and pressures in life, "It does not matter how great the pressure is, it only matters where the pressure lies. See that it never comes between you and the Lord- then, the greater the pressure, the more it presses you to His breast."

Hudson Taylor and George Müller believed that the first business of every day was to happy in the Lord. They both read their Bibles cover to cover every year and kept detailed prayer journals of requests and answers before God. It is hard to argue a devoted life. Müller housed, fed and clothed over 10,000 orphans in his life and Taylor was instrumental in leading thousands of Chinese to a relationship with Christ. Read Hudson Taylor's *Spiritual Secret* and also read the biography of George Müller by A.T. Pierson. These are great examples of what every Christian should strive to be in our stewardship before God: frugal toward self, more generous towards others.