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The amazing life story of Hudson Taylor explores the challenges of one man's life in Christ. Driven by a deep concern for those without Jesus, and having an unshakable confidence in the faithfulness of God, Taylor moved to China at just 21.

J.Hudson Taylor: A Man in Christ Details

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From Reader Review J.Hudson Taylor: A Man in Christ for online ebook

Marije says

This was really good! Go read it :-)

Eben says

My mother used to read me tales, when I was young, of this "cool" man who went to China on God's call. This was good follow up to that in my early twenties.

Natalie Vellacott says

I have read a number of biographies about Hudson Taylor but this is the first in a while. It provides a good overview of his life and ministry. The end of the book begins the description of the Boxer rebellion in the early 1900's during which many Protestant missionaries were martyred, although Taylor by that point was nearing the end of his ministry.

Taylor dedicated his entire life and witness to pioneer work in China and founded the China Inland Mission (CIM) which later became Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) and expanded to other Asian countries. CIM under Taylor developed branches in a number of countries around the world all of whom sent missionaries to inland China. The missionaries received mixed responses but this has to be the most convicting;

"How long has the Gospel been known in England?" Ni asked Taylor. "For several hundred years," replied an embarrassed Hudson Taylor. "What!" exclaimed Ni. "And you have only now come to preach it to us? My father sought after the truth for more than twenty years and died without finding it. Why didn't you come sooner?" It was a difficult question to answer.

Taylor believed in the principle of living by faith with no fixed salary and refused collections or any type of fundraising for the work. CIM workers were expected to adhere to the policy. His testimony that God is always faithful when His servants Honour Him is proved in this biography. He believed that denominational differences should take a back seat and CIM workers simply needed to sign to a basic doctrinal declaration. He also believed that missionaries should conform to the culture of their field as far as is possible without compromising the Gospel message. He wrote this to the man selecting CIM candidates in England

China is not to be won for Christ by ease loving men and women...The stamp of men and women we need is such as will put Jesus, China, souls first and foremost in everything and at every time- even life itself must be secondary...Of such men, and such women, do not fear to send us too many. They are more precious than rubies.

Those who served with CIM donned Chinese dress at an early stage, shocking their fellow missionaries from other organisations and offending some who felt that their position as foreigners helped them to gain an

audience. At the time that may have been true but it also meant that a lot of Chinese would accept their message out of fear or cultural politeness, the message wouldn't necessarily reach beyond that to touch their hearts. They would continue to associate Christianity with the West rather than the reality that God created everyone and shows no partiality. Taylor's approach whilst radical in his day seemed to work as the Chinese saw that they were willing to give up their Western ways and to serve them. Westerners dressed in Chinese clothes certainly attracted attention;

The citizens of Nanxun generally approved of what the two men had done. One man followed them everywhere and took them into a teashop. "What you were preaching was the truth" he said. "I will pay for your tea." A group of men gathered around them at the table. "Are all idols false?" "What benefits arise from believing in Jesus?" "If Jesus is in heaven, how can we worship Him here?" "Take me to see God and Jesus," said one, "and then I can believe on them." "Do you believe the barbarian's doctrine?" Taylor overheard one man whisper to his friend. "Yes I do." came the reply.

Taylor was also very direct with the people about superstition and idolatry rather than the approach that some missionaries have adopted. After hearing of the origins of some of their idols who had later committed suicide.

"Then your idols were only men. And men who stole their master's property and did wrong by taking their own lives." Taylor went on to tell his guests for the first time about the true and living God who gave His only Son that whoever believed in Him might not perish but have everlasting life.

Hudson worked tirelessly for his cause and became well loved and respected for his dedication and willingness to give his time to people

"I have seen him come home at the close of the day footsore and weary, his face covered with blisters from the heat of the sun. He would throw himself down to rest in a state of utter exhaustion and then get up again in a few hours to face the toil and hardship of another day. It was clear to me that he enjoyed the highest respect from the Chinese, and was doing a great deal of good among them. His influence was like that of a fragrant flower, spreading the sweetness of true Christianity about him."

Taylor also had a message that can definitely be applied to us today

"How few of the Lord's people have practically recognized the truth that Christ is either Lord of all, or is not Lord at all! If we can judge God's Word, instead of being judged by that Word; if we can give to God as much or as little as we like, then we are lords and He is the indebted one, to be grateful for our dole and obliged by our compliance with His wishes. If, on the other hand, He is Lord, let us treat Him as such."

This is a well researched and written biography about a remarkable man who would probably distance himself from such a label due to thinking nothing of himself. Anyone with a heart for mission needs to read about the life and work of Hudson Taylor and this book is a good option.

Matt Pitts says

To be honest I didn't have very high expectations for this book. I noticed that it was published by OMF (the more recent name for the CIM which Hudson Taylor founded) and figured it would be a second-rate biography they put out to honor their founder. But I was wrong. It is actually a first-rate biography that was originally published in 1993 but then apparently OMF bought the rights to publish it themselves and did so in 2000. So this book is not what it appears to be at first. Instead it is a wonderfully simple yet thorough telling of the life of an astounding missionary.

All lovers of missionary biography should stop in here for a treat and a chance to be challenged by the life of a man who trusted God and saw regular answers to his bold prayers. His accomplishments were amazing, his impact was huge, but his legacy was simply one of child-like faith. Read and be encouraged.

Meshach Kanyion says

What a life! The story of Hudson Taylor humbles and inspires me.

Frances says

Wonderfully encouraging.

Trevor Faggotter says

A truly great story of a simple, humble but very dynamic man. To trust God is a great thing. He sure gave a lot of life and joy, and genuine friendship to the Chinese people during his lifetime. Some great principles can be adopted in life, by anyone. Excellent sense of history comes through in it all. Greatness. Quite 'A Man in Christ'!

Poignant story of his family members to, and the cost it was to them, to be involved in such a great project, as taking the gospel to China.

Historically it is interesting to see something of the heart of England, or the UK ...and the USA in the late part of the 19th century. Remarkable.

I just thoroughly enjoyed the story. Well researched, and well written Roger!

Audrey Grant says

Hudson Taylor has long been one of the missionaries that I most look up to. He was a man that having a weak body, had a strong faith in God, love for lost souls and a heart for China! He truly poured his life out on the mission field of China.

Burying his first wife and four of his children there and many years later he himself died at 73 years of age.

39 years after he first stepped foot on China's shore and was himself buried there.

One of the most amazing things about Hudson Taylor, after his faith and trust in God, was the way he continued through sickness, danger, heartache and opposition to beg God for, search and ask for, trust and constantly receive, more and more workers to help reach China! He had a heart to reach ALL of China and knew it was far too big for one man so he spent his whole life as a missionary doing two jobs. Reaching Chinese for Christ and reaching Christians for China!

This book sometimes reads slow like a history book, because there is so much detail and information with dates and world history and sooo many people involved in his life and ministry. But it is so worth it!

Sarah says

This was a very good biography of an exemplary life. It was immensely readable, though not quite the caliber of Anderson's biography of Judson. Recommended to lovers of Christian missionary biography.

David Fisher says

A must read if you are interested in mission.

JSNL says

I have read the Dutch version of this book from 2004. I read it in 2005 - 2006 and again in 2018.

The strong parts of this book are the wide range of his life. The real deal about being a missionary (count the cost) and it gives you heart to pray for China and other countries that are (partly) closed for missionaries. I personally also liked the smaller chapters so you can read one a day for example.

Cindy says

A little cumbersome to read but I am always challenged by men and women of God who put all of their faith and trust in Christ and see amazing and miraculous results.
