

JESUS REVOLUTION

PART 4

This coming Thursday we celebrate Thanksgiving. There were 102 passengers on the Mayflower plus crew members. 44 of these passengers were from the Separatist Church. 41 of these 44 were from the same church in Leyden, Holland.

In the 1600s, the ocean was full of dangers. Ships could be attacked and taken over by pirates. Many ships in the 1600s were damaged or shipwrecked by storms. Passengers sometimes fell overboard and drowned or got sick and died. If they survived the trip, they would face the dangers in the new world of Indians, disease, wild beasts, and harsh weather conditions. After the voyage, 52 of the 102 passengers died during the first year. But because of these Separatists and what they did at Plymouth the foundation for what became the United States of America was laid.

What was it about these disciples faith in Jesus that enabled them to risk their lives to sail 3442 miles to a new world with limited supplies?

On September 19, 1853, at the age of 21, Hudson Taylor left London England to be a missionary in Shanghai, China. He arrived on March 1, 1854. In China, he was immediately faced with the dangers of a civil war and religious hostility. He was called the black devil because he wore a long black coat. He spent over 51 years as a missionary in China.

During his 51 years of service there, his China Inland Mission established 20 mission stations, brought 849 missionaries to the field (968 by 1911), trained some 700 Chinese workers, raised four million dollars by faith (following Mueller's example), and developed a witnessing Chinese church of 125,000. It has been said at least 35,000 were his own converts and that he baptized some 50,000. His gift for inspiring people to give themselves and their possessions to Christ was amazing.

What was it about Hudson Taylor's faith in Jesus that enabled him to go alone on a 5711 miles mission in a hostile religious environment with very limited resources and support?

In Matthew 28, Jesus sent out His disciples to go and make disciples for Him in all nations. They were to begin in Israel in a hostile religious environment for any religious group that was not approved by the Sanhedrin. They were then to go and make disciples in other nations that

were even more hostile to a new religion than the Jews. He left them no financial resources to work with. They changed the world.

What was it about these disciples' faith in Jesus that enabled them to go on this mission in a hostile religious environment with no supplies?

Matt. 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. NKJV

In each one of these situations what enabled these disciples to take such risks was their faith in what Jesus promised in Matthew 28:20....

"lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

They did not have faith in some illusion that nothing bad would happen to them. They did not have faith in some illusion that all their worldly ambitions would be fulfilled.

They had faith Jesus would always be with them. That faith was the source of their courage to fulfill their calling and their missionary spirit. That faith was their spiritual secret.

The fact that Jesus would always be with them would not have meant much to them if they had not discovered another spiritual secret that I want to share with you this morning.

Hudson Taylor's son and daughter-in-law wrote *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret* in 1932. It is a brief narrative of Taylor's life with a focus on the "secret" of his spiritual peace and strength. They expressed his "secret" as follows:

Taylor had many secrets, for he was always going on with God, yet they were but one — the simple, profound secret of drawing for every need, temporal or spiritual, upon "the fathomless wealth of Christ."

The disciples of Jesus and the pilgrims shared the same spiritual secret. They had discovered the secret of drawing for every need, temporal or spiritual, upon the "the fathomless wealth of Christ."

The apostle Paul had learned the same spiritual secret.

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ([Philippians 4:11–13](#))

Learning this secret of depending on the fathomless riches of Christ for all of our temporal and spiritual needs is critical to fulfilling our calling and our mission for Jesus.

Today you sit at a crossroads. One road is the will of God. You are called by God to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. To be a disciple means to make disciples. To be a disciple means be a missionary wherever God plants you.

The other road is the will of men. The road that is the will of man appears to be safe, secure, pleasant, and convenient.

The road that is the will of God is filled with risk, inconvenience, trouble, and dangers. You can see the pain you definitely will endure if you follow the will of God and you can see the potential pain that you could endure if you follow the will of God. What will you choose?

You will not choose the will of God unless you have learned the spiritual secret that Jesus is with you at all times and you learn the simple, profound secret of drawing for every need, temporal or spiritual, upon “the fathomless wealth of Christ.”

I call this having missionary faith. I have seen this missionary faith first hand in missionaries in the remote villages of New Guinea; in Barcelona Spain; in Mexico; in Bujumbura Burundi; and in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I have read about it in a variety of auto-biographies and biographies of missionaries. I am seeing it growing in some of you. But it appears to be rare in the church in the United States.

Perhaps this is due to our ignorance and false teachers in the church. Perhaps this is due to our prosperity and the abundant opportunities we have in America. Perhaps this is due to our greed and our misguided purpose in life. Perhaps this is due to our unbelief. Faith is a choice.

Will you believe that Jesus is with you always; He is the God who is there? Will you believe that He has fathomless wealth to meet all your needs?

Is this the kind of faith that you currently have? Is this kind of missionary faith something you really want?

How does this missionary faith grow in us?

