

On a Snowy Sunday Morning

John Egglen had never preached a sermon in his life. Never. It wasn't that he didn't want to, just never needed to. But then one morning he did.

Who was John Egglen? And was there anything special about that first sermon?

Max Lucado, author and minister, tells the story in his book *You Changed My Life: Stories of Real People with Remarkable Hearts*.

The snow left Egglen's town of Colchester, England, buried in white. When he awoke on that January Sunday in 1850, he thought of staying home. Who would go to church in such weather? But he reconsidered. He was, after all, a deacon. And if the deacons didn't go, who would? So he put on his boots, hat and coat and walked the six miles to the Methodist Church.

He wasn't the only member who considered staying home. In fact, he was one of the few who came. Only 13 people were present. Twelve members and one visitor. Even the minister was snowed in. Someone suggested they go home. Egglen would hear none of that. They had come this far; they would have a service. Besides, they had a visitor. A 13-year-old boy.

But who would preach? Egglen was the only deacon. It fell to him. And so he did. His sermon lasted only 10 minutes. It drifted and wandered and made no point in an effort to make several. But at the end, an uncharacteristic courage settled upon the man. He lifted his eyes and looked straight at the boy who was visiting and challenged: "Young man, look to Jesus. Look! Look!"

Did the challenge make a difference? Let the boy, now a man, answer. "I did look, and then and there the cloud on my heart lifted, the darkness rolled away, and at that moment I saw the sun."

The boy's name? Charles Haddon Spurgeon, England's prince of preachers. In his lifetime, Spurgeon preached to about 10 million people, often up to 10 times each week at different locations.

Did Egglen know what he had done? No. Do heroes know when they are heroic? Rarely.

As you serve where you are – in the quiet places where none or few see your deeds or hear your words – be assured that God knows, and He takes what you offer to multiply it for good.

– Beecher Hunter

