

Leoah tribesmen in the far western part of China. She desired to go there to serve the Lord. She told her mother she wanted to do that. She wanted to go to a school a couple of thousand miles away to prepare herself for this missionary work.

Her mother said to her, For you to go that far away from me, I can't stand it. You must not go. There is plenty here you can do to serve the Lord. You don't need to go way off there to China. Isabel said, I feel the Lord wants me to go there and I want to get prepared. Her mother said, You don't need to do that. You can stay right here. She was her only daughter.

When the daughter insisted on going to school for this training 2000 miles away, the mother said, If you ever go to China you will go over my dead body. It was a very disagreeable experience to have to leave home under those situations and very hard for her to understand her mother's attitude. The mother had been very interested in Christian work and very anxious to serve the Lord all these years! But when it came to her losing her daughter and having her go so far across the seas, and perhaps never seeing her again, she could not bring herself to it. She said, If you go, you will go over my dead body!

Six months later the girl got a telegram, from her brother. There were just the two of them. It said, Mother is very critically ill. Think you should come home at once." She rushed around, got a loan of money to make the trip, ~~xxxxxxx~~ home. Then she got another telegram. It said, Mother has died. There is nothing you can accomplish by coming. So she did not go back at that time. But you can imagine how she felt.

And then a year later, she ran onto a friend of her mother's. A person with whom her mother had corresponded and she found that a month before her mother's death, the mother had written and said, I feel condemned for the attitude that I took. Isabel was right; she was doing what the Lord wanted her to do."

She was very glad she heard that because if she hadn't heard it she might have thought that she was the cause of her mother's death by ~~xx~~ insisting on going as a missionary when her mother was so adamant against her. But the thing I'm trying to bring out is that I believe the mother was a very sincere Christian, anxious to serve the Lord, very interested in helping missionaries. And never ~~feeling that~~ dreaming that she would have this feeling that when it came to giving her own daughter she just could not stand it.

Incidentally I read this account in a book by the daughter, Isabel Kuhn. It is called, In the Arena. I don't know how many of you have seen it, but it's one of the finest books I ever saw on a woman who wandered from the Lord, then came back and then lived a life of real service for Him. Very interestingly ~~xx~~ told and very helpful. Before you try to find the Lord's will on something, the important thing is to be sure you really want to follow the Lord's will when you find it. In order to do that I believe it is very important that we should follow the second step: