MARSHALL COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

"The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." – **Mat-**

When Jesus the Messiah started His earthly ministry He chose the rough region of Galilee. This was the fulfillment of the ancient Old Testament prophecy spoken by Isaiah the prophet (Isaiah 42:6,7; 60:2,3). The people who were living in darkness that saw great light did not see some astronomical phenomena in the sky. The great light that God's word is talking about was the Light of Life who is God's Son, Jesus

Christ (John 1:4). Not only did the prophets foretell of Messiah shinning the hope of the gospel to the Gentiles, who sat in the darkness of their sin, but Jesus Christ Himself clearly taught "I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). Christ coming to shine the gospel light of salvation in Galilee was despicable to the religious Jews of His day. To think that Messiah would first go among the rough fishermen in Galilee of the Gentiles, before He would come to the priests at the Temple and to the Jewish elders in Jerusalem was

appalling. Yet that is what Messiah did.

Sadly, the religious leaders of Messiah's day were much like what we have seen in our day where high-profile priests and pastors abused and misused the people for greed and self-satisfaction. Such is evidence that the so-called "man of God" never had a heart for God and God's people. This truth also became evident in Christ's day because the religious leaders, who were all about their position in the Jews religion, felt threatened by Jesus Christ's popularity among the people. Obviously, they hated Christ without a cause (John 15:25). This

is seen by the fact that the religious leaders eventually conspired to arrest Jesus, falsely convict Him in a kangaroo court, and moved the people against Him so as to be crucified. Therefore, Jesus Christ at the beginning of His ministry avoided the self-righteous religious leaders and went out to the sinners (Matthew 9:13). So at this time, the Messiah by-passed the Jews in Jerusalem, and went north to Capernaum in Galilee of the Gentiles, to the outcast, to the sinners, and to the unwanted. There in the darkness of the Galilee of the Gentiles was where Christ, the Light of the World,

Light is sprung up

would shine the brightest, and it was there that Jesus called His twelve apostles, where the blind received sight, the lame walked, the lepers cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead raised up, and the poor in spirit have the gospel preached unto them (Matthew 11:5).

So if you find yourself sitting in the darkness of despair and discouragement, the good news is that "light is sprung up" and that light is Jesus Christ. Read God's word about Him! Call upon Him! Come to Him and you will find the Light of Life.

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