

Obedience: “Why Didn’t You Come Sooner?”  
Adapted from *Hero Tales, Volume I*, by Dave and Neta Jackson

*Hudson Taylor served as a missionary to China for many years, his ministry winning countless Chinese people to the Lord. He later founded the China Inland Mission as well as translating the New Testament into the Ningpo Chinese dialect.*

I was discouraged. I had been preaching in the city of Ningpo for a year. The Chinese were polite and enjoyed gathering to hear me speak. Discussing new ideas was fun to them. But no one seemed to take the Gospel seriously. No one believed it.

And then, after one message, when I felt most like giving up, a respected man stood up and turned to his Chinese countrymen.

“I have been searching for the truth a long time,” he said earnestly. “My father and my grandfathers before me searched for the truth, but they never found it. I have traveled far and wide looking for it. I have tried Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism, but I have found no rest.”

I looked at the man with new interest. I knew that this man was a leading officer among the Ningpo Buddhists. What was he saying? Was he saying that his religion gave him no peace?

“But tonight,” said the man honestly, “tonight I have found rest. I have heard the truth, and from now on I am a believer in Jesus.”

I could hardly believe my ears. Could it be true?

A short time later, the man proved his sincerity by taking me with him to the Buddhist meeting and giving his testimony. Soon one of the man’s friends also became a Christian and was baptized.

However, a few nights after the man had accepted Jesus as his Savior, he asked me a very hard question. “How long have the people in your land known about Jesus?”

“Oh, hundreds of years,” I told him.

“What?” said the man in amazement. “You knew the truth for hundreds of years and didn’t come to tell us? My father searched for the truth all his life and died without finding it. *Why didn’t you come sooner?*”

It was a hard question. Jesus had told His followers to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to everyone, but too often Christians don’t obey Him. This man knew the result. He knew people who wanted to know the truth and were just waiting for someone to come and tell them.

Wanting to obey his newfound Savior, the former Buddhist leader spent the rest of his life telling others about Jesus.

*Obedience is doing what God has asked you to do.*