- This missionary faith in Jesus must be developed over time.

Jesus developed this faith in his disciples for over 3 years.

Jesus developed this faith in Paul over a period of 14 years before he was sent on his first missionary journey.

Hudson Taylor did not leave for China the day after he was saved at age 17. It would be 4 years before he left for China.

When we receive Jesus we come to Him expecting Him to meet our need for eternal salvation from sin. We do not know Him very well. We do not know all of His promises. We do not expect Him to meet all of our material and spiritual needs. We are all given the same measure of faith when we are saved. It takes time to develop our faith.

- [This missionary faith in Jesus must be developed with time.](#)

God uses difficult trials to develop our faith in Him. (1 Peter 1:6-9; James 1:2-4)
He is sovereign over all of our suffering even that which is self-inflicted. Every trial is an opportunity for our faith in Jesus to develop and the gospel to advance.

But during these trials our faith is only developed when we choose to trust in Jesus in each trial to meet all of our temporal and spiritual needs. Faith in Jesus grows as we exercise it during each trial that we go through.

But during our trials if we will develop our faith it will only grow as we choose to trust in Jesus to meet all of needs from His fathomless supply.

During your trials there is one practical thing that you must do to develop your faith. You must spend time alone with Jesus.

In their book Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret, the Taylor's son tells the story of watching his father meet with Jesus morning after morning using only candlelight to read his bible. Why did he read his bible every morning? Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17)

And during those times morning after morning, Taylor not only read his bible but He practiced depending on Jesus for all of His needs.

In Luke 11 the disciples of Jesus wanted to understand His spiritual secret. They could see His courage. They could see His peace. They could see His contentment. They could see how He was led by the Spirit. They connected what they saw with His time alone with God the Father.

So they asked Him to teach them to pray.

[Luke 11:1-4](#)

[11 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."](#)

[2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say:](#)

[Our Father in heaven,](#)

[Hallowed be Your name.](#)

[Your kingdom come.](#)

Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
3 Give us day by day our daily bread.
4 And forgive us our sins,
For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one."
NKJV

In this model prayer, Jesus taught His disciples everything you need to know about depending upon God for all of your material and spiritual needs.

Trust in His promises to you as your Father.
Trust in His Sovereignty to establish His kingdom.
Trust in His Sovereignty to supply your material needs.
Trust in His Sovereignty to handle those who offend you.
Trust in His Sovereignty to deliver you from your trials.

Something extraordinary begins to happen in you when you choose to spend time alone with Jesus and you learn the simple, profound secret of drawing for every need, temporal or spiritual, upon "the fathomless wealth of Christ."

You experience the peace of God that passes all understanding. (Phil. 4:6)
You experience the contentment of just being with Jesus. (Phil. 4:11-13)
You experience the boldness of the Holy Spirit. (Hebrews 13:5-6)
You experience the leadership of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 6:12-13)

Many of you have never spent much time alone with Jesus. Your faith is not growing like it should. Will you start today spending time alone with Jesus and continue this practice daily?

Some of you have spent a lot of time studying the bible by yourself and reading Christian books but you have never spent much time alone with Jesus. Studying and reading is no substitute for time alone with Jesus. Your faith is not growing like it should. Will you start today spending time alone with Jesus and continue this practice daily?

Some of you are imposters in the church. You are welcome here but you truly do not belong here. You made a decision to receive Jesus due to peer pressure or for appearances. If He returned today He would say to you, "I never knew you." Will you stop being an imposter today? Will you receive Jesus?

Some of you depend on people rather than Jesus to meet all of your needs. When we endure trials and hardships our natural tendency is to depend on people. In our flesh we do not want to be alone. It is true that we should encourage one another when we go through difficult

times. And the church needs to do a better job of caring for its own. We should do the very best job we can do to love one another. It is one of the reasons we have small groups.

But the problem with people is that they do not make a very good god.

- People are finite

They cannot always be with you.

People don't possess divine attributes.

People can have the best intentions and still they make a terrible god. Their loyalty and their ability to help you are so limited because they are finite.

In every relationship our loyalty is limited by circumstances that are beyond our control. We just can't always be there for someone! No one should ever say I will always be there for you.

In marriage we can only pledge ourselves to be loyal till death separates us.

In family we can only pledge ourselves to be loyal till death separates us.

In church membership we can only pledge ourselves to be loyal as long as God calls us to that church.

In friendship we can only pledge ourselves to be loyal as long as God calls us to that friendship.

Jesus is the only one who can promise to always be with us and He is the only one who has fathomless riches to meet all of our temporal and spiritual needs.

- People are sinners.

Prov. 20:6

6 Many a man proclaims his own loyalty,

But who can find a trustworthy man?

NASB

There are no perfect human beings. Even the most sincere Christians are developing their character.

You would be wise to choose to trust Jesus today to meet all of your temporal and spiritual needs rather than people or anything else.