

## *The Swedish Nightingale*

Jenny Lind Goldschmidt (1820-1887) was known as “The Swedish Nightingale” during her very successful career as an operatic singer. She became one of the wealthiest artists of her time, yet she left the stage at a time when she was singing her best, never to return to it.

Countless individuals speculated as to the reason for her leaving, and most people wondered how she could give up so much applause, fame and money. For her part, she seemed content to live in privacy in a home by the sea.

One day a friend found her on the sea sands, her Bible on her knees, looking out into the glorious glow of a sunset. As they talked, the friend asked, “Madame Goldschmidt, how is it that you came to abandon the stage at the height of your success?”

She answered quietly, “When every day made me think less of this (laying a finger on her Bible) and nothing at all of that (pointing to the sunset), what else could I do?”

The world may never understand your decision to follow God’s ways, and what He may ask of you. But then, perhaps God cannot understand a choice to pursue what the world offers. The lesson is obvious: Be more concerned with what God thinks about you than what people think about you.

--Beecher Hunter