



## **John R. Mott**

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### ***The 15 Life Lessons I have learned from a life-time of YMCA Service***

*After a lifetime in Christian work and extensive travel in eighty-three nations, I would suggest for your consideration, fifteen basic lessons that I have learned:*

1. **JESUS CHRIST IS THE FOUNDATION.** *He provides the direction and the zest for life. If we understand his teachings and his personality, he will make his own impression on our lives and it will be revolutionary.*
2. **STUDY AND PROMOTE THE USE OF THE BIBLE.** *DeQuincey said the cause of all evil is the lack of interest in religious writing. If I were to stay longer, I would give a front-line place to reawakening interest in the religious writings of Christianity. There is nothing to take their place.*
3. **THE DISCIPLINE OF PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL.** *“He departed a stone’s cast beyond the Apostles, and kneeled down and prayed.” I need only to say that we must make prayer one of the primary objectives of this brotherhood.*
4. **DO “MULTIPLYING” WORK.** *“He that does the work is not as profitably employed as he who multiplies the doers.” Enlisting volunteers is one of our greatest tasks.*
5. **USE THE “HEROIC APPEAL”.** *A heroic appeal often gets a heroic response. It is good to have difficulties because it calls out the most in you, it drives you to get the cooperation of others, it drives you to God.*
6. **STRATEGY IS IMPORTANT.** *There are strategic points which if captured, make easy all that lies behind them. There are strategic classes and strategic races, strategic times, strategic methods, strategic places. We must know what they are.*
7. **WE NEED TO GET INTO THE FIELD.** *You cannot develop a Christian from an office chair. We need to be out meeting and dealing with personalities.*
8. **WE CAN TRUST OTHERS.** *We can afford great acts of trust. I can testify that I have never had others disappoint me.*
9. **RULE BY THE HEART.** *People are reached “via the heart”. There is no substitute for love and kindness and sympathy.*
10. **STUDY PRIORITIES.** *No man can do all the good to be done in the world. We need to list and study our own priorities daily.*
11. **SMALL GROUPS ARE OF GREAT VALUE.** *Christ sent them out “two by two”. At one time, he had five disciples, at another time three, at another time eleven, and at another, twelve. Why did Christ attach importance to small groups? I long ago decided that it was wise to follow Christ in this method.*
12. **ADOLESCENCE IS A CRUCIAL TIME.** *If I had my life to live over I would spend much time on the adolescents’ age group. These are the habit-forming years, the years of determining life attitude and tendencies, the years of creativeness.*
13. **DON’T OVERLOOK OLD PEOPLE.** *Here is wisdom and experience for our asking. Here, also, is a group to whom we must give kindness and affection.*
14. **EMPHASIZE THE IMMEDIATE.** *We need to live under the spell of immediacy. What other time will there be? What other generations than the present can we work with?*
15. **BE ATTENTIVE UNTO GOD.** *“Speak Lord, for thy servant hearkens” and “My soul, be silent unto God” say what I mean. We must put out other sounds-noises of selfish ambition-prepare ourselves to say, “Speak Lord, for thy servant hearkens.”*