

Lesson 14.

W. Great missionaries face great opposition.

1. The East India Company (EIC)

It was a very powerful part of the British government that viciously opposed missionaries. In 1812, it renewed its anti-missionary zeal. “Fierce anti-mission forces once more gained the ascendancy within the British Indian administration, and the wolves again chased Christ’s few shepherds. They planned to deal the Mission the severest possible blow before the East India Company charter was reviewed in Parliament in 1813.”

On August 23, 1806, the British government in India ordered Carey and his group to stop preaching to natives, passing out tracts, and sending native preachers, (although no complaint had been made). This just made them consider reaching out to Burma and other places. It made the Indian preachers _____ to preach (Phil. 1:14). The British demanded that the printing press be sent to Calcutta. It got even worse, and all preaching in Calcutta was forbidden except for that of the EIC chaplains. There was talk of deporting the missionaries.

The Judsons, the Newells, the Notts, Gordon Hall, and Luther Rice had just arrived in India, and they, too, were banned from all British controlled areas, even though they assured the government that they were only visiting Serampore.

Question: Why did the British government and the EIC oppose the evangelization of the heathen? It has to be _____. Spiritually free men are difficult to enslave and dominate.

2. Hyper Calvinists opposed missions.

But God used Calvinists who loved God and had a burden for souls. As a missionary, David Brainard believed in the power of prayer and was often seen on his knees, seeking the heart of God through prayer and fasting. One story tells that David went out in the dead of winter and knelt on the ground, praying for hours in fervent intercession for his Native American friends. When he had finished, there was a circle of melted snow from his body heat. His prayers for his people were an inspiration to _____.

William Carey was a from the _____ Baptists of England, but he opposed the anti-missionary hyper Calvinists and didn’t seem to let his Calvinist error hinder him. Carey received antagonism from Baptists in England who should have supported him. A vociferous part within English Baptist churches wanted to possess and control the missionaries, and so create a missionary empire of which they could be proud. When Carey and his team resisted, they were vilified.

3. The devil will oppose from within a group.

Between 1814 and 1817, new missionaries at the Serampore mission arrived bringing a critical attitude. Their minds were probably affected by Dr. Johns before they left England. This opposition from within the team upset Carey to the point of illness.

Hudson Taylor was recovering from inflamed eyes and wife Maria was ill. The death of eight-year-old Gracie Taylor probably saved the mission. The girl was praying for an idol maker just before she died, and it united the mission. In September 1868, the last dissident was dismissed.

For Jonathan Goforth, another sore trial arose in connection with his furlough visits to the homeland, as he came to realize the appalling inroads of _____ and worldliness among the churches and the consequent apathy, even hostility, to his pleadings for missionary advance and a deeper work of the Spirit of God.

4. Pagan religions usually oppose the preaching of the true gospel.
 - a. Some of these pagan religions are called “Christian,” but people that worship idols and profess to eat God are pagan.
 - a. Sometimes pagan religions control countries and their armies.

“... the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication” Rev. 17:1b-2).

X. Great missionaries need great missionary wives.

1. William Carey was an exception.

Unfortunately, his wife was not a help to him. She was forty years old when Carey decided to go to India, and she had four children under the age of nine. Originally, Dorothy Carey planned to stay in England for three or four years and send her eight-year-old son, Felix, with William. She resisted and rebelled but agreed to go when her sister, Catherine, went with her. She was literally insane much of the time while Carey carried on his ministry. It is nothing short of miraculous what he accomplished and still cared for his insane wife! And he did care for her.

2. Hannah Marshman

Of Hannah Marshman, wife of Joshua Marshman, Carey said, “...whose unruffled temper, extraordinary prudence, devoutness and zeal made her the settlements’ _____—the Mission’s saving health. Her heart was filled with sympathies and her days with deeds of grace. Six times she was called to mourn the loss of infants, but she was too rooted in the trust of God to be morose. Though faced with frequent motherhood, she bore the burden of her own and her husband’s boarding schools with an unruffled temper and rare sagacity.”

3. Adoniram Judson had three great wives (not at the same time), but Ann had to have been the greatest missionary wife of all time.
4. Hudson Taylor

On Saturday July 23, 1870, Hudson Taylor lost his dear wife, Maria, to _____. She was thirty-three and during their twelve years of marriage, gave birth to eight children plus one stillborn. She was a tower of strength to her husband. Certainly, along with Ann Judson, Maria Taylor was one of the most heroic wives in Christian history.

In 1871, Hudson was advised to take a break in England, where he became further acquainted with an old friend, Jennie Faulding. While in England, Hudson and Jennie were married.

5. Question: Why would a woman marry a missionary and go with him to a Dirty, dangerous place with deadly illnesses?

X. Great missionaries die:

1. David Brainard died at twenty-nine years of age. He spent only four years working with the Indians.
2. Adoniram Judson

He was very ill and dying. As usual, a sea voyage was recommended. On April 12, 1850, at age sixty-one he died and was buried at sea a few hundred miles west of Burma. The ship's carpenter built a wooden coffin, and they filled it with sand so it would sink. His wife, Emily, was pregnant and gave birth ten days later to a son who died at birth. She did not learn of Adoniram's death until four months later. Emily returned to Boston with her children the following year, and on June 1, 1854 she died of tuberculosis.

3. Ann Judson

On November 24, 1826, while the Judsons were separated and Adoniram was being used in negotiations with the British, word came to him that his wife was dead. Ann had died on October 26th. Three days after Judson received news of Ann's death, Dr. Price's wife and full-term baby died. Dr. Price died of TB a year later.

4. Isaac McCoy

On a return trip from Jeffersonville, Indiana, he was exposed to severe weather, and a serious illness resulted which caused his death June 21, 1846. Isaac McCoy died with his face toward the Indian country.

5. Hudson Taylor

Not knowing he had only _____ months to live, he left for China one last time...his eleventh trip there, leaving in February 1905. He went alone as his beloved wife had passed on in Switzerland on July 30, 1904. He spent Easter at Yangchow where thirty-two years before, his house was burnt to the ground. Then he visited Chinkiang where he buried his first wife thirty-five years previously. He traveled on to Honan, Hankow, and finally to Changsha, the capital of Hunan. This was the most difficult of the nine unevangelized provinces entered by his workers. Here he visited various parts of the city, inspected a site for a new hospital, spoke to a congregation of Chinese Christians, attended a reception given in his honor in a garden, and was planning to speak on Sunday. But he died quite suddenly on _____ evening. He had retired to his home, and his daughter-in-law, Mary (Mrs. Howard Taylor) visited him as he was busy going over his homeland letters. One gasp and he was gone. Christians carried his body to Chinkiang where he was buried with his Maria at the foot of green hills near the Yangtze River.

5, Jonathan Goforth

That blessed day dawned for Jonathan Goforth in the early morning of October 8, 1936, as he slept. Just a few weeks before, at the Ben Lippen conference in North Carolina, the sightless veteran missionary said he rejoiced in the thought that the next face he would see would be that of his Savior. He had entered into the bliss he had long anticipated: "I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness" (Psalm 17:15).

6. The mortality rate for great missionaries is very high. It is _____ .
 - a. Ours is the same. There is one death for each birth. We all die.
 - b. The question should be, "What am I going to do that counts for God before I die?"
 - c. Someone has said, "My biggest fear is not that I will fail, but that I will _____ at something that does not count for eternity."

Jane, a nurse in Australia, was dying of cancer. A missionary in Vanuatu who knew her said, "Jane, Vanuatu is a good place to die. People here do it all the time. Why not come and help us and die here?" She went to Vanuatu, and when I met her in 2010, she had lived another nine years and was very active in the ministry. Maybe she is still living.

Conclusion:

1. There were ships leaving India, Burma, China, and the other places where great missionaries served, but they _____ to board them and go home.
2. There were _____ in America and Great Britain that these great missionaries could have preached from, and they would not have faced great opposition or great physical and emotional suffering.
3. Their wives and children would probably not have died _____ in the homeland, but they stayed and paid the great price to see the heathen come to Christ.

The following is a missionary ordination hymn by Benjamin Beddome, a mission-minded pastor of Burton church for nearly fifty years who helped Andrew Fuller solicit funds to send missionaries.

*Father of mercies, bow Thine ear,
Attentive to our earnest prayer;
We plead for those who plead for Thee,
Successful pleaders may they be.*

*How great their work, how vast their charge!
Do Thou their anxious souls enlarge;
To them Thy sacred Truth reveal,
Suppress their fear, inflame their zeal.*

*Let thronging multitudes around
Hear from their lips the joyful sound.*

*Teach them immortal souls to gain,
Souls that will reward their pain.*

Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, _____.”

4. In 1863, the Confederate general Simon Bolivar Buckner asked Union General U.S. Grant for the terms of surrender at the Battle of Fort Donelson. Grant said, “Unconditional surrender.” That is exactly what God demands from His children.

- a. Don’t bother to seek God’s will if you refuse to surrender _____ to do it.. If you say, “Lord, I’ll go anywhere but the mission field,” you will not know His will.
- b. Why would God show His will to someone unwilling to do it?
- c. Why would a Christian _____ going to the mission field is not God’s will when He has commanded His church to go? God’s will is that no one anywhere perish.

5. Aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, 2 Sep 1945 Japanese officials signed the surrender agreement. The story is told of the official who began to open the surrender document. General Douglas McArthur slapped the document shut and said, “Sign it first and then read it!”

- a. God has a *document* before you called “*My Will for Your Life*” and He says, “Sign it first!”
 - 1) What can we conclude about the child of God who _____ to *sign* it?
 - 2) He doesn’t trust God. (He fears that God might ruin his life by *making* him be a missionary).
 - 3) He wants to make his own decisions about his future.
- b. Have you ever met a missionary that spent at least a few years on the foreign field say, “I wish I would have stayed home and not become a missionary.”?

6. If one hundred Bible college students all tell me that they are seeking God’s will and willing to do God’s will, but only one of them goes to the mission field, I must conclude that either God does not really love the world as it says in John 3:16, or a bunch of these fine, good-looking, well-dressed, upstanding young men are less than _____.

Do not *consider* missions but surrender to it! Don’t wait for God to beg you to go (He probably won’t;) volunteer. Go unless God stops you.

“...and how shall they hear without a _____?”