

# *Life Lessons*

## *“Pray for a ‘LAZARUS’”*

Samuel Chadwick (1860 – 1932) did more to reach the lost and build the kingdom of God during the days of his life than the vast majority of humanity. Chadwick was born to a poor family in the mill town of Burnsley, Lancashire, England.

Chadwick was converted at the age of ten and called to the ministry as a Methodist preacher at fifteen. Though having few educational opportunities, Chadwick was not hindered in his passionate preparation for the ministry. After working twelve hours a day in the mill, he spent five hours a day in study and preparation at home for the ministry. In one deeply convicted and dynamic moment, at the age of twenty-one, Chadwick burned all his previous years of sermon notes and prayed for a full outpouring of the power of the Holy Spirit on his life. For the rest of his life and ministry prayer, and in particular, prayer for the lost became the hallmark of his ministry which brought transformational change to every place of service he filled.

While studying John 11 and 12, Chadwick noticed that after Lazarus was raised from the dead that many believed and turned to Christ. “That’s the solution!” he said to himself. “We need a Lazarus!” So enters the scene, Bob Hamer known as “Bury Bob.” He was known to be a notorious drunk, who was prone to eating glass, fighting rats with his teeth, swallowing knives, breaking furniture, and a general life of violence and debauchery. Yet as a result of Chadwick’s praying Bob was converted and many were later led to Christ by him. For the rest of his life, in every place he served he prayed for a “Lazarus.” He wrote,

**If God is at work week-by-week raising men from the dead, there will always be people coming to see how it is done. You cannot find an empty church that has conversion for it leading feature. Do you want to know how to fill empty Chapels? Here is the answer, Get your Lazarus!**

Chadwick passionately carried the message of salvation throughout his Methodist denomination. When some tried to bring a more intellectually sophisticated message, he said, **“Go down to South Yorkshire coalfields and try your new gospel, and see what it will do. Until you have got a Gospel that works – shut up! This in not an age for twiddling your thumbs!”** Amen and Amen!