**Isaiah 60 (Matthew 4)**

The Fight for Our Nation

**5 – SHINE THE LIGHT**

**Isaiah 60:1–3 (NKJV)** Arise, shine; For **your light** has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. **2** For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. **3** **The Gentiles** shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

**GOD HAS BEEN SPEAKING TO US THROUGH THIS PASSAGE ALL YEAR**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2020 LONG BEFORE COVID WAS DECLARED A PANDEMIC:**

1. **GOD PROPHETICALLY WARNED US THAT THERE WAS SOME KIND OF A DARKNESS COMING**
	* **We’ve watched that manifest most vividly through COVID-19**
2. **THAT LAWS WOULD CHANGE**
	* **15 days to slow the spread … church gatherings prohibited**
	* **30 (more) days to slow the spread**
	* **Some governmental leaders clearly overstepping their authority**
	* **Many states and counties still restricted**
3. **THAT DEEP DARKNESS WOULD COVER THE PEOPLE**
	* **Racial tension, rioting in many cities, a deeply divided nation, and now a disputed election**
4. **BUT THAT SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN SIMULTANEOUSLY**
	* **(v. 1) your light**
	* **(v. 1) the glory of God**
	* **(v. 2) the Lord will arise over us**
	* **(v. 2) His glory would be SEEN upon us**
	* **Unbelievers would come to our light**
	* **Influential people would end up coming**

**IT’S TIME TO SHINE THE LIGHT … IN TWO MAJOR WAYS:**

1. **IN PRAYER**
	1. **THAT DESTRUCTIVE WORKS OF DARKNESS WILL BE EXPOSED**

**Ephesians 5:11–13 (ESV)** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. **12** For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. **13** But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,

**Isaiah 60:3 (GW)** Nations will come to your light

**EX – Kimberly was born in Colombia … we were thinking of the precious Venezuelan people who voted their hearts out … but …**

* 1. **FOR OUR NATION’S SALVATION**

**Ephesians 1:16–18 (NLT)** I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, **17** asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. **18** I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

1. **THAT EACH OF US SHINE WHERE WE ARE**

**Ephesians 5:8 (GW)** Once you lived in the dark, but now the Lord has filled you with light. Live as children who have light.

**EX – Do you remember what it was like to see the light?**

**1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV)** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10** who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

**JESUS LET US KNOW THAT WE ARE IT**

**Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)** “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

**GOD WANTS PEOPLE AROUND YOU TO SEE THE LIGHT THROUGH YOU**

**Matthew 4:12–16 (NKJV)** Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. **13** And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, **14** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: **15** “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee **of the Gentiles**: **16** The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.”

**EX – Adonay at his wedding … so grateful to the Lord**

**EX – Talked to another couple who went to help plant another church … they were so grateful … “We could have never experienced these blessings if it weren’t…”**

**GOD IS CALLING ALL OF US TO SHINE THE LIGHT OF JESUS TO PEOPLE ALL AROUND US WHO LIVE IN DARKNESS**

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON … DECEMBER 20 … CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS STORY**

**GOD IS CALLING US TO PREPARE FOR A MIRACLE**

**Luke 9:14 (CEV)** There were about five thousand men in the crowd. Jesus said to his disciples, “Have the people sit in groups of fifty.”

**GOD IS CALLING US TO WELCOME THE PEOPLE IN SMALL GROUPS**