

# *Life Lessons*

## *A Walk with the Wise*

Solomon wrote: “*He that walks with wise men shall be wise*” (Prov. 13:20). The nineteenth century gave us some truly great Christian leaders. Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910) as one of these heroes of the faith. In 1905, Maclaren told the Baptist World Congress...

Power for service is second, power for holiness and character is first. The first, second, and third requisite for our work is personal godliness; without that, though I have the tongues of men and angels, I am harsh and discordant as sounding brass, monstrous and unmusical as a tinkling cymbal.

Do you see the *Life Lesson* Maclaren has placed at the forefront of his ministry and of his life?

- **Personal godliness is essential if we are going to touch lives for Christ.**

**One way Maclaren’s godliness exhibited itself was in his spirit of humility.** A local photographer once photographed Maclaren without his knowledge. The photographer did not know he was such an important Christian leader. When he placed the picture in his shop to sell, he immediately had so many wanting a copy that he was amazed and aggravated. He had not kept the negative! He barked, “You might have let me know you were famous!” Maclaren responded, “*The herald should be lost in his message.*” This is certainly a far cry from today’s spirit of celebrity that many try to claim.

**Maclaren was also known for his passionate devotion to his ministry and his intense personal discipline.** It was not uncommon for Maclaren to give sixty hours to preparing for one message, much of this in the original languages of Greek and Hebrew. He spoke with the force of a prophet and with such clarity that all could understand.

For forty-five years Maclaren served the Union Chapel Church of Manchester England. He was known simply as *Maclaren of Manchester*.

**Can you see the *Life Lesson*? Personal godliness lived in a spirit of humility with passion, discipline, and perseverance will always lead to a life of great service and significance.**